

# Team Taylor



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## Just For Clarity!



Setting the Record  
Straight on the Issues

### TOLL ROADS?!!!

***The Governor has NOT called for toll roads in Wisconsin, nor does he support them. Transportation funding in Wisconsin comes from the gas tax.***

4th Senate District



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16 — FEBRUARY 20

## 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 the State Legislature. If you wish to receive a copy of my update, you'll e-mail my office at [sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov) or call 608-266-5810.

## Wisconsin Economic Recovery Act

This past week saw a flurry of legislative activity on the issue of the economy and state finances. The Wisconsin Economic Recovery Act (WERA) was a major bill that was sped through the Legislature this past week and signed into law by Governor Doyle on Thursday as Act 2 for the year. While the impetus for introducing the bill was to repair a hole in the state budget for this current fiscal year, the Senate, Assembly, and Governor took this opportunity to introduce measures to help create job growth, slow the foreclosure crisis, and pre-approve federal dollars for immediate infrastructure improvements.

One of the main thrusts of the bill was to help stabilize the housing market and provide protections to tenants and homeowners. A bill I coauthored with Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh), the Tenant Protection Act, was included in WERA and signed into law. It will require that tenants are given notice when landlords are being foreclosed on, requires tenants not be evicted on short notice, and removes no fault evictions from the CCAP website.

WERA is the first step in a major series of steps the Legislature will have to make to balance our budget and grow our economy. Our nation and state have not experienced economic times like these since the Great Depression. I encourage you to keep in contact about how we can best get Wisconsin moving FORWARD.

## Future of Community Justice

On Friday February 20, 2009 I participated in the annual Marquette University Public Service Conference. This year, the topic was "The Future of Community Justice in Wisconsin: Legislative and Process Change".

As you know, I am an avid supporter of legislation that changes the administration of criminal justice in Wisconsin. This event featured legal professionals, faculty, students, and staff of Marquette Law. The conference proved to be an outstanding platform for the Senator to describe her work with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). This initiative looks at ways states can reduce the exorbitant amount of tax dollars dedicated to building new prisons. The JRI is a date driven strategy that uses community supervision and reintegration techniques that actually improve public safety.

For more information about Justice Reinvestment, The Community Justice Council, or any other matters pertaining to legislative process change regarding corrections, please contact my office.

## Senator Taylor's Calendar



### Saturday

-Rev. Moore Funeral

### Sunday

-Greater New Birth

### Monday

-WHEDA Board  
-Meeting

### Tuesday

- Joint Committee on  
Finance

### Wednesday

-Session Day

### Thursday

-Judicial Council

### Friday

-Marquette Law  
Public Service  
Conference

## Legislatively Speaking!

### Lapse

*"In our budget speak, 'lapse' means that the department or agency makes a spending cut but that cut does not affect the base budget for that agency."*

## New Hope for Milwaukee

This week, our country and our state made great strides in the area of stimulating our economy in all facets. The Obama Administration announced the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Act that is basically aimed at saving or creating jobs, offering relief to as many as 9 million working homeowners such that they can continue to pay their mortgages and stay in their homes and modernization of our roads, bridges, transit and waterways. The package also provides unprecedented accountability and transparency measures built in to ensure tax dollars are spent wisely, to help restore the confidence of the American people in our government.



My excitement about this stimulus package is further heightened because here in Wisconsin, the Joint Finance Committee, the body that manages the state appropriations, that I am a member of has been given oversight authority over how these monies are spent. Also, the Governor has created the Office of Recovery and Reinvestment headed by Gary Wolter – the dynamic CEO of Madison Gas & Electric – to ensure effective and responsible execution of the stimulus package. My priorities for Milwaukee have not changed: Job creation, the funding and overhaul of our public educational infrastructure, access to healthcare and investment in roads, bridges, mass transit, energy efficient buildings, clean water projects are just a few of the top ones.

To this end, the City of Milwaukee will receive a direct allocation of \$30 million to execute "shovel ready" projects (mostly in the transportation sector) as stipulated by the US Department of Transportation. I look forward to working with all stakeholders and constituents alike to fix our crumbling bridges, repair our roads and bridges, improve our access to jobs and create new ones. As usual, I am here to serve!

## Governor Introduces Budget, Hard Work Begins

Tuesday night Governor Doyle introduced his 2009-11 Executive budget. This is the first step in a long process of getting a finalized budget product signed into law. In year's past the budget has been delayed by months after the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 1). This year has the potential to be a greatly different process where results can happen swiftly.



The Governor focused his budget attentions on cutting state spending and creating jobs around the state. The budget calls for 2.2 billion dollars in state spending reductions and increased support of the areas of spending that stimulate the economy. The Governor also makes specific changes to the funding of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and MPS's Equalization Aid Formula to fix the funding flaw. This change is an incredibly fair way to fund Milwaukee schools.

Overall, the Governor has made some strident progressive moves in his budget. Over the next two months, the Joint Committee on Finance, which I sit on, will begin to dig into the budget and move it forward in the process. The budget process will continue through June until the Governor signs the budget bill.



## The Week Ahead:

### Saturday

-NSUE Legislative Breakfast

### Sunday

-Black History Program

### Monday

-CYD Meeting

### Tuesday

- Senate Session

### Wednesday

-Judiciary Committee

### Thursday

-ABATE

### Friday

-Unity Caucus

## Quote of the Week

*“You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.”*

-Shirley Chisholm  
First African-American Female in Congress

## Building Bridges to Economic Family Success

Much like the deadline Kennedy set to put a man on the moon, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families will hold a summit which will set a deadline for poverty reduction in the state. I am extremely excited to be a member of the core planning team which is setting the initiatives for this summit. So far, the team has concentrated their attention to five major areas, but in the next meeting we plan to delineate it down to a more specific directive. The areas discussed are: income & assets, adult education & employment, child education & child care, work supports & safety net, and family structure.



One of the exciting topics to come from the last planning meeting on February 17, 2009 was a proposal from the University of Wisconsin—Madison's Institute for Research on Poverty. The institute does extensive research on demographics of poverty and has advised the core team that they will be donating their wealth of information to the cause. This information will provide target specific statistical data (gender, race, location, family size, income, etc.) which will help the state concentrate on the demographic with the greatest need.

The Summit, Building Bridges to Family Economic Success, is scheduled May 4-5 of this year. It is hosted by the Department of Children and Families and the Wisconsin Community Action Program including support from many organizations from around the state. If you are interested in learning more of this exciting news, please do hesitate to contact my office. Also, be sure to watch for more news about this in my future legislative updates as planning for this summit continues.

## Intern Spotlight!

My name is Allison Frankel, and this is my first semester interning in Senator Taylor's office. I am a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in political science and international studies. On campus I am the President of Amnesty International and the Co-Chair of the Roosevelt Institution, a nationwide student think-tank. In conjunction with the Roosevelt Institution and the Dane County Drug Court I am currently helping to conduct a study comparing recidivism rates for people who participated in the drug court with people of similar age, race, and criminal history who chose not to partake in the drug court program. After graduation I hope to attend law school, preferably in the DC area. I have a profound interest in human rights, and eventually would like to practice international human rights law.



**Alan D. Charles**  
-Intern Manager-

My main hobby is politics. Some favorite pastimes include reading political blogs, watching the Daily Show, and discussing current events. I also have an obsession with the TV shows 24, Lost, The West Wing, Friends, and The OC (guilty pleasure.)

Interning in Senator Taylor's office has heightened my already keen interest in the policy-making process. I deeply admire the Senator's work on civil rights, women's rights, and criminal justice. Her position as the Chair of the [Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, and Housing](#) is especially appealing to me because I believe that the disparities in the prison system are in urgent need of correction. This experience has allowed me to expand my knowledge of this pertinent issue, and take an active role in fixing it.

*“Allie's interest in politics is contagious. I enjoy having her in the office and she has been a great asset to the work of this office.”*

## Senator Taylor's Office Info:

Madison



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### Senator Taylor's Website:

[www.senatortaylor.com](http://www.senatortaylor.com)

### WI Legislature Site:

[www.legis.state.wi.us/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/)

### Judiciary Committee:

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen04/news/J&C/>

### Justice Reinvestment:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2008/JRIO/index.htm>

### Joint Committee on Finance Site:

[www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/jfc.html](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/jfc.html)

### Legislative Hotline

1-800-362-WISC

## 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](http://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](http://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:senator@legis.wisconsin.gov) me.

Do you have a computer? **Do you need help with food, prescriptions, or other services?** Use [www.access.wi.gov](http://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

**Badger Care Insurance**  
1-800-362-3002

**Milwaukee Common Council**  
414-286-2221

**City of Glendale**  
414-228-1700

**Milwaukee County Economic Support**  
414-289-6000

**Congresswoman Gwen Moore**  
414-297-1140

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

**Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline**  
414-278-1240  
**Medicaid**  
1-800-291-2002

**Senator Russ Feingold**  
414-276-7282

**Human Resources**  
608-264-8471

**Senator Herb Kohl**  
414-297-4451

**Senate Chief Clerk's Office**  
608-266-2517