

# Team Taylor



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## Just For Clarity!



### Setting the Record Straight on the Issues

To become a foster parent in the state of Wisconsin, a person needs to be 21, in good health, complete a home study, have insurance, clear a criminal background check, and have a home which meets safety codes. However, formal training for the care of foster children is not required, and anyone who meets these requirements is eligible.

4th Senate District



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF MARCH 30 — APRIL 03

## 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.

## The Fight for Families Travels to Milwaukee

The Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families held a hearing at Holy Redeemer Educational Complex Thursday night. We discussed issues affecting Wisconsin foster care and gave the community an opportunity to have their voice heard. The hearing was extremely productive and the testimony touched the core of why I strive every day to help members of the community receive the services they rightfully deserve from their government.



The legislative Audit Bureau was provided information about the audit on then Department of Health and Family Services and the recommendations that came from that audit. The department of children and Families was also present and commented on some of the progress the department has made to respond to those recommendations and other noticeable concerns that have evolved. Many members of community agencies were also present to provide testimony to improvements and possible solutions.

Most touching was the several foster youth and foster parent that testified. I can't express enough how strong and courageous these individuals were to share their very personal stories with the community. Their testimony touched the hearts of the committee members and we will do all we can to provide the youth of Wisconsin the strength to succeed where the state has failed them in the past.

## Fathers' Tireless Love

There are six fathers, several children, and too many challenges to count. With hope, prayer and perseverance success can come to anyone.

This past week the Fatherhood Collaborative along with the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee, partnered to debut a new documentary entitled "Fatherhood, Six Men, One City. This tragedy to triumph story chronicles the life struggles of six fathers that despite their challenges had an unconditional love for their children, and no matter what it was going to take they were going to be involved in their children's lives.



This documentary is a tear jerker, and showcases that Fathers do matter. The Milwaukee Fatherhood Collaborative has long been an advocate for fathers. They work with these fathers to help them navigate the court system, but as well they promote responsible fatherhood by offering relationship, nurturing and parenting classes.

The Milwaukee Fatherhood Collaborative is located at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center- 1531 W. Vliet St. in the George Sanders Father's Resource Center. For more information call 414-344-0146.

## Etiquette & Networking



### Office Party Don't

“Don't bring uninvited guests. Often office parties are for employees only. Don't assume it's okay to bring your significant other or someone else without asking first.”

## Legislatively Speaking!

### Eminent Domain

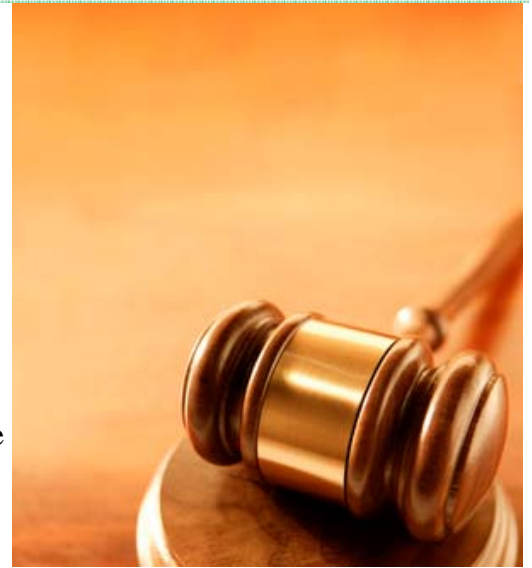
“Eminent domain allows the government to buy private land for public projects, even if the owner wishes not to sell. This power is granted to the government in the Wisconsin Constitution”

## Corrections Costs to Draw Attention

One of the driving factors in our budget costs is the corrections system. Wisconsin has been moving forward with a project called the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. The project is devoted to analyzing the policies and practices in our corrections system and how they drive costs in our prisons. Wisconsin now spends well over 1.2 billion dollars a year on locking people up.

This coming week on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, the oversight committee for Justice Reinvestment, which I chair, will meet for the third time. At this meeting, the lead researchers and experts on the Justice Reinvestment project will present their findings of the exhaustive study they have done on Wisconsin's system. This analysis will include an in-depth look at the problem of mental health and illness in our prisons. This is helping to drive up our costs incredibly.

Ultimately, the committee will work to create policy recommendations and cost-savings measures that can be applied to the budget this year. Not only does this help with our state's budget deficit problem, but it also helps to save on future costs of supervision and revocations. Ultimately, the work of this committee will help to reform our corrections system

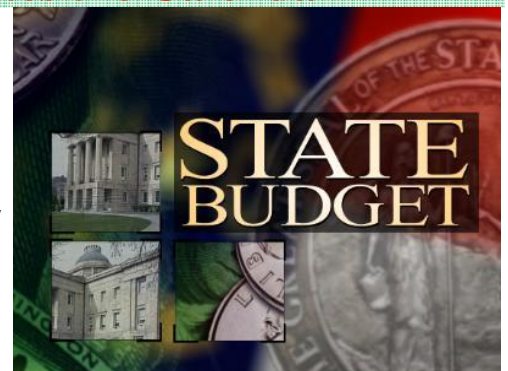


## State Budget Dominates the Calendar

The state Legislature's Joint Finance Committee recently completed a two-week long round of public hearings in Racine, Appleton and Cambridge, Wis., where citizens expressed their comments and concerns with the governor's proposed 2009-11 biennial budget. The hearings drew hundreds each day to comment on the many proposals that are incorporated into the state budget. The budget bill is the only bill that is guaranteed to be introduced, passed, and signed into law in a legislative session.

Lawmakers and those in attendance discussed numerous issues raised by the current budget, ranging from domestic-partner registries to education funding and the proposed cigarette tax increase. The public hearings are part of the Joint Finance Committee's scheduled statewide campaign to gather valuable feedback from citizens. In addition to the 6 hearings, the budget generated (to date) over 2,000 contacts to my office on various issues.

The Joint Finance Committee will continue it work's on Governor Doyle's proposed budget in the weeks following Easter. Beginning April 16th, the committee will meet in executive session to work on "marking up" the bill or amending the governor's position. It will be a laborious project that I expect to last until the end of May.





## The Week Ahead:

### Saturday

-Policy Debrief

### Sunday

-Greater New Birth

### Monday

-Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee

### Tuesday

-Justice Reinvestment

### Wednesday

-Legislative Lunch

### Thursday

-Justice Reinvestment

### Friday

-WE Energies Meeting

## Quote of the Week

"I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against. "

Malcom X

## Taylor Ready to Unveil Mortgage Mediation Plan

In light of the obscene number of foreclosures and filings that Wisconsin residents are experiencing, I am pleased to unveil my Mortgage Mediation proposal. The plan will ensure an interface between homeowners and lenders to determine whether a compromise is possible. The proposal primarily requires the lender to attach a notice to the summons advising the residential homeowner of their right to request mediation that must be done in good faith.

The immediate benefits of the proposed plan include: streamlining the foreclosure process and saving both homeowners and lenders a considerable amount of money and time.

When my partners and I started this movement to bring much needed attention to the crisis of home foreclosures, I was not confident about the type of support we would get. I am excited that the effort has picked up momentum and will continue to work collaboratively with interested parties to combat this very vast issue. My plan is to begin circulating this plan on Monday to garner support from my colleagues.



## Intern Spotlight!

I would like to thank Gregory Harris for his invaluable work in my office. Greg has finished his internship and will not be returning. He is due to graduate this semester and will be taking the step into the working world.

Mr. Harris has been with us for 9 months and during that time he has developed himself substantially in the realm of politics. I am certain that his experience with my office has fueled the passion for politics that lies within him. Greg someday hopes to become involved in a similar field.

From Team Taylor, We thank Greg for all his hard work! I hope he keeps us in mind as a resource in the future. Lastly, I want to thank Greg for helping other students get involved in our program. He truly was all about doing all he could to help me help the constituents of the 4th Senate District.



## Summer Internship

Looking for an internship?  
A way to get involved?

Call my office and speak to  
Alan Charles:  
414-342-7176

We would love to help you get involved in your community.

## Senator Taylor's Office Info:

Madison



State Capitol, 415 South  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Toll Free: 888-326-6673  
Phone: 608-266-5810  
Fax: 608-267-2353

### Email:

[Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov)

### 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

### Public Hearing: Strengthening WI Families

**What:** A Chance for the public to discuss foster care and child welfare.

**When:** Thursday, April 2nd, 2009  
2:00-7:00 PM

**Where:** Holy Redeemer Education Complex.  
3501 W. Mother Daniels Way  
Milwaukee, WI 53209

### 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:Sen.Taylor@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