

All aspects of government are getting asked to make sacrifice in Wisconsin. Nearly all. Nothing in governor Scott Walker's budget plans for the next two years involve saving money by turning the state's legislature back into one that's just part-time as it once was. That was before, says Mike McCabe from the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Before lawmakers became full-timers intent on re-election, power, and partisanship. In those days, citizen legislators tended to be more efficient and significantly less beholden to special interests. And, by the way, they cost a bit less, too, says McCabe.

Wisconsin's legislature is one of only 10 states that have a full-time legislature. Others include California, New York, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Ohio.