

# Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce FACTS

## WMC SPENDING ON ELECTIONS AND LOBBYING

- WMC has spent an estimated \$17.9 million since 2006 in statewide and legislative elections.<sup>1</sup>
- WMC spent an estimated \$4.7 million in the 2011 and 2012 recall elections.<sup>2</sup>
- WMC is the largest corporate lobbyist group in Wisconsin, spending over \$2.3 million on lobbying from 2008 to 2012.<sup>3</sup>



## WMC ON THE ISSUES

- WMC actively opposes collective bargaining and other key workers' rights.

**EXAMPLE:** Act 10 stripped collective bargaining rights for public employees, leading to significant decreases in pay, benefits, and pensions for teachers and other public workers.<sup>4</sup>

- WMC is a leading opponent of environmental protections and climate solutions.

**EXAMPLE:** AB1/SB1 exempted iron mining from environmental regulations to pave the way for the world's largest open-pit iron mine in the Penokee Hills.<sup>5</sup>

- WMC supports tax giveaways for wealthy individuals and corporations.

**EXAMPLES:** The 2013-15 budget has an income tax cut skewed toward the highest earners.<sup>6</sup>



The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation failed to keep track of more than \$8 mil. in unpaid loans to 99 businesses, alongside numerous other violations of state law.<sup>7</sup>

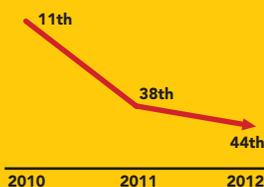
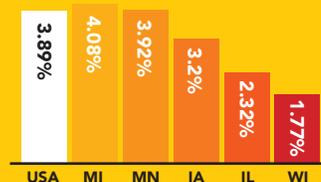
- WMC supports privatization of the public education system in Wisconsin.

**EXAMPLE:** While the 2011-13 budget cut \$1.85 billion from public education, Wisconsin Act 32 expanded a program providing publicly-funded vouchers for private, for-profit schools.<sup>8</sup>

## HOW WISCONSIN HAS FARED UNDER THE WMC AGENDA

Since WMC-backed legislators began enacting the WMC agenda in January 2011, Wisconsin has dropped significantly in rankings of job creation and other key economic indicators:

- Job growth in Wisconsin has been 1.77% from 1/2011 to 5/2013 - less than half the national average.<sup>9</sup>



- Wisconsin fell to 44th in private-sector job growth by 9/2012 - down from 11th in 2010.<sup>10</sup>

- Weekly wages fell 2.65% in Wisconsin from 9/2011 to 9/2012, the 4th-biggest loss in the US.<sup>11</sup>



- The Federal Reserve ranked Wisconsin 49th of 50 states for economic outlook in 2013.<sup>12</sup>
- The US Chamber of Commerce ranked Wisconsin 50th for short-term job growth from 9/2010 to 11/2012.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. <sup>3</sup> Government Accountability Board. <sup>4</sup> WMC website. <sup>5</sup> Wisconsin Sierra Club. <sup>6</sup> Wisconsin Budget Project. <sup>7</sup> Legislative Audit Bureau (nonpartisan). <sup>8</sup> WMC website. <sup>9,10,11</sup> US Bureau of Labor Statistics. <sup>12</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. <sup>13</sup> US Chamber of Commerce.