



Your voice for Consumer Choice, Responsibility, Integrity & Privacy

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## Telecom Modernization Important for Consumer Choice

For generations, Wisconsin has been known as a leader in reforms. It is only natural then, that the state would want to continue to lead when it comes to modernizing our current telecommunication regulations. However, this is not the reality. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa and Ohio have all recently updated their telecommunication regulations, while Wisconsin has failed to act.



Comprehensive reform allows for more competition, and just as we saw with wireless phone deregulation, costs to consumers will decrease, while choice increases. Continued regulation jeopardizes the ability of landline telephone providers to provide a competitive product and compete in today's marketplace. A recent study by The Economist predicted that if consumers discontinue service at the current rate, "the last cord will be cut sometime in 2025", leaving one less choice for consumers.

To find out who your legislator is and contact them regarding this issue [click here](#).

To read more [click here](#).

## Governor Walker Introduces 2011-2013 Budget



On March 1, 2011 Governor Walker introduced his "reform budget" to a joint session of the Wisconsin Legislature. The Governor says the budget finally deals with the state's \$3.6 billion deficit in an honest way after years of mismanagement by both sides



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According to his administration, the property tax bill on the typical Wisconsin home would go from \$2,962 on the most recent bill to \$2,990 next year and \$3,004 the year after. By comparison, those bills would be a projected \$3,305 and \$3,425 without the proposed cap, the gov's office said.

During his address, the Governor pledged no tax increases, no fee hikes, and no fund raids.

To read more [click here](#). To view the bill [click here](#).

## Consumer Choice in Auto Insurance Passes the Assembly



On March 8<sup>th</sup> the Assembly voted to repeal the mandate and insurance minimum coverage that passed in the 2009-2011 Budget Bill under former Governor Jim Doyle. The Senate had previously passed the legislation in February.

The current law requires insurance companies to cover \$50,000 for accidents causing bodily injury to or death of one person, \$100,000 for two or more persons and \$15,000 for property damage.

Under the new bill passed Tuesday, the limits for injury or death would be \$25,000 and \$50,000, respectively, while property damage coverage would be reduced to \$10,000. The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Organization.

To read more [click here](#).

## Wisconsin Receives \$37 Million Health Care Exchange Grant



Wisconsin will receive a \$37.7 million federal grant to help design the online marketplaces that could make it easier for individual and small businesses to shop for health insurance under federal health care reform.

The marketplaces, or exchanges, are a key component of the health care law and could enable consumers to make apples-to-apples comparisons when choosing health insurance.

To read more [click here](#).

## Raw Milk Update

A bill that would permit the legal sale of unpasteurized milk is being circulated for cosponsors by Republican Sen. Glenn Grothman and Rep. Don Pridemore.

Their proposal they made public on March 14th, would allow for a licensed dairy farmer to register with the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to sell raw milk and its byproducts directly to consumers.

To read more [click here](#).



## About the WCCC



The Wisconsin Coalition for Consumer Choice (WCCC) thanks you for filling out our petition. By filling out that petition, you pledged to become one of over 16,000 Wisconsin consumers dedicated to fighting for consumer rights. [Click here to fight for consumer rights.](#)

The WCCC is a public policy advocacy organization, supported by 16,000 Wisconsin consumers, committed to maintaining and advancing consumer choice and privacy in Wisconsin. For more information on the WCCC, call 608.442.0059 or visit our web page at [www.wiconsumers.org](http://www.wiconsumers.org).



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