



# ***Milwaukee Agenda***

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## ***Make Wisconsin Great Again!***

### **Moving Milwaukee Forward**

*Mark Green's Plan to Reform Worker Training, Promote Faith-Based Initiatives, and Expand Educational Opportunities*

*Wisconsin simply cannot succeed if Milwaukee is failing. Under Jim Doyle's watch, Milwaukee has lost jobs, violent crime is on the rise, poverty is spreading and the high school graduation rate for African Americans is just about the worst in the country. Instead of trying to sweep these challenges under the rug, I want to address them head on. I'll refocus worker training efforts, promote education reform and partner with faith-based and community organizations to cure the ills that plague too many Milwaukee neighborhoods. Where Jim Doyle has failed to lead, I will. – Mark Green*

#### **Moving Milwaukee Forward**

Jim Doyle's misguided policies, failed leadership and lack of attention to our state's largest city have had a detrimental impact on our state. In Milwaukee, good jobs are too few and worker training has missed its mark, while poverty and racial disparity continue to grow.

As governor, Mark Green will direct his attention to fixing the problems plaguing the city of Milwaukee.

#### **The problems Mark Green wants to fix**

**Worker Training lacks the focus to address the needs of area employers.** A recent UW-Milwaukee study reported that Milwaukee's workers' skills are not what they should be, and the efforts to increase those skills are insufficient, uncoordinated, under funded and at times dysfunctional (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/12/06).

**Good Jobs are too few.** The Milwaukee metropolitan area lost more jobs last year than all but three other metro areas in the United States – and two of them were devastated by hurricanes (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/21/06).

**Poverty is on the rise.** Federal Census Bureau numbers reveal that from 1970 to 2004, the percent of Milwaukeeans with incomes below the official poverty line rose steeply from 11 percent to 26 percent of the population (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/25/06).

**Racial Disparity Continues to Grow.** The African-American poverty rate in metropolitan Milwaukee is nearly seven times the rate for whites. Nationally, the rate is 3.1 times that of whites (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 2/12/05). Milwaukee had the highest black unemployment rate of the major cities surveyed in 2002 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau also found that 59 percent of Milwaukee's black males 16 and older were idle, and that the city's black unemployment rate was more than three times its white unemployment rate (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 12/5/04).

In April, a report by the Manhattan Institute was released that showed 94 of the nation's 100 largest school districts had higher graduation rates than Milwaukee. The same report showed Wisconsin had the second worst graduation rate (55 percent) for African-American students in the country, that Milwaukee had the second worst graduation rate gap between black males and white males (31 percent vs. 66 percent), and that only 39 percent of all boys in Milwaukee schools graduate.

## Mark Green's Plan to Move Milwaukee Forward

As governor, Mark Green will address the problems plaguing Milwaukee through a series of innovative solutions focused on worker training efforts, education reform and partnering with faith-based and community organizations.

### **Mark Green's Plan**

- ✓ **Headquarter the Department of Workforce Development in the city of Milwaukee.**
- ✓ **Promote and encourage solutions from faith-based and community organizations.**
- ✓ **Increase the quality of education for families in Milwaukee by expanding the Parental Choice Program and eliminating barriers to teacher recruitment.**

## Headquarter the Department of Workforce Development in the City of Milwaukee

The connection between Milwaukee's job creators and those providing worker training programs is broken. Unemployment is high in the same community where employers are desperate for workers. Dozens of worker training programs compete with one another for students, and yet employers report little or no contact with those programs. A recent study by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee that focused on worker training programs in the city cited a lack of leadership and a lack of action, saying: "there are very few examples of providers collaborating to effectively engage employers. The report went on to say that "The work force development 'system' in Milwaukee is not meeting employer needs" (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/12/06).

Mark Green believes the state must provide leadership and will take bold steps to send a message that Wisconsin is serious about developing Milwaukee's work force.

### **Mark Green's Plan**

**Headquarter the State Department of Workforce Development (DWD) in Milwaukee.** Given the current disconnect between workforce development programs in Milwaukee, Mark Green will relocate the headquarters of the state's agency responsible for workforce development to Milwaukee. As a result of this relocation, the secretary of workforce development will have first-hand contact with Milwaukee's business and education leaders to ensure that our work force development programs are succeeding in providing trained employees for Wisconsin's businesses.

**Appoint the DWD Secretary to serve on the newly created board of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).** Mark Green has already proposed replacing the Department of Commerce with a public-private WEDC that will operate like and move at the speed of business. To ensure that the connection between job training and economic development remains strong, Mark Green will appoint the DWD Secretary to serve on the newly created board of the WEDC.

**Direct the Secretary of DWD to conduct a comprehensive audit of all state dollars currently provided to entities in Milwaukee County for work force development programs.** To move forward, we first must have a thorough accounting of every dollar that is currently being spent and an understanding of the return on those investments. What we are currently doing in Milwaukee is clearly not working. As governor, Mark Green will ensure that tax dollars are used in the most efficient and effective manner to support results-based programs to prepare our work force to meet the needs of job creators.

## Promote and Encourage Solutions From Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Mark Green believes that the most effective solutions to many of our societal challenges are found in faith-based and community organizations – rather than government-run programs. He's the author of legislation to make it easier for faith-based groups to access federal grant dollars and he chairs the congressional faith-based caucus. He also authored legislation to encourage corporations to generously support faith-based organizations, helped pass legislation to provide charitable giving incentives to such groups, and fought to protect the rights of faith-based groups to maintain their beliefs in hiring practices.

As governor, Mark Green will give faith-based and community organizations the support they need to lift lives and heal neighborhoods.

### **Mark Green's Plan**

**Provide \$500,000 in funding for faith-based and community organization grants focused on tackling the challenges facing the city of Milwaukee.** The grants will be administered through the Office on Community and Faith-Based Partnerships and will be focused on reducing poverty by providing job training to economically challenged areas in Milwaukee, and lowering the rate of recidivism by helping released inmates find jobs.

**Direct the Wisconsin Office of Community and Faith-Based Partnerships to develop a comprehensive strategy for helping FBCOs access federal funds.** In an election year conversion, Jim Doyle opened an Office of Community and Faith-Based Partnerships over a year after Mark Green pledged to do so. However, Doyle's given little attention or direction to the office. Mark Green will direct his Office of Community and Faith-Based Partnerships to develop a comprehensive strategy to help organizations access federal and state funds. The office will also create a statewide communications plan for ensuring that FBCOs are aware of opportunities to participate in the provision of human services through a dedicated Web page and list serve, as well as the designation of key contacts within every executive branch agency.

## Increase the quality of education for families in Milwaukee by expanding the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and eliminating the barriers to teacher recruitment

Milwaukee must have an educated work force if it is to compete in today's economy. The best way to achieve this goal is to provide an array of educational opportunities for all of our students. Parents must be involved in determining what is best for their child. Given the chance, most parents will make the best choices for their child's education. We need to give our parents the tools they need to make those choices, instead of telling them that "Madison knows best."

In April, a report was released that showed 94 of the nation's 100 largest school districts had higher graduation rates than Milwaukee. The same report showed Wisconsin had the second worst graduation rate (55 percent) for African-American students in the country, that Milwaukee had the second worst graduation rate gap between black males and white males (31 percent vs. 66 percent), and that only 39 percent of all boys in Milwaukee schools graduate (*Manhattan Institute, Civic Report No. 48*).

The citizens of Milwaukee have been clear in demonstrating their support for choices in education. They know that choices will increase opportunities for their children and benefit the community and our state.

### **Mark Green's Plan**

**Eliminate the cap on enrollment in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.** Currently, the number of pupils who may attend private schools under the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program may not exceed 22,500. Eliminating the cap on enrollment will provide additional educational opportunities for families across the city of Milwaukee.

**Expand the number of private schools that can participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.** As of September 1, 2006, there were 126 schools registered to participate in the Milwaukee School Choice program. Mark Green will expand the program to allow any private school in Milwaukee County, not just the city of Milwaukee, to participate in Milwaukee's Parental Choice Program.

**Permit more Milwaukee families to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.** Unlike other school choice programs that permit students to attend charter schools or public schools in districts other than their own, the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program is limited to families whose income is 175 percent of the federal poverty level for new participants, and 220 percent of the federal poverty level for those already in the program. Mark Green will expand the family income limit for new students to provide more options for more Milwaukee families.

**Enact legislation to rescind the residency requirement for Milwaukee teachers.** A recent study conducted by Wisconsin Public Research Institute (WPRI) found that the Milwaukee Public School residency requirement for teachers has failed to accomplish a number of goals. Specifically, the report found that: MPS teachers are less credentialed and have less experience than teachers in other districts in the state; the turnover rate among MPS teachers is high; local teachers-in-training are reluctant to apply for jobs in MPS based on the residency requirement; and nearly 30 percent of MPS teachers who are parents send their children to private schools – 6 percent higher than other parents in Milwaukee (*Wisconsin Public Research Institute, 6/06*). Mark Green will break down the barriers to recruiting new teachers to Milwaukee by rescinding the residency requirement for Milwaukee teachers.