

## SARAH GODLEWSKI'S CUT COSTS PLAN

Sarah has traveled all across Wisconsin, hearing from workers and families who are trying their best to stay afloat and persevere through the pandemic and rising costs of inflation. With the [highest inflation rate in 40 years](#) and prices continuing to soar, Wisconsin families are feeling the effects everywhere – at the grocery store, in their monthly bills, and at the gas pump.

As State Treasurer, Sarah knows that Wisconsin families can't afford to stretch their pocketbooks much further. Wisconsinites can't continue to choose between heating their homes and paying for rent, medicine, and food. Families can't continue to pay soaring prices for everyday expenses like gasoline and prescription drugs when parents are struggling to re-enter the workforce due to hard-to-find, expensive child care. Communities can't offer affordable housing when building costs are way up. And corporations and the wealthy can't continue to evade accountability -- including paying their fair share in taxes and facing consequences for price gouging and exploiting consumers.

Sarah believes that both Democrats and Republicans in Washington need to step up and work together to alleviate growing financial burdens. Wisconsinites are working too hard for career politicians to continue to let them down and for the wealthy and special interests to continue to profit at their expense. That's why **Sarah is running for the U.S. Senate: to make Washington work for working Wisconsinites again.**

In the Senate, Sarah will work to take immediate action to provide Wisconsinites with relief and lower costs for workers and families, including:

- Provide immediate relief for soaring energy costs with a gas tax holiday
- Invest in renewable energy now to lower future energy costs
- Improve the supply chain and address food supply delays by making things here at home
- Make housing more affordable, accessible, and sustainable
- Cut the high cost of prescription drugs
- Make the child tax credit permanent
- Expand access to affordable, quality child care
- Impose consequences for price gouging
- Crack down on corporate profiteering
- Institute a wealth tax and make middle class tax cuts permanent

## Cutting Costs For Wisconsinites

- **Providing Immediate Relief for Soaring Energy Costs**

Energy costs are soaring, with prices [up 27% from 2021](#). Whether filling up our tanks or heating our homes, Wisconsinites' wallets are taking the hit.

- That's why Sarah has called on the U.S. Senate to take immediate action to **provide Wisconsinites with relief and lower costs for workers and families right now, by temporarily suspending the gas tax and lowering the price of gas for drivers**. Lowering the price of gas by 18.4 cents per gallon (the current [federal gas excise tax](#)) will alleviate the hit that Wisconsin drivers are feeling at the pump. Sarah would support a bill similar to [legislation](#) proposed by Senators Mark Kelly, Maggie Hassan, and others, which provides for a temporary exemption through 2022 from the excise tax on gasoline.
- Low-income households in the U.S. are spending [three times more](#) of their income on energy costs compared to higher-income households. To help affordably heat Wisconsin's homes, Sarah will work to **obtain additional funding from HHS for its [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)**. She will also work to **reduce the red tape to make sure that all eligible households in Wisconsin are able to apply for and receive LIHEAP support to cut their energy bills**.

- **Investing in Renewable Energy Now to Lower Future Energy Costs**

There are short-term adjustments that can be made right now to address energy costs, but the reality is, our country needs to take more steps to shift our dependency off of foreign oil – and fossil fuels altogether. Energy costs are only going to rise as fossil fuel sources run out and as the climate crisis causes more damage to our energy infrastructure. We have to transition from brown energy to green energy.

- Our state consumes nearly [six times](#) as much energy as it produces, and the vast majority of our energy comes from [fossil fuel sources](#). In order to protect Wisconsinites from volatile fossil fuel prices, Sarah will work to **reduce our foreign dependency on these polluting fuels**.
- Sarah will work to ensure Wisconsin develops a **diverse and robust clean energy portfolio that provides Wisconsinites with good-paying jobs, affordable energy, and insulation from foreign crises** like the conflict in Ukraine, which has contributed to skyrocketing costs at the pump. By combining renewable and low carbon technologies and producing this energy right here in Wisconsin, our state can become a self-sustaining model for the clean energy economy of the future

and give Wisconsinites peace of mind in their pocketbooks. In the Senate, Sarah will **fight to dramatically expand clean energy production in Wisconsin.**

- **Improving the Supply Chain and Addressing Food Supply Delays by Making Things Here at Home**

Whether it's a spike in the weekly grocery bill, waiting on lumber for home renovations, or delivery delays, supply chain issues have vexed Wisconsin households and businesses in recent years.

- Persistent supply chain delays have laid bare the urgent need to build and buy American. That's why Sarah will work to **incentivize domestic manufacturing to ease supply chain slowdowns and help bring home and create new jobs.** She also will **support financing solutions for small manufacturers, recognizing the hurdles that local businesses face.** And she will **support domestic manufacturers of clean steel and aluminum** – who have been harmed by tariffs and poor quality materials – by **working to ensure that federal infrastructure projects [use products made by American companies.](#)**
- In order to ensure that products from other parts of the country and other parts of the world timely and safely reach Wisconsinites, Sarah is committed to developing solutions to unclog supply chain bottlenecks.
  - Over the last few years, essential products – ranging from vital [pharmaceutical ingredients](#) to [semiconductors](#) – have slowed dramatically in reaching American consumers and businesses. That's why Sarah will support legislation **to diversify our supply chains, so that Wisconsinites are not overly dependent on a single country or region.**
  - The pandemic also placed enormous hardship on farmers and food supply chains. Sarah will work to **remove food supply obstacles and facilitate local sourcing.** She will support additional funding for [programs such as](#) the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program which provides loan guarantees for critical capacity and infrastructure building in our food supply chain. She also will work to **secure funding to help shore up a competitive local food chain in Wisconsin.**
  - Sarah also will work to **make it easier to export American products, including agriculture products.** American exports, including food and dairy, can't continue [to sit idly at ports](#) while international shipping companies refuse to transport them. We can't continue to allow foreign-owned international ocean carriers to unreasonably decline to ship

our U.S. exports or overcharge our exporters. That's why Sarah will support legislative efforts like the bipartisan [Ocean Shipping Reform Act](#).

- Sarah will also **advocate for the appointment of a [White House Supply Chain Czar](#) to ensure government-wide coordination to ease supply chain challenges**, factoring in climate, national security, trade, diplomatic, and small business concerns.

- **Making Housing More Affordable, Accessible, and Sustainable**

We currently are facing a nationwide housing shortage. Building costs are [way up](#), with [double-digit construction cost increases since late 2020](#). In Wisconsin, housing development has slowed, with affordable apartments and houses increasingly out of reach for middle- and low-income families.

- Wisconsin has seen a [decline in first-time homebuyers](#) and people are having a [hard time staying in their homes, particularly seniors](#). No one expects to fall behind on their mortgage payments, lose their home to foreclosure, or need to replace a roof, but sometimes the unexpected challenges of life can make the responsibility of homeownership a tough one.
- To jumpstart Wisconsin's construction of affordable housing units, Sarah will fight for an [increase in tax incentives through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit](#).
- Financing alone is not enough - Sarah will back laws to **help communities develop and implement comprehensive housing policy plans**, like the bipartisan [Housing Supply and Affordability Act](#). She knows that in order to actually get affordable housing built, communities need local policies and experts on the ground to navigate some of the barriers to new housing development – like working through financing gaps as well as regulatory and zoning requirements. She also will support increased funding to expand the **HUD Certified Counseling Program** to ensure that low- to moderate-income Wisconsinites are better able to understand their options and gain access to affordable housing.
- Wisconsin is the third [worst state for Black homeownership](#), and through her leadership on the Treasurer's Task Force on Home Ownership, Sarah has seen firsthand the importance of committing more federal resources and staff to programs like [Take Root Wisconsin](#), [Take Root Milwaukee](#) and [Wisconsin Help for Homeowners](#) to **get homeowners free or at least low-cost services to help buy, stay, or fix their home**. These programs work to prioritize communities that historically have been left behind when it comes to buying homes and building

wealth. They advance equity strategies and work to build homeownership in communities of color.

- Sarah also will work to **provide safe and affordable housing in rural communities** through programs such as the [USDA's Section 504 program](#), which allocates grant money to help low-income homeowners upgrade or repair their homes. She'll also secure funding to support construction, improve energy and water efficiency, climate resilience, and the removal of health and safety hazards in rental housing.

- **Cutting the High Cost of Prescription Drugs**

As Sarah travels across the state, she consistently hears that the fear of covering the costs of prescription drugs keeps Wisconsinites up at night – whether they need medication for an ailing elderly parent, a diabetic child, a sister fighting cancer, or a spouse managing chronic pain. That's why Sarah is committed to **rein in skyrocketing prescription drug costs and hold Big Pharma accountable**, as set forth in her plan [here](#).

### **Reducing Financial Stress For Wisconsin Families**

- **Making the Child Tax Credit Permanent**

With the pandemic continuing into year three and rising inflation, families' need for help in managing everyday expenses unfortunately has not dissipated. That's why, in February, Sarah [urged Congress to reinstate the expanded child tax credit that lifted 45,000 Wisconsin children out of poverty](#). The expanded CTC [dramatically reduced poverty and hunger](#), while helping families across all income levels and racial and ethnic groups. It provided financial security for millions of families by allowing them to pay down household expenses to reduce debt and allowed families to build a rainy day fund for potential emergencies. In the U.S. Senate, Sarah will fight to **make the expanded CTC permanent in an effort to help families with the economic strain they continue to navigate**.

- **Expanding Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care**

For parents of below school-age children, child care costs are soaring – the annual cost of childcare in Wisconsin is \$12,597 on average. In part, it's because Wisconsinites across the state are facing a shortage of child care workers, which has created child care deserts. Parents of young children can't work if they don't have quality, affordable child care. Women, in particular, are not [reentering](#) or remaining in the workforce which prevents them from earning a paycheck, and reduces their family's ability to thrive.

- To get parents the child care coverage they need, and to return parents to the workforce, Sarah will fight for [high quality early childcare funding from birth to age five](#), to include universal pre-K as well as before- and after-care for lower income families.
- Sarah would support legislation such as the [Child Care for Working Families Act](#) which would help families with children 12 and under cover the costs nontraditional as well as traditional hours of care – hours of coverage which are critical for working parents.
- Sarah will also fight to **increase the supply of child care options** by [increasing wages for early childhood providers and by investing in child care facilities](#).

### **Holding the Powerful Accountable and Requiring They Pay Their Fair Share**

It's impossible to look at the rising costs that Wisconsin workers and families are facing without addressing the root causes of those challenges. Wisconsinites are suffering while corporate special interests like Big Oil or pharmaceutical companies, to the benefit of their executives and shareholders, continue to profit and price gouge. And hardworking Wisconsinites watch while the wealthy and big corporations are allowed to pay less in taxes than working families.

- **Imposing Consequences for Price Gouging**

Whether it's Big Oil, Big Tech or Big Pharma, concentrated power amongst a few companies hurts Wisconsin families and our economy. With market consolidation and monopolies, small, local businesses can't survive, and vital products become unaffordable. Add to that, companies' [pandemic price gouging](#) on household products like disinfectants and toilet paper, and families can't catch a break. Industries from [meatpacking](#) companies to [toothpaste](#) manufacturers have continued to hike up costs for American consumers, while their investors have enjoyed significant profits and lined their own pockets.

- That's why Sarah is prepared to **prevent anti-competitive consolidation, price gouging, and the hollowing out of local economies by increasing federal antitrust enforcement**. She is not afraid to fight the anti-competitive practices of megacorporations like Amazon that are hurting our small businesses or [tech platforms](#) that collect and leverage data that gives them more and more power to exploit consumers. She will **support criminal charges for corporate executives who engage in price fixing** and other forms of criminally anticompetitive conduct. And Sarah supports giving the Federal Trade Commission the **authority to seek civil penalties from companies price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Sarah will [support a windfall profits tax](#) to hold Big Oil accountable for profiteering and price gouging and to provide relief to consumers facing

sky-high prices at the gas pump.

- **Cracking Down on Corporate Profiteering**

The last few years of the pandemic have demonstrated how Wall Street investors and corporate CEOs – while enriching themselves and their shareholders – have been driven to prioritize short-term profits over innovation, manufacturing, and industry. Despite whatever rising costs exist for raw materials or supply chain challenges, [profits are way up for the largest corporations](#) in America. Nearly [two out of three](#) of the biggest U.S. publicly traded companies boasted fatter profit margins last year than they did in 2019 – prior to the pandemic.

Pandemic profiteering is not fair to Wisconsin’s hard-working employees, union members, veterans, and families, who are paying higher prices while sacrificing basic needs. That’s why Sarah will work to **make sure that the federal subsidies that companies receive won’t merely enrich the CEOs and Wall Street bosses they serve**. To do that, she would back [legislation](#) to require that corporations that receive significant federal investments not engage in stock buybacks, in sending jobs offshore, or in paying executives more than 50 times what their median worker earns.

- **Instituting a Wealth Tax and Making Middle Class Tax Cuts Permanent**

Politicians like Ron Johnson should not be writing laws to enrich themselves and their biggest donors while abandoning Wisconsin’s workers and families. Sarah is committed to making sure the wealthy pay their fair share. And, what’s more, she wants to make sure the middle class stops shouldering the burden for everyone else. To do that, she will work to end the Swiss cheese tax code that benefits big corporations and the wealthiest at the expense of the middle class.

Sarah wants a [wholesale rewrite](#) of our broken tax system including a wealth tax, permanent middle-class tax cuts, support for family farms and small businesses, and ending tax loopholes for the rich and biggest corporations.

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Sarah recognizes that the current whack-a-mole approach to governing, as Americans face one challenge after another, simply does not accomplish enough for hard-working Wisconsinites. That’s why she is committed to using a comprehensive approach to tackle the day-to-day problems that Wisconsinites face – from cutting costs on everyday expenses, to reducing financial stress for families, to holding the powerful and wealthy accountable and getting the middle class the tax cuts they deserve.