

Dark Store Day – Talking Points

December 11, 2017

- All local officials want for Christmas is for the Wisconsin State Legislature to pass the Dark Store (SB 292) and *Walgreens* reversal (SB 291) bills.
- Every time a big box retailer gets a dark store tax break, homeowners, small businesses and other property owners have to pick up a greater share of the property tax levy.
- These bills must be enacted to avoid even more of the property tax burden shifting to homeowners and other businesses.
- Both bills have overwhelming bipartisan support among legislators. The Dark Store Bill, SB 292, has a remarkable 68 co-sponsors. The *Walgreens* reversal bill, SB 291, has just as amazing 58 co-sponsors.
- Under these bills, contrary to arguments made by opposing groups, local governments will not receive one dollar more in tax revenue. The bills will, however, prevent even more of the tax burden from shifting to homeowners and other properties not employing dark store tax strategies.
- Public hearings have been held in both houses of the Legislature. A Senate committee has unanimously recommended passage of both bills. The Senate needs to schedule a vote in January and the bills will pass by huge margins.
- Another January 1 (assessment date) is going by without a dark store/*Walgreens* correction in place.
- The Indiana legislature and Michigan courts have shut the door on dark store tax avoidance strategies. We need to take action in Wisconsin.
- On this Dark Store Day, we call on the Legislature to take action in January to restore common sense and fairness to how commercial properties are assessed in this state.