

# Capitol collision course: A daily log



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▲ **Friday, Feb. 11:** Gov. **Scott Walker** unveils his budget-repair bill, which would curb most collective bargaining for most public-sector employees.

■ Democrats and organized labor begin mobilizing opposition.

■ **Monday, Feb. 14:** Teachers and students from at least two University of Wisconsin campuses begin protesting at state Capitol.

■ **Tuesday, Feb. 15:** Protesters attend noon rally at Capitol.

■ Legislature's Joint Finance Committee holds hearing on bill. Thousands say they want to testify against the bill in hopes of delaying it.

■ Protesters begin camping out overnight.

■ **Wednesday, Feb. 16:** Walker says state faces \$137 million budget shortfall now and a \$3.6 billion shortfall in the budget biennium.

■ Joint Finance votes 12-4 to advance bill to Senate.



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■ Thousands protest at noon rally.

■ Madison schools close when at least 40% of teachers call in sick.

■ **Thursday, Feb. 17:** Fourteen Senate Democrats leave the state and flee to Illinois to delay Walker's bill.

■ Capitol Square rally draws thousands of protesters.

■ **Friday, Feb. 18:** Assembly adjourns after Republicans rescind a vote on Walker's budget-repair bill.

■ Leaders of the state's biggest public worker unions say they will live with concessions if Walker gives up bid to repeal nearly all public union bargaining.



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▲ Large crowds gather to protest at state Capitol. Crowds hear from **Richard Trumka**, head of the national AFL-CIO, and other national union leaders.

■ **Saturday, Feb. 19:** Largest crowd to date gathers at Capitol for two rallies. Larger group rallies to protest Walker's bill; smaller crowd rallies in support of the governor.

■ **Sunday, Feb. 20:** Reports emerge that Democrats, unions are targeting Republicans for recall. Republican supporters later say Democratic senators will be targeted for recall.

■ **Monday, Feb. 21:** Scheduled furlough day results in large protest turnout at Capitol.

■ **Tuesday, Feb. 22:** Walker holds "fireside chat" to lobby support for his bill. Governor calls for civility and argues budget-repair bill is about state finances and economy, not worker rights.

■ **Thursday, Feb. 24:** Protesters continue to crowd rotunda of state Capitol.

■ **Friday, Feb. 25:** In 51-17 vote, Assembly passes budget-repair bill. Twenty-eight legislators do not vote on bill.



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▲ **Saturday, Feb. 26:** Largest protest to date at Capitol.

■ **Sunday, Feb. 27:** Authorities back away from plan to get protesters to leave Capitol.

■ **Monday, Feb. 28:** Senate Majority Leader **Scott Fitzgerald** (R-Juneau) drives to Kenosha to meet with Sens. **Tim Cullen** (D-Janesville) and **Bob Jauch** (D-Poplar).

■ State Department of Administration tightens rules on access to Capitol.

■ **Tuesday, March 1:** Walker gives budget address for 2011-'13 biennium, detailing cuts in education, Medicaid and other programs. Also outlines limits to property taxes and explains governance changes to UW System.

■ Dane County Circuit Judge **Daniel Moeser** imposes temporary restraining order calling for open access to the Capitol. Circuit Judge **John Albert** takes testimony in the case in effort by organized labor to get a temporary injunction.

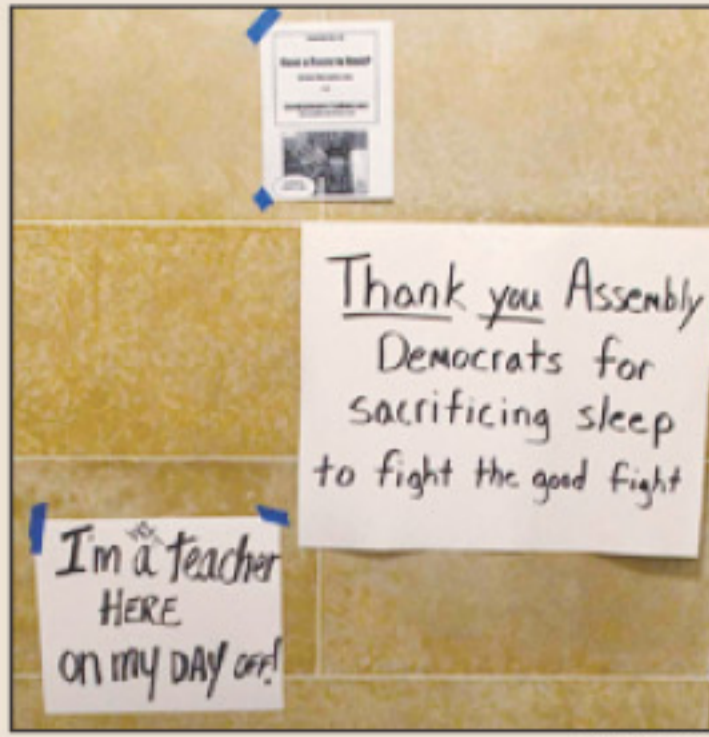
■ **Wednesday, March 2:** GOP senators vote to fine absent Democrats \$100 a day.

■ Recall efforts intensify against elected officials of both parties.

■ **Thursday, March 3:** Republicans in Senate find missing Democrats in contempt.

■ Walker says he will send out layoff notices on Friday for as many as 1,500 state workers.

■ Last group of protesters leave Capitol after Judge Albert orders their removal.



REUTERS

▲ State claims \$7.5 million in damage done to Capitol building. State later backtracks, says damage is closer to \$357,000.

■ Albert also puts state officials on notice that access to Capitol has to improve and be in place by Monday, March 7.

■ **Friday, March 4:** Walker notifies unions of impending layoffs.

■ Republicans, Democrats talk about possible changes in collective-bargaining parts of the bill.

■ **Saturday, March 5:** Thousands of pro-labor backers converge on Capitol. Two rallies held: one by AFL-CIO; the other by Wisconsin Wave.

■ **Sunday, March 6:** Walker staffers travel to South Beloit, Ill., to meet with Democrats.

■ **Monday, March 7:** Sen. **Mark Miller** (D-Monona) seeks meeting with Walker. Walker calls idea ridiculous.

■ Legislators from both parties call for more negotiations.

■ At Insight 2011 forum in Pewaukee, Walker blames national unions for scuttling attempts at compromise with missing Democrats.

■ Department of Administration makes adjustments in response to Judge Albert's court order on improving access to Capitol.

■ **Tuesday, March 8:** Walker releases documents that suggest some compromise on union bargaining bill.



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▲ **Rep. Peter Barca** (D-Kenosha) and Miller offer separate plan to shore up state finances and obtain concessions from state workers.

■ Fitzgerald says budget-repair bill will pass in current form.

■ Facebook pages emerge calling for boycotts of businesses in which executives supported Walker.

■ **Wednesday, March 9:** Senate votes, 18-1, with Democrats absent, to eliminate most collective bargaining for most public employees. Measure strips financial elements out of bill.

■ Protesters sweep past security and converge on Capitol.

■ Republicans fine Democrats \$100 each for missing Senate action.

■ Republican legislators say they have received e-mailed death threats.

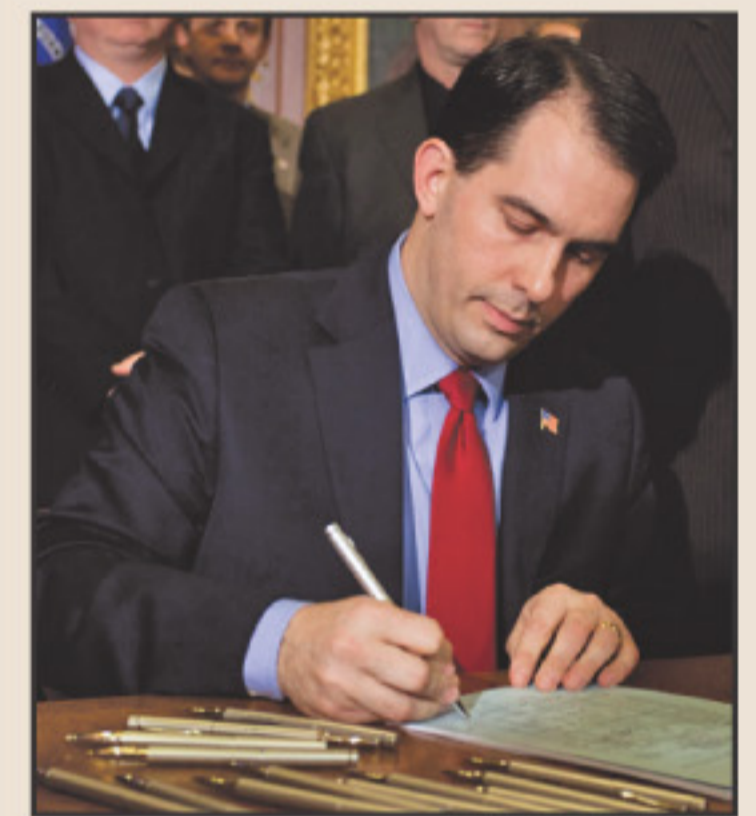
■ **Thursday, March 10:** Assembly votes 53-42 to pass collective bargaining bill. Protesters yell, "Shame, shame," after vote is announced.

■ Barca files complaint with Dane County District Attorney **Ismael Ozanne**, alleging committee meeting in advance of Assembly vote was in violation of state's open meetings law.



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▲ Protesters fill inside of Capitol.



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▲ **Friday, March 11:** Walker signs bill.

■ Dane County files suit to block signed bill, saying legislators didn't follow the law.

■ Dane County Circuit Judge **Amy Smith** rejects request for temporary restraining order on publication of bill.

■ **Saturday, March 12:** Missing Democrats return to Madison as largest protest rally to date is held.

■ **Monday, March 14:** Fitzgerald says Democrats can't vote in committee because they remain in contempt of Senate.

■ **Tuesday, March 15:** Fitzgerald backpedals, says GOP will lift fines and contempt finding.

■ **Wednesday, March 16:** Wisconsin Professional Police Association and other labor unions urge members to engage in "voluntary consumer activism."

■ Ozanne files civil complaint alleging special conference committee broke the state's open meetings law when it considered measure on collective bargaining rights.

■ **Thursday, March 17:** Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, a pro-business organization, calls on citizens to not back down to union intimidation and purchase goods and services from state businesses to save jobs.

■ **Friday, March 18:** Dane County Circuit Court Judge **Maryann Sumi** grants restraining order to halt Walker's law to limit collective bargaining for government employees. State plans to ask as early as Monday whether it can appeal to the state Court of Appeals.