

## Accounting Gimmick Creates \$135.6 Million "Surplus" for Walker Budget

Written by GBP Staff

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***New Walker Administration fiscal report released Thursday shows state used a massive \$381 million from the general fund to balance budget, kicking predicted deficit down the road.***

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MADISON - The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) released its 2015 annual fiscal report on Thursday that found the state finished the fiscal year that ended June 30 with a balance of \$135.6 million in its general fund, which includes taxes, gaming compact revenue and other revenue generated by state agencies.

The right-wing MacIver Institute and several corporate media outlets were quick to spin the report into "good news" for Wisconsinites, [claiming](#) it showed "Wisconsin ended fiscal year 2015 (FY15) with \$135.6 million in surplus". However, it appears the "surplus" may just have been the result of the well known government accounting gimmick that shifts payments into subsequent years.

The report revealed the general fund balance, that started the fiscal year at 517 million dollars, had declined to 136 million dollars. That number indicates the state used a massive 381 million dollars from the general fund to pay its debts for this fiscal year.

The 136 million dollars is the lowest general fund unreserved balance since June 30th 2011 and new revenue next year would have to be repaid to the fund to return it to acceptable levels. There is no indication where this money would come from.

The general fund is an all purpose pool of money, like a personal savings account, that the state keeps for paying unforeseen emergencies.

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