

Short Response Homework Assignments from Dr. Andrew Reschovsky, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1. Who decides what public services local governments provide? Have politicians or government bureaucrats taken decision making power away from residents?
2. Can the cost of government be reduced through government consolidations or cooperation?
3. Is the privatization of public service delivery a good strategy for reducing the costs of government? Are the costs of state and local government services being driven up by un (or under) funded federal mandates?
4. Should Wisconsin add an amendment to its constitution which would place a limit on the annual increases in spending by the state government and all local governments?
5. How can we fund local governments and schools when voters (and legislators) want property tax reductions?
6. Why is the property tax unpopular? What is the best way to deliver property tax relief?
7. What can be done about the shrinking sales tax base?
8. Is heavier reliance on the income tax the key to making the tax system fairer?
9. Does the taxation of business discourage economic growth? Should businesses be taxed by state and local governments, and if so, how?
10. Should state and local governments borrow money as a way of solving current fiscal problems? Who is going to pay for public employee pensions?
11. Who should fund public education in the United States? How should it be done?
12. How can we guarantee that all children receive an *adequate* education? Do we need to reform the school finance system in Wisconsin?
13. Should Wisconsin reform its Shared Revenue system?
14. The fiscal crisis of central cities: is there a real crisis? Are there solutions?