

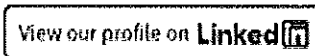
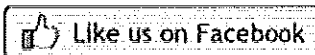
League of Wisconsin Municipalities

# Capitol Buzz

August 15, 2018

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## In an advisory referendum, West Allis voters loudly demand legislators close the so-called dark store loophole

WEST ALLIS - Local voters in Tuesday's primary election stood solidly behind West Allis officials in wanting the state legislature to close the so-called dark store loophole that has resulted in big-box stores getting drastic reductions in their property tax assessments in many communities.

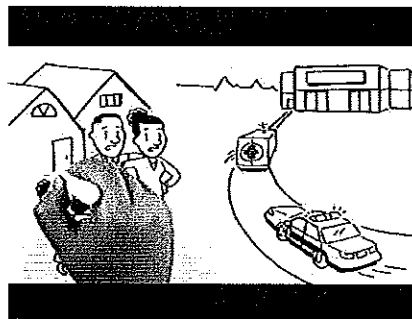
The result is a shift of the tax burden onto other property taxpayers.

In the advisory referendum, 7,128 West Allis voters urged the state legislature to close the dark store loophole, according to unofficial results. Only 734 voted "no." That's 91 percent in favor of closing the so-called loophole.

"It was pretty convincing," Mayor Dan Devine said of the wide margin. "I hope this strong message sent by voters resonates with the legislature and the governor."

Alderman Tom Lajsic, who serves as the city's common council president, added: "I think it sends a loud message to state legislators, even though our West Allis legislators have been supportive of opposing dark stores." Read the story [here...](#)

Click [here](#) to watch the Dark Store Loopholes Video



**League Produces Video Explaining Why Dark Store and Walgreens Loopholes Must be Closed**

The League has worked with the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Towns Association to produce a [whiteboard video](#) explaining the dark store and Walgreens loopholes.

Check it out on the League's YouTube Channel [here](#).

Ways your community can make use of this video include:

**+ Post the video to your website**

**+ Show the video at a governing body meeting**

**+ Show the video at your Rotary, Neighborhood Association, Kiwanis, Elks, etc. meeting**

**+ Show the video as part of a legislative candidate forum**

(see the August, *The Municipality* magazine, pg. 7 for more on how to host a forum.)

**+ Sit down with your local editorial board and watch the video together**

Provide the local impact of the loopholes on an average homeowner in your municipality.

**+ Post the video to social media** (and tag the League and Wisconsin Counties Association so that we can amplify your voice) (The Towns Association is not on social media.)



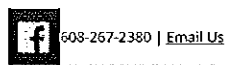
### **League's Close the Dark Store Loopholes Campaign Up and Running**

Take a look at the newly launched "[Close the Dark Store Loopholes](#)" website. You can take action and contact your Legislators directly through the "[Act](#)" buttons.

Please also engage on the "Close the Dark Store Loopholes" Facebook page [here](#). You can comment, like, share and tag the page in your own posts. Go directly to the first ad [here](#).

### **DOR releases 2018 Final Equalized Values**

Today, the Department of Revenue (DOR) posted its final 2018 Equalized Values, Tax Incremental District (TID) Values, Net New Construction Report, and County Apportionment Report.



## Demand that lawmakers close the Dark Store Loopholes, which increase property taxes on homeowners & small businesses!

Do you think your property taxes are too high? Lawyers and lobbyists have rigged the Wisconsin property tax system by using the Dark Store Loopholes to lower taxes on wealthy and powerful big box retailers and to raise property taxes on Wisconsin homeowners and small businesses.

There is broad bipartisan support for dark store reform in the Legislature, but it hasn't even been allowed to come up for a vote.

Before anyone asks you for your vote this fall, ask them where they stand on closing the Dark Store Loopholes!

**FACT**

Dark Store Loopholes allow big box retailers to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.

**ACT**

Ask Lawmakers to **CLOSE** the Dark Store Loopholes! >

**FACT**

Wisconsin homeowners already pay a too-high 68% of property taxes, and may soon pay an even bigger share.

**ACT**

Ask Lawmakers to **CLOSE** the Dark Store Loopholes! >

**FACT**

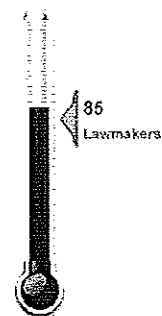
Big box retailers use more municipal services like police & fire, but soon will pay even less for them.

**ACT**

Ask Lawmakers to **CLOSE** the Dark Store Loopholes! >

Closing the Dark Store Loopholes has broad bipartisan support, but

Legislation to Close the Dark Store Loopholes already has broad bipartisan support amongst lawmakers!



See All Legislative Supporters >