

Gov. Doyle recently released his 2007-09 state budget proposal. See the highlights below, brought to you by the Wisconsin Public Affairs Team.



Governor Doyle's 2007-09 State Budget Proposal

[Big Picture](#)

[State Budget Highlights](#)

[Health Care](#)

[Tax](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Energy & Environment](#)

[About Foley Public Affairs](#)

Big Picture

Governor Doyle recently proposed a budget that will spend \$57.7 billion over the 2007-09 biennium. As usual, K-12 education, Medicaid, the University of Wisconsin, shared revenue and corrections are the largest spending items. In this budget, the Governor proposes more programs, more spending and more fees than in any of his previous budgets. His largest and most ambitious spending is in health care, where he proposes to consolidate and expand the states Medicaid program to provide health care to most everyone who is below 200% of the federal poverty level.

[<<top>>](#)

State Budget Highlights:

Health Care

- \$1.25 increase in the cigarette excise tax to fund health care programs
- 1% assessment on hospital gross revenues to help draw down federal matching money and expand the Medicaid program in Wisconsin
- Expand BadgerCare, the state's low-income health insurance program, to provide coverage for nearly all Wisconsinites
- Split the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) into two departments: Department of Health, and Department of Children and Family Services

[<<top>>](#)

Tax

- Double the real estate transfer fee to fund shared revenue
- Tax on digital property such as music purchased online – dubbed the “iPod tax”
- Funding to fully phase-in single sales factor apportionment in the corporate income tax
- Increase angel and early stage seed investment tax credits
- Implement the Streamlined Sales Tax Project to standardize tax provisions among state and local governments
- Extend the sales tax exemption for printed materials shipped out of state (catalogs, mailings and advertising)

[<<top>>](#)

Transportation

- 2.5% per barrel oil franchise fee to fund transportation projects
- Funding to begin reconstruction of I-94 (running from the Illinois border to Mitchell Airport) in this biennium
- Funding to accelerate the reconstruction of the Milwaukee Zoo Interchange

[<<top>>](#)

Energy & Environment

- Increase the recycling tipping fee by \$3/ton to fund renewable energy initiatives
- Grants through Department of Commerce for construction of cellulosic ethanol plant
- Income tax credits to retrofit fuel pumps for E85 or 20% biodiesel fuel

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For more information about the Wisconsin Public Affairs Team or further details on the budget highlights listed above, contact Ray Carey in the Madison office at 608-258-4778.

[<<top>>](#)