

Team Taylor



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Just For Clarity!



Setting the Record Straight on the Issues

Q: Will the proposed Economic Recovery Act introduced this week be affected by the Federal Recovery & Reinvestment Act that Congress will approve?

A: No. The Economic Recovery Act is a bill that repairs out state budget but also invests in key job creation areas that will keep and create jobs. The federal package will not negatively impact any part of it. belong.

4th Senate District

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 09 — FEBRUARY 13

Welcome to my Legislative Update!

I'm State Senator Lena C. Taylor and every week my staff and I distribute copies of my legislative update to help people learn about my work in the State Legislature. If you wish to regularly receive a copy of my update, you'll e-mail my office at sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov or call 608-266-5810.

Wisconsin's Economic Recovery Act

Wednesday was an eventful day at the Capitol as Governor Doyle, Senate Majority Leader Decker, and Assembly Speaker Sheridan, announced the Wisconsin Economic Recovery Act (WERA). The Act will maximize federal revenue sources, close corporate tax loopholes, and make cuts to areas of state government to meet the needs for fiscal control over our budget. The Act was part of on-going negotiations and agreements between the Governor and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, Senator Mark Miller and Representative Mark Pocan.

WERA will capture \$900 million dollars in new federal funding by implementing the Hospital Assessment. In addition, WERA closes the "Las Vegas Loophole" which big business uses to hide profits. This money is captured so we can turn it right back into job creation efforts, and the first step is to pre-approve ready to go road projects so workers can be hired immediately.

In addition to job creation, we have taken big steps into the housing and foreclosure crises. A bill of mine, the Tenant Protection Act, which protects renters in foreclosure situations, is included in WERA. Wisconsin also will begin to regulate foreclosure scam artists and provide additional loan modification incentives. The Joint Finance Committee will take up the bill early next week and I expect speedy passage.

Welcoming Revelle Walls

Hi, my name is Revelle Walls; I'm twenty eight and my family and I just recently moved to the area (Evansville) from Milwaukee in December. I am so happy to be in Senator Taylor's office. She has been a great inspiration to me, with her kind and loving disposition to help others and to stand up for what she believes in. Her inspiration has guided me to become more involved in the community as well as implementing efforts in the areas of educational success for youth.

My background includes seven years of teaching in the Milwaukee School Choice Program and the development and implementation of youth programs throughout the city of Milwaukee through various schools, churches and non-profit sectors over the years. I've enjoyed my job in this great office thus far and I look forward to gaining more friendly-relationships throughout the capitol. As office manager I look forward to the challenge of keeping this office organized and efficient.

Personally, I am a very outgoing person who loves playing tennis, riding bikes with my kids, riding motorcycles, and traveling on state to state adventures. I also enjoy drawing, playing music by saxophone or piano, and writing short stories as well as always being up for new challenges in life. I hope we can talk the next time you call Senator Taylor's office.

Senator Taylor's Calendar



Saturday

-Rev. Moore Funeral

Sunday

-Greater New Birth

Monday

- Black & Hispanic
Caucus

Tuesday

- Session

Wednesday

-Judiciary Committee
Meeting

Thursday

-Workforce
Development Day

Friday

-Sister 2 Sister Mentor
Ministry

Legislatively Speaking!

Furlough

“In order to meet needed state budget cuts, state employees may have to ‘furlough’ which means to take mandatory time off without pay.”

Milwaukee County Comes to Madison

On Tuesday, many members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors were at the Capitol visiting with elected officials and legislative leaders on important issues affecting the County. County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, Supervisors Willie Johnson, Jr., Christopher Larson, Gerry Broderick, Theodore Lipscomb, James “Luigi” Schmitt, John Weishan, Jr., and Peggy West came to a meeting I convened in the Senate President’s Conference Room. These county leaders met and discussed for the top issues with the Senate Majority Leader, Russ Decker.



Topping the list of concerns for the county was transit funding and the sales tax authority needed to fulfill the actions from the November 2008 referendum. This needed dedicated funding source and possible RTA implications will be major component of the state budget discussions. The group also discussed the state takeover of the Income Maintenance programs.

This was an important meeting to put the leaders back home in Milwaukee face-to-face with the man who leads the Senate here in Madison. Senator Decker is a powerful ally for many things that we need in Milwaukee and I was happy the group could meet with him. Milwaukee County had good “face-time” with those in power here at the Capitol.

Going Green!

Alternative energies like wind, solar and water have quickly become common everyday buzz words.

With a new President that speaks excitedly about this new phenomenon, we need to begin to ask ourselves, how will Milwaukee look as a “Green” city? More specifically, how will urban Milwaukee look?



For the past several months we have been attending an environmental awareness workshop. Each month provides a different theme and instruction on how to live an environmentally friendly lifestyle. This month’s theme was hosted at Whole Foods on the east side of town. We were exposed to household products such as laundry detergents and other cleaning agents that are made all natural with no toxic chemicals, and recycled plastics and papers.

For all the damage that we have done to our planet, it is time we use a little discretion in the products that we use in and around our homes. If you are interested in finding out more about converting your home to an earth friendly and toxic-free environment you can visit www.wholefoodsmarket.com or www.melaleuca.com.



The Week Ahead:

Saturday

-Rev. Moore Funeral

Sunday

-Greater New Birth

Monday

-WHEDA Board

-Meeting

Tuesday

- Budget Repair Bill Meeting

Wednesday

-Session Day

Thursday

-Judicial Council

Friday

-Marquette Law Public Service Conference

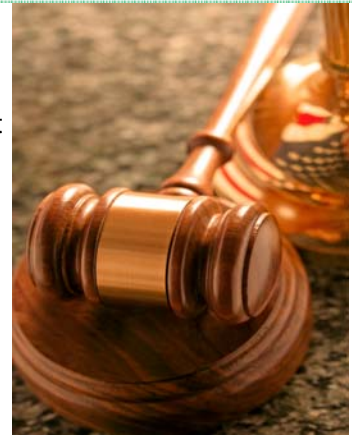
Quote of the Week

“I am the only person of distinction who has ever had a depression named for him.”

-Herbert Hoover

Meeting With Supreme Court

As Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, campaign Finance Reform, and Housing, I had the profound privilege of being asked to convene a joint informational meeting of the Supreme Court and the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts. The meeting was primarily to provide a forum for introductions but more importantly, it helped to provide insight into issues facing the Court and the legislative committees. As an attorney, it is considered a big deal to appear before the Supreme Court; I daresay, this experience albeit more informal, was awe inspiring as it was productive.



My legislative colleagues took turns introducing themselves and their legislative agendas as it relates to the Judiciary branch. There were very common themes but some of the main issues articulated include: the re-entry of corrections' constituents and mental health patients into the community, providing treatment alternatives to incarceration and ways of filling the shortage of state prosecutors and public defenders. Our work with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, Mortgage Mediation Act as well as efforts to cater to the housing needs of those exiting our prisons, were also highlighted.

The meeting served its purpose of highlighting best practices that obtain in criminal justice systems across the country. Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson shared an interesting and innovative new program that would serve to strengthen Wisconsin families by allowing video conferencing between families and youth in the juvenile justice system. In all, we all came away excited about the opportunities to ensure public safety, reduce recidivism and ensure unfettered access to justice in Wisconsin.

Intern Spotlight!

My name is Joe Pfister, and this is my first semester interning in Senator Taylor's office. I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I am majoring in political science and English, with a focus in creative writing. I grew up in central Wisconsin and graduated from Adams-Friendship in 2005. Following graduation this coming December, I plan to apply to graduate school for creative writing and am also considering looking for a job with the U.S. State Department due to my interest in foreign policy.



Alan D. Charles
-Intern Manager-

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with friends, writing fiction, baseball and going to the movies, though that doesn't happen often because there are really no theaters nearby.

My internship in Senator Taylor's office has provided me with an excellent opportunity to witness firsthand the inner-workings of state government and see how policy is formed, while also giving me the invaluable experience of working with constituents and their concerns. All of these factors have culminated in a rewarding and satisfying internship experience.

“Joe is a positive addition to our team and I'm happy to have him in the office. He is a bright, intelligent, and driven young man.”

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Madison



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Email:

Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov

Legislative Hotline

1-800-362-WISC

WI Legislature Site:

www.legis.state.wi.us/

Senate InSession Site:

www.legis.state.wi.us/insession/senate/index.htm

Committee Schedule:

committeeschedule.legis.state.wi.us/

Joint Committee on Finance Site:

www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/jfc.html

Community Events

Unlearning Racism: Tools for Action

What: Program geared towards understanding and ending racism.

When: February 25, 2009
1:00 PM

Where: YWCA Greater Milwaukee
See details at:
www.ywcamilw.org

SDC Energy Assistance Program

What: Get help covering your annual home energy costs

When: Now-5/15/09

Where: A variety of locations around the Milwaukee area

Cost: Free

For info on where to go and what to bring, visit:

www.cr-sdc.org/Programs/EnergyAssistance.html

If an organization you belong to has an event you feel should be included in the Community Events section please [e-mail](mailto:) me.

Do you have a computer? **Do you need help with food, prescriptions, or other services?** Use www.access.wi.gov to see if you and your family are eligible for a variety of state-sponsored services designed to assist citizens in procuring essential resources.

Useful Resources

Child Support Enforcement
414-278-5160

Elderlink
414-289-6874

Governor Doyle
414-227-4344

Employment Ways to Work Program
414-906-2820

Senior Care Insurance
1-800-657-208

Senior Law
(414) 278-1222
(414) 278-7722

Energy Assistance
414-906-2800

Rent Assistance
414-286-5678

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups Prescription Drug Assistance
1-866-456-8211

Food Assistance
414-733-0211

Bureau of Child Welfare
414-220-SAFE

W-2
1-800-722-2295

City of Wauwatosa
414-479-8900

GED Program
414-264-6888

Milwaukee Common Council
414-286-2221

City of Glendale
414-228-1700

Badger Care Insurance
1-800-362-3002

Congresswoman Gwen Moore
414-297-1140

SENATE CONTACTS
Sergeant-at-Arms Office
608-266-1801

Milwaukee County Economic Support
414-289-6000

Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

Human Resources
608-264-8471

Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline
414-278-1240

Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451

Senate Chief Clerk's Office
608-266-2517