

# Team Taylor



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## Just For Clarity!



**Setting the Record  
Straight on the Issues**

### **Stimulus Package**

As part of the federal stimulus, Milwaukee County will receive money for infrastructure improvement, with approval by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance.

# 4th Senate District LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 — FEBRUARY 27

## 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.

## Senate in Session

The Senate convened on Tuesday for a day in session and for a joint convention of the Legislature to hear the State of the Tribe's address. The Senate moved to the Assembly chambers for the morning session. Speaking for the Native American tribes of Wisconsin was Arlyn Ackley, Chairman of the Sokaogou Chippewa Community.



Mr. Ackley spoke about the need for cooperation between tribes and the state and also between all the tribes. Wisconsin is heavily invested in the Native American tribes and their interests. On top of being the cultural natives of Wisconsin, the tribes are major contributors to the economy of Wisconsin.

After the tribe's address, the Senate reconvened and took up a few bills. Three of those bills were pieces of legislation authored by myself and Rep. Tamara Grigsby (D-Milwaukee). They all passed and related to reforming Wisconsin's driver license suspension and reinstatement process.

## Strengthening Wisconsin Families

The Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families is scheduled to meet this coming Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 10:00 am. The day's agenda includes discussion of two policy items: the creation of a family policy board and relative notice when a child is taken into custody. Also on the agenda are presentations by invited speakers, such as the Department of Children and Families, Mary Anne Snyder (Executive Director of Children's Trust Fund), two foster youth, and others.

The State Family Policy Board would focus on reducing the need for treatment programs and services for individual children and adults. Furthermore, it would work to empower individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. Relative Notification is a proposal which would require notice to be provided to relatives when a child is taken into custody.

Both issues are important and will be discussed in Tuesday's meeting. The Community's input on family issues is important to me, so please feel free to contact my office with any opinions or concerns.

## Etiquette & Networking



### Office Party Don't

“Don't use foul Language: You may feel so comfortable at the office party that you forget you're really at work. Keep bad language in check as it could make you look unprofessional.”

## Legislatively Speaking!

### Prevailing Wage

“In statutes, the prevailing wage for an industry, trade, or occupation is defined as the cost of labor, plus the cost of benefits for the majority of that industry in an area.”

## Justice for All Debated at Committee

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, and Housing that I chair, met for its third public hearing during this biennium. The committee heard Senate Bill (SB) 51 – relating to judicial discretion in certain John Doe proceedings and the provision of attorney representation of state employees at John Doe proceedings. Fellow members heard with interest



Currently, under a John Doe proceeding, a person who believes a crime has been committed may complain to a judge who must ascertain the commission of said crime. The judge has discretion as to the scope of examination and upon determination of the commission of a crime the judge will issue a warrant for the arrest of the accused. Under SB 51, if a district attorney who believes a crime has been committed complains to a judge, the judge must convene a John Doe proceeding but does not issue an arrest warrant because this authority already rests with the district attorney under current law.

Public hearings are designed to afford the public and other concerned citizens a chance to voice their opinions without fear of intimidation or persecution. This hearing elicited testimonies that were passionate but one thing was clear: John Doe proceedings as they are today need reform.

## Unity Caucus Luncheon

Since 2003, the Unity Caucus Luncheon has been a pillar in the African American community. Held at Stella Love's Ponderosa Steakhouse on King Drive, this fourth Friday luncheon is where elected officials, community stakeholders, and concerned citizens come together and discuss the political issues of the day. This event isn't just about discussion; real solutions often result from the meetings of these minds.



The uniqueness of this collaboration lies within its makeup. Elected officials, representing every level of government, come together to map out their agendas. This is more than a social gathering; the people are committed to finding a way to create change.

It's not unusual for the members of the Unity Caucus to engage in a neighborhood canvass--knocking on doors and talking to people in the community about their concerns.

The Unity Caucasus Luncheon is held every fourth Friday at 2740 N. Martin Luther Kind Jr. Drive. If you have any questions regarding the Unity Caucus, please feel free to contact my office.



## The Week Ahead:

### Saturday

-Community Brainstorming

### Sunday

-Greater New Birth

### Monday

-Milwaukee County DP Meeting

### Tuesday

-Strengthening Wisconsin Families

### Wednesday

-WEAC Meeting

### Thursday

-Policy Meetings

### Friday

-SEED Foundation Reception

## Quote of the Week

"It is not with the sword and spear, nor with soldiers and armed force, that truth is to be propagated, but by counsel and sweet persuasion."

-Anthanasius

Bishop of Alexandria

## What if Urban Milwaukee was Green?

What if Urban Milwaukee was Green? What would it look like, how would it benefit the community and who would lead this effort?

This week the Making Milwaukee Green Coalition was formed. The goal of this coalition is to take the lead on the discussions, planning and implementation of the Green efforts in the city of Milwaukee.

This coalition is made up age-diverse individuals that have an interest in making this city sustainable. The attention of Green will be placed on construction, urban gardening, job creation and training as well as sustainable life styles.

The coalition's official launch is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2009. They are hosting a press conference at a residential construction site located at 2327 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., where the house is likely to be the most energy efficient house in the state of Wisconsin. They are currently creating their image and website, but stay tuned as this is a coalition to watch. We cannot allow any stimulus dollars to touchdown in Milwaukee without having adequate representation at the table to ensure that Urban Milwaukee is not looked over.

For more information visit their website at [www.makingmilwaukeegreen.org](http://www.makingmilwaukeegreen.org).



## Intern Spotlight!

My name is Julie Benkoske, and this is my first semester interning in Senator Taylor's office. I am a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and am a political science major.

I am extremely interested in human rights, and am a member of Amnesty International on campus. Some of my favorite past times include dancing, yodeling, and watching TV-my favorite show is Lost.

This internship has provided me with a great opportunity to enhance my interest in politics and the policy making process. Working on constituent casework has given me a deeper understanding of the people of Milwaukee as well as the criminal justice system in the state of Wisconsin. This internship has been an extremely rewarding experience.



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

"Julie comes from a family with a very supportive structure. It has definitely paid off because she is a wonderful intern with many positive attributes."

## Senator Taylor's Office Info:

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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

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

**Human Resources**  
608-264-8471

**Medicaid**  
1-800-291-2002

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

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