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Thursday, February 21, 2013

GOVERNOR SCOTT WALKER

Income tax cut aimed at middle class, private school voucher program highlighted

STATE OF THE BUDGET

By Scott Bauer | Associated Press

Gov. Scott Walker proposed an income tax cut targeted to the middle class as part of a state budget introduced Wednesday that would keep property taxes nearly flat, expand the private school voucher program, continue a public school spending freeze and tighten Medicaid income eligibility. The \$68 billion two-year budget Walker delivered to the Republican-controlled Legislature would in-

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TAX CHANGES

- » Cut individual income taxes by \$343 million over the two-year budget. The spending plan would reduce tax rates on the first \$161,180 annually for individuals and married couples up to \$214,910 annually. A family with two adults working and two children making \$80,607 would save about \$106 each year.
- » Sales taxes would not increase and property taxes are projected to grow less than 1 percent, with limits on schools and other local governments remaining in place.
- » Provide \$12.6 million to hire 61 additional workers at the Department of Revenue to focus on tax collection and fraud prevention. The governor says projections show the effort should generate nearly \$89 million in additional taxes owed over the two-year budget. He also wants to add six new workers using lottery proceeds to enhance lottery security and accounting.

EDUCATION PLAN

- » Expand the state's voucher school program to students in any school district where at least two buildings have a D or F grade on state report cards and have at least 4,000 students. Nine districts would qualify right now, including Green Bay and Madison. Currently the voucher program, which provides state subsidies for students to attend private schools, is limited to Milwaukee and Racine.
- » Provide a roughly 1 percent increase in aid to state public schools as well as \$64 million available in incentive payments for schools according to their state report card grade.
- » Allocate an additional \$181 million for the University of Wisconsin System and an additional \$5 million for technical colleges.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- » Allocate \$25 million for a venture capital fund to help startup companies get off the ground. Private entities also could contribute to the fund.
- » Provide the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation with an additional \$17 million for promoting business within the state, including money for entrepreneurs and start-up companies and promoting Wisconsin as "a great place to do business."
- » Provide an additional \$75 million for the state's economic development tax credit program and repeal the \$47.5 million lifetime cap on the angel investment tax credit program.



LUKAS KEAPROTH/HPRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA PHOTO/GANNETT WISCONSIN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

INSIDE

Fox Valley and state lawmakers react to governor's speech / A4
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Adults trim fast-food diet down to 11% level

Government tracks where Americans get their calories

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press medical writer

ATLANTA — On an average day, U.S. adults get roughly 11 percent of their calories from fast food, a government study shows.

That's down slightly from the 13 percent reported the last time the government tried to pin down how much of the American diet is coming from fast food. Eating fast food too frequently has been seen as a driver of America's obesity problem.

For the research, about 11,000 adults were asked extensive questions about what they ate and drank over the previous 24 hours to come up with the results.

Among the findings:

» Young adults eat more fast food than their elders; 15 percent of calories for ages 20 to 39 and dropping to 6 percent for those 60 and older.

» Blacks get more of their calories from fast food, 15 percent compared with 11 percent for whites and Hispanics.

» Young black adults got a whopping 21 percent from the likes of Wendy's, Taco Bell and KFC.

The figures are averages. Included in the calculations are some people who almost never eat fast food, as well as others who eat a lot of it.

The survey covers the years 2007 through 2010 and was released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The authors couldn't explain why the proportion of calories from fast food dropped from the 13 percent found in a survey for 2003 through 2006.

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GOOD MORNING, FOX VALLEY

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FAB FOUR FANTASY: Experience the Beatles with Rain, Brown County Arena, Ashwaubenon. Critically acclaimed Beatles tribute band. \$37 and \$47 7:30 p.m.

MUSIC SERIES: Lawrence University presents the fourth edition of "America's Music," focusing on rock 'n' roll, at Warch Campus Center cinema, Appleton. Free. 6:30 p.m.

WORLD CINEMA: Lawrence University International Film Festival: "Soy Cuba" (1964), Main Hall 201, Appleton. The third in a five-part series. Free. 4:30 p.m.

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