

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH CHUCK DOUGLAS & GOVERNOR SCOTT WALKER OF WISCONSIN



**Chuck Douglas:** Why do you think you're the best Republican to take on Hillary Clinton?

**Gov. Walker:** Because I think people, not just Republicans, but Independents, if I were to run, want someone who can fight and win for people like them. What I mean is there are really two types of candidates emerging in this race. There are fighters and a lot of the senators have been good fighters; they fought the good fight, they carried the banner, they took on Obama, but they have yet to win anything substantial. Then there are winners, many of them are either current or former governors who are good at winning elections and they got elected and re-elected. They are really good at winning, but they haven't taken on any really big fights. I think if we were to get in what would make us unique is we fight the good fights, we won those battles, not just winning three times in four years, but literally winning the battle that people care about for reform in government.

**Chuck Douglas:** What are some of the reforms that you would bring to Washington that you did in Wisconsin?

**Gov. Walker:** Well, one of the big things is taking power out of the hands of the big government special interests. In our case, we went after the union bosses and some

of the other powerful interests. In Washington, reform is literally taking the power out of the hands of Washington and sending it to Madison, to Concord, so I take everything from Medicaid to other social service programs to transportation, to work-force investment, to education. Take those dollars out, send them back to the states where they are more effective, more efficient and certainly more accountable.

**Chuck Douglas:** And let me ask you, I know you mentioned senators and I would like you to compare your experience as a chief executive with about a dozen senators running; why you would say to an Independent or Republican, to choose you rather than senator x?

**Gov. Walker:** One of the differences is leadership. If you've got to hire someone to run a company, you would like to have someone who ran a similar company, albeit, maybe somewhat smaller. That gives you the best idea that that person is capable of handling the challenges of being in charge.

I think not just for Republicans, but for Independents and even honest Democrats, they'd say part of the failure of this presidency has been Obama's inexperience as an executive because he's never run anything before. It's why before Barack Obama the last time Americans had selected someone from congress was 1960. We want someone who's got a proven track record. We either elect governors, presidents for re-elections, or vice-presidents and historically that has been the case.

**Chuck Douglas:** Governor, you have been on the ballot three times in four years over strong labor union opposition, including a recall election. How have you prevailed?

**Gov. Walker:** I told voters we need to think more about the next generation than we do about the next election. And the good news is because of our reforms, we took the power out of the hands of big government special interests and put it firmly in the hands of a lot of working parents. We not only got our finances back, but we took a 3.6 billion budget deficit and turned it into a surplus last year and our rainy day fund is 165 times bigger than when we took office and our pension system is the only fully funded state plan. We got our finances in order, but we also helped our economy get better by getting the government out of the way and understanding that people create jobs, not the government. The unemployment rate that was once at 9.2%, last month went down to 4.4% in Wisconsin.

**Chuck Douglas:** Tell us about your education changes in Wisconsin?

**Gov. Walker:** One of the great things I'm proud of for our schools is we don't have tenure anymore. We can hire the best teachers based on performance and this gives us the best and the brightest in our classrooms and we can keep them there. Today, more than 4 years later, graduation rates are higher, third grade reading scores are higher and ACP scores are now the second best in the country for states

where more than half the kids take exams. And so we showed that common sense conservative reforms can work.

**Chuck Douglas:** How do we grow the economy?

**Gov. Walker:** First off, there is a huge difference between people like Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and the rest of us. The president and Hillary Clinton think when it comes to growth, that you grow the economy by growing Washington, right? Think about this, last year reports showed 6 of the top 10 wealthiest counties in America were in and around Washington, D.C. That says that they believe you grow the economy by growing Washington. But we can grow the economy in cities, towns, and villages all across this great country, where people create jobs, not the government. One of the best ways to do it is to get the government out of the way by fewer regulations, repealing Obamacare, putting patients and families back in charge. Use all of our abundant energy supplies here in America and across the continent, not only reining in things, but lower the tax burden, not just on individuals, but on job creators to bring more American jobs back from overseas to put more of our fellow Americans back to work. Our property taxes are lower today in Wisconsin than they were 4 years ago, not just lower rates, but lower actual property taxes are reported. We've done all those things in a state that sadly was the home of the first state income tax, but we have turned things around.

**Chuck Douglas:** What are your views on national security in 2015?

**Gov. Walker:** Some call it national security, but I call it national safety. The reason I say that is because when you think about the videos of the Jordanian pilot burned alive in a cage, when you think of the Christians from Egypt and elsewhere around the world who were beheaded because of their faith, it's something you feel, not just something you read about. It's not just something happening in the Middle East, we see it in France, in Belgium; we see it in Canada, actually we saw it just a month or so ago in Texas, right here in the United States.

We have a president who drew a line in the sand and allowed people to cross it in Syria. The president, who called ISIS just this last year the JV squad and Yemen a success story also calls Iran a place we could do business with. We need a commander in chief who understands going forward that radical Islamic terrorism is a threat to us all and we have to do something about it.

We need someone who will stand up and recognize that Israel is an ally and start treating it like it is. Someone who is going to tell the American people something that might be tough to hear.

I was in Israel a few weeks back, but about a month before that I met with a number of the Persian Gulf state leaders. And it was interesting, I asked what's the number one threat to world leaders? Do you know what they said? The

disengagement of America. I don't think we should go in on every war, but I think the lack of American leadership actually puts us more at risk in many regards than we were, and I think it's so serious that those leaders have great doubts about our role.

**Chuck Douglas:** We're borrowing half a trillion a year and largely that is due to entitlement programs that are on auto-pilot with no caps, not limits, no reform, is that something that you would hope to change after 4 years as president or just leave it status quo?

**Gov. Walker:** No, I think it needs to be changed. Obviously if we were to run we would lay out a more detailed plan in the future, but part of the reform I'm talking about is shifting power from Washington to the states and that includes programs like Medicaid. I think if states got a block grant with no strings attached we should send money back to the states. Wisconsin and NH might be vastly different than NY and California in terms of how we administer programs. Plus, take many of those federal programs and send them back to the state and local governments where they're more effective, more efficient and certainly more accountable. It also frees up the congress and the president to really wrap their arms around the things we should be concentrating on like the defense of our country and grappling with Social Security and Medicare.

**Chuck Douglas:** What about changing Social Security?

**Gov. Walker:** When it comes to Social Security, I was born on Nov. 2, 1967, and my sound commitment to people born before me, as they made decisions based on their career or about their retirement based on their expectation about where they would be when they retired, is that I'm not going to touch the Social Security of people older than me. But, for people my age and younger, there need to be reasonable reforms and if we were going to get in the race we would lay out more details about that, but I want to make it absolutely clear that no one born before Nov. 2, 1967, would have anything altered when it comes to Social Security.

**Chuck Douglas:** Thank you, Governor for sharing your ideas with Bow.