

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Wisconsin State Agency 101

A SERIES
PREPARED BY



INSTITUTE FOR
REFORMING GOVERNMENT

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STATE AGENCY FAST FACTS

- DOR administers the state lottery and the unclaimed property program.
- The state's chief economist is housed at DOR and is responsible for estimating state revenues and forecasting economic activity.
- The 2021-2023 budget set DOR's funding at **\$477,462,200** and they have **1,178 employees**.
- Central Office in Madison, regional office in Milwaukee
 - There are tax assistance location in Milwaukee, Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, and Wausau.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Department administers the state's tax laws which includes collecting individual and corporate income taxes, sales taxes, and excise taxes.
- The agency also provides state financial aid and financial management assistance to local governments.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Wisconsin Lottery started in 1988. Since then, more than \$9.7 billion in prizes have been paid out, \$5.1 billion has gone to property tax relief, and \$1.1 billion commission has been paid to retailers.

**#DYK THAT A PORTION OF
THE PROCEEDS FROM WI
LOTTERY SALES GO RIGHT
BACK TO THE TAXPAYER?
SINCE IT'S CREATION, WI
LOTTERY HAS RETURNED
MORE THAN \$5 BILLION!**

TAXPAYER ALERT!

According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Governor proposed raising taxes on 12 items totaling more than **\$1.2 billion** in his biennial budget for 2021-23. Thankfully, the legislature re-wrote the budget to cut taxes by **\$3.4 billion**.



**\$1.2 BILLION
MORE IN
TAXES!?**



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REFORM HISTORY

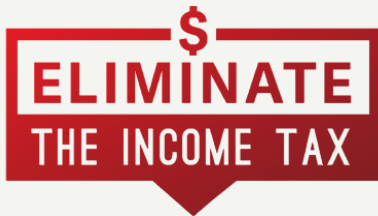
Since 2011, lawmakers have focused on reducing the tax burden on Wisconsin families and employers - cutting taxes by almost **\$22 billion** over that time frame! At the same time, state revenues have continued to grow, and the state is expected to have a **surplus of \$5.4 billion** in 2023.

**WANT TO VIEW AN
EXTENSIVE LIST OF
THE CHANGES TO WI
TAX LAW SINCE 2011?**



SCAN ME!

Despite these tax cuts, other states are doing more to reduce the tax burden and attract people to their state, like focusing on eliminating the income tax. Will Wisconsin follow-suit in 2023?



"IF YOU WANT LESS OF SOMETHING, TAX IT."
-RONALD REAGAN

CLOSE CALL...

In the 2021-2023 budget, Governor Evers proposed a slew of tax increases:

- Limiting Manufacturing and Agriculture tax credit: \$487 million tax increase.
- Capital Gains Tax exclusions: \$350 million tax increase.
- "Internal Revenue Code Update": \$540 million tax increase.

ABOUT IRG



INSTITUTE FOR
REFORMING GOVERNMENT

The Institute for Reforming Government (IRG) is a 501 (c) 3 and Wisconsin-based think tank established to help remove the onerous barriers and red tape separating the individual from an efficient and functioning government.

Find out more about IRG and view additional state agency briefing materials by visiting **ReformingGovernment.org**

DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP



Peter Barca
Secretary



Maria Guerra Lapacek
Deputy Secretary

KEEP AN EYE ON...

The state of Wisconsin sends **\$1.5 billion** each budget to local governments through the Shared Revenue program. Shared revenue is a complicated program that utilizes state sales and income taxes to help fund local governments. In 2023, policy makers will have to decide if keeping the program as is best, if the amount should be increased or decreased, or if a complete overhaul in how local governments are funded is warranted.

IRG WANTS TO KNOW...

If you were in charge for a day, what reforms would you make to the Department? Email Alex Ignatowski, IRG's Director of State Budget and Government Reform, at **ai@reforminggovernment.org**.