



# CAUS Chalkboard

## They're Doing What to My Pension?

If you thought the governor and his allies in the legislature would stop after they went after your salary, WRS contributions, contract, and health care, you're going to be disappointed. The three member committee that reports to the governor at the end of June will offer at least two components to its plan for our pension money. The first would make it a defined contribution instead of a defined benefit and the second would allow people to opt out of the system. Both of these would go a long way to defunding and destabilizing a system that is noted for being one of the best in the country. To find out more and what you can do about it, come to a meeting with Betsy Kippers, WEAC Vice-President on February 28 at 6:30 pm at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. [MORE](#)

## The Recall and So Much More

Here are some questions we've been hearing from members about the backdrop for the Recall and some sources for follow-up reading.

1. **How is Wisconsin connected to recent anti-union initiatives in Indiana, Arizona, Utah, and other states?** One major connection is ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. This group, funded by big business interests, writes model legislation that benefits their businesses, often at the expense of workers and schools. ALEC is the reason so much of the language from different states resembles ours. A Florida representative recently went so far as submitting one of ALEC's templates as her own bill and forgot to take the ALEC tag off of it. Oops. For further information click [More](#)..... and still [More](#)

2. **What is that Milwaukee criminal investigation of Governor Walker about?** So far the felony and misdemeanor charges implicate his closest aides from his days as Milwaukee County Executive. Although embezzlement and child enticement charges are being pursued, the most significant public accusation so far is that taxpayers paid members of Walker's staff to do campaign activities on state time. It's the same thing that brought down both the Democratic Senate leader (Chuck Chvala) and the Republican Assembly leader (Scott Jensen) a decade ago. Investigators are meeting with Governor Walker this week to ask him questions. [More](#)
  
3. **What should I do if I get a postcard asking me if I really signed the recall petitions?** If the Walker-supporting Senators who are being recalled really wish to spend their money sending these cards, that's fine. Those of us who stood in the ice and snow or went door-to-door to collect these signatures are pretty sure they will come up with an insignificant number to challenge. If you do know of any discrepancies, the Government Accountability Board has set Feb. 9 as the final day to let them know. [More](#)
  
4. **Can't I just get back to my classroom and give all this politics a rest?** Only if you wish to risk the gains we've made so far and are content to let Governor Walker continue to implement his agenda: weakening your pension plan, undermining your school district through budget cuts and funding of private schools, implementing some version of merit pay that may involve test scores, and further eroding your health benefits, among many other things. (See pension story above for most immediate threat).
  
5. **How can I get involved in the recall election?** It's easy. Select one or more of the following:
  1. Contact your building rep. or local president;
  2. Most communities around Madison have a progressive group working on the recall. Contact them;
  3. Respond to this email or email CAUS-North at [josheffm@weac.org](mailto:josheffm@weac.org) and say, "Add me to your activist list." The WEAC 4X10 plan includes other opportunities for involvement, including donating money to the candidate who opposes Walker and identifying people you know to contact about voting. [More](#)