

# **SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN SCHOOLS ALLIANCE**

## **TABOR TALKING POINTS**

### Democratic Process

- Lawmakers currently have constitutional ability to control spending.
- A constitutional amendment would undermine the authority of future elected officials and diminish citizens' role in the local decision-making process.
- Financial decisions about the state's future are among the most important the state legislature makes. If a constitutional amendment is passed, the role of the state legislature is less relevant and its authority is significantly diminished.
- Wisconsin legislators must make responsible fiscal decisions and exercise appropriate fiscal authority in responding to the needs of the public and complex issues.

### Economic Impact

- It is critical to maintain flexibility in order to react to future needs and improve the economic vitality of the state.
- Investments in transportation, health, and human services actually benefit our economy.
- Economic growth in Wisconsin will require an educated, skilled workforce.
- The interdependence of strong schools, economic growth, and the potential long-term impact of a constitutional amendment regarding tax policy must be carefully evaluated.

### Implications for Schools

- Wisconsin public schools are subject to state and federal mandates and accountability measures. Adequate resources are needed to fulfill those expectations. A constitutional amendment would hinder the ability of local school boards to meet the achievement needs of Wisconsin public school students.
- In the past three years alone, SWSA districts have reduced more than \$100 million in services, programs and staffing to meet current revenue caps.
- Had AJR-55 been in effect since 1986-87, the Department of Administration estimates state schools would have had to reduce approximately \$2.3 billion in programs (20% lower than the current level of spending.)