

Scott Walker's top 10 myths, lies and fabrications

What the governor says isn't always true

1. Press conference, February 21: **"We're broke. We don't have any more money."** WRONG Governor Walker has repeatedly claimed that the state is "broke" and "we don't have anything to offer" as reasons that state and local employees should not have any say in their working conditions. But the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the website PolitiFact quote experts agreeing that "the state isn't broke" and has many options at its disposal to balance the budget. Wisconsin does face difficult economic challenges, and that is why public-sector workers have agreed to concessions Walker is proposing. But know this: Walker is clearly out to attack workers. His agenda is not about money – experts say the state isn't broke and employees have agreed to fiscal concessions.

<http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2011/mar/03/scott-walker/wisconsin-gov-scott-walker-says-wisconsin-broke/>

2. CNN, February 18: **"It's a very modest request** of our government workers all across the state." WRONG. Light years away from "modest," Walker's campaign against working families has created a system of chaos for public schools. That chaos includes some districts – Freedom, Granton, Harford Union, Kiel, Monticello, New London, New Richmond, Northern Ozaukee, and Westby – sending non-renewal notices to their entire teaching staff. Other districts have issued preliminary non-renewal notices to 10-40 percent of their staff. Remember, a non-renewal notice is basically a firing, and it's not how staff reductions are generally handled by districts in typical years. How are families supposed to plan their child's education when Walker is sending their children's schools into turmoil?

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/110218/sitroom.02.html>

http://www.weac.org/news_and_publications/11-02-28/Non-renewal_notices_add_to_chaos_in_communities.aspx

3. Radio interview, February 18: Under his bill, **"collective bargaining is fully intact."** WRONG. Walker has been claiming that civil service protections cover local employees such as educators – but they don't. Actually, what Walker won't say is that no school district or technical college has a civil service system in place. Civil service protections specify certain employee rights, but the terms are set by the employer – employees have no right to bargain or negotiate over these items. Collective bargaining has been a success for the last 60 years of Wisconsin's history – and Walker wants to completely destroy the collective bargaining system.

<http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2011/feb/18/scott-walker/wisconsin-gov-scott-walker-says-his-budget-repair/>

4. TV commercial supporting Scott Walker, February 22: **"State workers haven't had to sacrifice."** WRONG. Again and again, educators have been making salary concession to maintain health insurance packages – that means savings for local districts. Wage freezes have been commonplace in districts across the state because educators have been at the table negotiating with local administrators. In fact, Wisconsin teacher pay has not kept up with the rise in inflation for nearly 20 years now and is at its lowest level in 50 years. Everyone has made sacrifices in this economy; educators have been doing it for two decades.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYEgqxdxZAO&feature=player_embedded

5. Fox interview, February 21: **"I don't want a single person laid off** in the public nor in the private sector." REALLY? This is what he told someone posing as an out-of-state oil billionaire: "The other thing is I've got layoff notices ready. We put out the at-risk notices. We'll announce Thursday, and they'll go out early next week. And we'll probably get 5 to 6,000 state workers will get at-risk notices for layoffs. We might ratchet that up a little bit, you know." **"RATCHET THAT UP A LITTLE BIT"** – those are the words of someone who is using the lives of hardworking people to further his political goals. Walker isn't interested in helping working families; he's interested in hurting them.

http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/02/21/wisconsin_budget/index.html

http://host.madison.com/wsj/article_531276b6-3f6a-11e0-b288-001cc4c002e0.html

6. Press conference, February 18: “To protect our schools, to protect our local governments, **we need to give them the tools they’ve been asking for.**” WRONG. The executive director of the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators says that group “never sought to eliminate collective bargaining rights” and the executive director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities – which represents 190 cities and 393 villages – says Walker’s bill goes far beyond anything that group has ever talked about. In fact, more than 200 local officials signed a petition opposing the bill, with school boards, city councils and county boards continuously passing resolutions supporting continuation of collective bargaining for their employees.

<http://www.thedailypage.com/daily/article.php?article=32392>

7. Press conference, February 21: “The simple matter is **I campaigned on this all throughout the election.** Anybody who says they are shocked on this has been asleep for the past two years.” WRONG. Walker never mentioned during his campaign that he would try to strip away the rights of working families. He mentioned he would seek health insurance concessions from ALL state workers, but he NEVER said he would restrict negotiating only to salary (a subject he also is proposing limiting in itself).

<http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2011/feb/22/scott-walker/wisconsin-gov-scott-walker-says-he-campaigned-his/>

8. “Meet the Press,” February 27: “And as I mentioned repeatedly, I don’t think we can take that 5 and 12 percent (concessions) to the bank ... because **unions have shown us the last two weeks that, that they’re not going to do it.**” WRONG. A coalition of labor representatives for state and local workers have agreed to concessions in health insurance and pension packages. In fact, they’ve agreed to the very same concessions Walker is proposing. And on top of that, some of the public workers Walker didn’t include in his onerous bill – firefighters, particularly – have agreed to increased contributions to help out the state and stave off limits on collective bargaining. This isn’t about money anymore – Walker has tossed aside the concessions public workers are willing to make. He is interested only in taking away the rights of working families.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41781178/ns/meet_the_press-transcripts

9. “Meet the Press,” February 27: “We have, in many of our school districts, **a requirement through collective bargaining contracts that they have to buy their health insurance from a company that’s owned by our state teacher’s union, WA Trust.**” WRONG. The health insurance Walker refers to – actually called the WEA Trust – is far from a “requirement.” According to the nonprofit organization of which Walker can’t even get the name right: About 35 percent of public school employees in Wisconsin are covered by the Trust. Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay are self-insured or purchase from companies other than the Trust. Furthermore, Trust insurance premiums have increased at a rate LOWER than the national average, saving districts money.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41781178/ns/meet_the_press-transcripts

10. Phone call to “David Koch,” February 23: Walker said he’s been telling people **protesters “are in from other states** today.” WRONG. WEAC members have been down to the Capitol. AFSCME members, SEIU members, Madison police and firefighters, teaching assistants from UW-Madison – they’re just some of the Wisconsinites protesting this shortsighted legislation.

<http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2011/feb/23/scott-walker/wisconsin-gov-scott-walker-says-out-staters-account/>