

Whose HOUSE? OUR HOUSE!

But Walker Treats the Public
Like Unwanted Guests



*The Wisconsin State Capitol is a public building that doubles as a town square where citizens can rub shoulders with their elected officials.
(Courtesy of Project for Public Spaces)*

On Feb. 14th the people of Wisconsin come to their State Capitol to protest Gov. Scott Walker's now infamous Budget Repair Bill. After two solid weeks, 24/7, they show no signs of going back home. Their governor doesn't like that.

Feb. 28 – Frustrated with a movement he can't control or end, and in violation of the Wisconsin Constitution, Scott Walker locks the Capitol Building down.

March 1 – Judge John Albert orders the Capitol open again, saying: "Free speech, protests, rallies, should be allowed during the hours when the Capitol is open and at any other time when either house of the Legislature is in session or any committee or government body is conducting a public hearing."

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March 2 – Scott Walker skirts the court order by opening one entryway for limited access only. In order to meet with their constituents, Democratic lawmakers move their desks outside.

March 3 – Former Rep. Dave Obey is denied entrance.

March 4 – New orders that the Capitol be closed at night force demonstrators who chose to stay inside at the lockdown finally to vacate the building.

March 6 – All protest signs, banners, and notes taped to the walls in the Capitol are removed, with Walker officials claiming damage and clean-up costs at 20 times more than what the actual costs would be.



With the protestors ousted, was that the end of it? Not hardly....

For nearly four months after the initial protests, our house remained under strict security. Most entrances remained locked. And those that were open had armed guards with metal detectors confronting every visitor coming in—grandmas in wheelchairs, new moms with infants, five-year-old kids, it did not matter. Other law enforcement officers were positioned throughout, and arrests were made. It didn't matter that those first protests were peaceful, or that they had happened months ago. OUR house was taken from us. And that can't ever happen again.

Information provided by
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