



MEMORANDUM

To: Michael Best Strategies Clients & Friends
From: Michael Best Strategies Wisconsin Team
Date: November 1, 2022
Subject: 2022 Gubernatorial Candidates by the Issues

As we are only a week out from the 2022 Gubernatorial election, the team at Michael Best Strategies prepared the following memo to outline the stances of both party's candidates on a variety of issues.

Below are Democratic Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' and Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Michels' stances and policy agendas for taxes, healthcare, the economy & inflation, climate change & energy, reproductive issues, crime, education, elections, and the upcoming 2023-2025 biennial budget.

Policy	Governor Tony Evers	Tim Michels
Taxes	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Tackle Rising Costs. Evers' plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approving a temporary state gas tax holiday with clear end date and funding to backfill lost revenue for ongoing road/bridge maintenance.• Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, as well as a new tax credit for family caregivers.• Using part of state's surplus to implement a 10% income tax cut for those making less than \$100,000 per year, or married couples who make less than \$150,000.• Restoring the Homestead Tax Credit by increasing the income limit and indexing the program to inflation.	<p>Tim Michels has noted that should he be elected, he would look to enact a flat income tax in Wisconsin. He has also stated that he will implement "massive tax reform"</p> <p>Michels stated in early-October that he was "going to sit down with all of the smart people and we're going to figure out how low we can get the income tax. Right now, it looks like we could get it to somewhere below 5%."</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding eligibility for the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit. <p>The plan also includes features to Support Small Businesses and Family Farms. Evers' plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repealing the personal property tax. <p>Expanding state tax credit programs when businesses make investments or commit to creating jobs in Wisconsin.</p>	
<p>Healthcare</p>	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Protect Access to Healthcare. Evers' plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting access to reproductive services, including abortion and contraceptive services. • Expanding BadgerCare. • Expanding access to mental health services. • Providing more resources to improve care for expectant and new mothers. • Growing and modernizing the state's healthcare workforce, especially in rural areas of the state and in the long-term care industry. <p>The plan also includes features to Tackle Rising Costs. Evers' plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capping the costs of prescription drugs and increasing transparency in drug pricing across the state. • Capping insulin copays at \$35. 	<p>Tim Michels has not released a blueprint on any healthcare policy initiatives except for abortion.</p>

	Continuing to support the state’s SeniorCare program to ensure Wisconsin seniors are able to access low-cost prescription drugs.	
Economy & Inflation	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Tackle Rising Costs. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repealing the state’s Mandatory Markup law. • Pushing for a federal gas tax holiday. • Waiving temporarily EPA requirements that affect SE Wisconsin. <p>The plan also includes features to Support Small Businesses and Family Farms. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding “innovative ways” to connect state’s agriculture industry with new markets and strengthen agricultural supply chain. • Expanding opportunities for loan guarantees for small businesses. • Expanding high-speed internet across the state. • Working with small businesses and family farms to create new local markets for Wisconsin-made and Wisconsin-grown products. <p>Expanding the Main Street Bounceback Program.</p>	<p>The Michels campaign released the Wisconsin First Economic Blueprint. Michels’ Economic Blueprint includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing corporate and individual income taxes to attract & retain talent in Wisconsin. • Increasing American energy production and distribution to provide low cost & reliable energy. • Eliminating the personal property tax. • Recruiting out-of-state veterans to the Wisconsin workforce by improving VA hospitals and providing hiring incentives. • Overhauling and streamlining the state’s occupational licensing laws to eliminate barriers for businesses and individuals. • Incentivizing students to pursue education in high-demand fields. • Increasing opportunities for K-12 dual enrollment, youth apprenticeships, and internships. • Increasing investment in vocational training. <p>Improving public safety as economic development.</p>
Climate Change & Energy	<p>Gov. Evers released the Clean Energy Plan. The goal of the plan is to put Wisconsin on a path for all electricity consumed within the state to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2050. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating clean energy technology deployment by increasing funding options for projects, investing in infrastructure, reaching new emissions goals, equitable expansion 	<p>While discussing the topic of climate change at the gubernatorial debate, Michels stated that “Temperature has always fluctuated throughout the history of this world. We can’t just say that it all happened because of man’s actions in the last 100 years. He went on to tout the environmental practices of his business the Michels Corporation, and also vowed to fix the “close to broken” Dept. of Natural Resources.</p>

	<p>of clean energy, leveraging existing policies and programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing energy efficiency and reducing energy waste to save consumers money on energy costs. • Modernizing buildings and industry by addressing outdated building codes, supporting electrification, expanding funding, and supporting industry and businesses in their transitions. • Innovating transportation and supporting the transition to low to no- emission vehicles and refueling options. 	
<p>Reproductive Issues</p>	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Protect Access to Healthcare. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing clemency to physicians prosecuted and found guilty under Wisconsin’s 1849 abortion ban. • Taking any action necessary to protect access to reproductive services, including abortion and contraceptive services. 	<p>Michel has stated that the Wisconsin 1849 abortion ban, which only includes an exception for the life of the mother, is an “exact mirror of his position.” Michels has since amended that statement to vow that if he is elected he would sign an abortion ban with exceptions for rape and incest if it came to his desk as governor.</p>
<p>Crime</p>	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Keep Communities Safe. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enacting universal background checks for every gun purchased in WI, including guns bought at shows and online. • Enacting red flag laws to improve public safety by temporarily removing guns from people who pose a danger to themselves or others. • Funding school programs and local services in high crime areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investing in after school and out-of-school programs and 	<p>The Michels campaign released the Tim Michels’ Back the Blue-Print. The Blue-print includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firing Milwaukee County DA John Chisholm on Day 1. • Incentivize hiring of more police officers, especially in “our most dangerous neighborhoods.” • Creating new mandatory minimum penalties for felons possessing guns. • Creating a RICO-like provision to investigate and prosecute riot organizers. • Exposing weak prosecutors and judges through greater access to public information.

	<p>additional programming to target addition and mental health treatments, which would allow law enforcement to focus more on crime and safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Wisconsin’s bail system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allowing judges to fully assess the safety risk to the community before releasing an individual pre-trial. <p>Providing additional funding for local public safety (local governments, police and fire departments, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposing state aid reduction for those who attempt to “defund the police” • Allowing judges to consider multiple factors when setting bail. • Replacing the aging Green Bay prison with a larger, modern facility. • Preventing and stopping violent crime. • Preventing and creating harsher responses to mass lawlessness and riots.
<p>Education</p>	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Improve Education Quality. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing State Aid to schools as a means of also preventing property tax increases for Wisconsin families. • Expanding job training and apprenticeship programs. • Improving financial literacy to better support high school students as they approach financial independence prior to entering college. • Investing more in mental health programming. • Increasing investments in special education initiatives by directing a portion of the state surplus to additional special education staff and programming. • Creating new opportunities for districts of all sizes through the Urban Excellence Initiative by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanding summer school and enhancing early childhood education. ○ Supporting rural school districts through sparsity aid and transportation funding. 	<p>The Michels campaign released the Tim Michels “I Trust Parents” Education Blueprint. The Blueprint includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving reading and literacy by adopting legislation which sets higher standards for reading proficiency, drives proven science of reading instruction methods, & gives parents transparency to choose schools which follow practices that work. • Empowering and trusting parents to choose schools and programs for their children. • Signing the Parental Bill of Rights. • Promoting career technical education. • Expanding apprenticeships. • Securing our schools and access to funding, training, and resources for student safety. <p>Increasing turnout in school board elections.</p> <p>During the gubernatorial debate, Michels emphasized that he is a proponent of school choice and voucher systems in Wisconsin. He also stated that he would spend more money on education than any other Wisconsin governor but did not provide specifics. On Critical Race Theory and how race should be taught in the classrooms, Michels stated that parents should</p>

		be involved, and it should not be left entirely to “edu-crats.”
Elections	<p>The Evers campaign released the Plan for Wisconsin. As part of the plan, Evers intends to Protect the Will of the People. Evers’ plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting local election workers. • Committing to certifying future election results. <p>Improving absentee ballot counting and transparency by supporting local clerks to begin counting absentee ballots the Monday before the election as a means of improving confidence and transparency in election night reporting.</p>	<p>The Michels campaign released the Tim Michels Blueprint to Restore Election Integrity. The Blueprint includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repealing of all previous WEC election guidance and freezing the issuance of new guidance. • Prohibiting the re-hiring of any WEC staff that participated in the issuance of any formal guidance that failed to comply with existing law. • Banning special interests from funneling money for election administration through local election officials. • Banning unmanned ballot drop boxes. • Cleaning of poll lists twice per year to get rid of dead and inactive voters. • Requiring every county to designate an available election duty judge to be available for hearings to resolve election day complaints. • Addressing the indefinitely confined voters from 2020 by making them reapply and show photo ID to verify their claim. • Enforcing uniformly the implementation of absentee ballot laws. • Banning pop up polling places. • Strengthening nursing home voting protections. • Passing of a Voter Uniformity Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution.
Budget Promises	<p>The Office of Governor Tony Evers announced in October that his next state budget if re-elected would include an 8% increase for shared revenue over the biennium, and an additional \$10 million for EMS, police, and fire. Evers has repeatedly stated on the campaign trail that increasing shared revenue is a top priority if re-elected.</p>	<p>On funding Wisconsin’s municipalities, Michels said during the gubernatorial debate that there is “plenty of money in government,” citing the \$40 billion biennium budget. He vowed to work with the state legislature to make sure state revenue makes it to municipalities across the state.</p>

	<p>Governor Evers stated the initiatives are aimed at “providing local governments with resources needed for public safety and community priorities, as well as investments in state law enforcement.”</p>	
<p>Lobbyists & Special Interests</p>	<p>Tony Evers has not released a blueprint on any healthcare policy initiatives regarding lobbyists and special interests.</p>	<p>The Michels campaign released the Michels Blueprint to Drain the Madison Swamp. The Blueprint includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibiting fundraising event sponsorship by PACs controlled by lobbying principals. • Closing the lobbyist spousal loophole. • Closing the lobbying revolving door. • Extending the lobbyist political contributions to June 1 of every election year or the end of the legislative calendar. • Imposing greater transparency and reporting requirements for political campaigns. <p>Imposing greater transparency and reporting requirements for lobbyists.</p>