



# STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Candidates for Governor Queried**

MADISON – The State Engineering Association (SEA) has posed questions to the campaigns of Governor Jim Doyle, Congressman Mark Green and Scott Walker. They touch on issues regarding contracting out state work, state employee compensation and bargaining.

“As the campaign for governor heats up, we are looking for information to help our members make good decisions when they step into the voting booth,” said SEA President Mark Klipstein.

“Over the past three years, our members have been under threat of layoff, watched well-paid contractors take their jobs, and been asked by the state to accept a pay cut. The Governor’s Office plays a huge role in determining how state workers are treated. We consider this to be a very important election, and we needed an unbiased way to evaluate candidates.”

Although SEA has not endorsed individual candidates in the past, responses to questions will be disseminated to members and their families, and through the SEA website [www.wisea.org](http://www.wisea.org).

*SEA is a bargaining unit of more than 1,000 engineers and engineering-related professionals in a dozen state agencies. We are a group of people dedicated to ensuring the quality and safety of life of every Wisconsin resident.*

**Letters to candidates for governor included the following questions:**

- 1) Recent studies have shown the private sector is not necessarily more cost-effective and efficient for doing the business of the state. Should state agencies consider cost before they make a decision to contract out work, and if so, what will you do to ensure state agencies determine the most cost-effective way to do the work of the state?
  
- 2) When market studies show state employees in certain occupations receive compensation (salary and benefits) that is below compensation levels in the competitive market, will you work toward increasing the compensation of state employees in those occupations, and if so how?
  
- 3) As you know, several bargaining units still do not have contracts for 2003-2005. SEA is one of them. How will you encourage the state and bargaining units to settle contracts?