

Team Taylor



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Just For Clarity!



Setting the Record Straight on the Issues

The budget action to remove the requirement for referendum in Milwaukee County on light rail is proper and can be removed from the statutes, because Milwaukee County has passed a referendum on improving transit options.

4th Senate District



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF APRIL 27 — MAY 01

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 or call 608-266-5810.

The Millions Next Door

The Milwaukee 7 (Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Washington, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Walworth Counties) hosted their Water Council meeting at the Discovery World Museum. There were easily 100 people in attendance including Mayor Tom Barrett who gave remarks about his vision for Milwaukee or has he passionately refers to as the Fresh Coast.

The invited speaker was Dr. Paul James, Director of the UN Global Cities Institute, RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) from Melbourne, Australia. Dr. James stated that Lake Michigan contains 20% of the worlds fresh water, and the Milwaukee has recently become a member of the UN Global Compact Cities Programme.

The Milwaukee 7 Water Council is looking into the future of Lake Michigan. There is an economic strategy being generated to understand the full economic benefit of Lake Michigan. Several committees have been formed, and the most interesting is that the Milwaukee 7 will be doing a talent search in and around the city of Milwaukee. This means that there are future jobs that will come out of this strategic plan.

We will continue to watch the development of this project, and ensure that residents of the city will have an opportunity to benefit from the millions next door.

If you are interested in learning more about the Milwaukee 7 Water Council, you can visit www.milwaukee7-watercouncil.org.

Campaign Finance in Wisconsin

Throughout the past decade Wisconsin lawmakers have introduced legislation to change rules for state-wide elections, and each time they have failed. However the new legislative session is rife with new proposals for campaign-finance reform. SB 23 seeks to ban campaign fundraising during budget deliberations. Supporters believe that this would significantly marginalize lobbyists influence in the budget process and give legislators the time they need to focus their attention on the budget. SB 40, or the "Impartial Justice Bill," calls for public financing for supreme-court elections. This has proven successful in North Carolina and New Mexico, but failed in previous sessions in Wisconsin. Furthermore SB 43 would regulate issue ads by requiring the disclosure of special interest electioneering, and SB 68 would require out-of-state companies to comply with the same campaign finance reporting laws as Wisconsin residents. Only time will tell if campaign-finance reform will become a reality here in Wisconsin.

A Manners Moment

with

Dana World-Patterson



“The most powerful rule of etiquette is to treat people the way you want people to treat you. The second is to use the words please and thank-you, often..”

Dana World-Patterson

Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

Legislatively Speaking!

Budget Paper

“A budget paper is a document explaining a provision in the budget prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. The votes and motions the committee takes are based on the papers that are prepared, as a way of organizing the committee’s work.”

Team Taylor in DC for Justice

Last week, Eric Peterson, my chief of staff, attended the Spring Forum of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Eric is a member of the Law and Criminal Justice Committee which concentrates on policy discussions and recommendations related to many of the areas which my committees oversee in Wisconsin. On the agenda for the 4 day conference in Washington, DC was meeting with the top Department of Justice officials. Eric was part a roundtable discussion with four other state legislators and the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Lori Richardson, who heads the Office of Justice Programs. Attorney General Eric Holder also met informally with the delegation at the meeting.



Eric reported to me many interesting facts. “For this current federal budget and likely for the next budget year, the Byrne JAG Grant program is at its highest amount of funding ever. It is not expected to remain this high in the future and serious consideration is being given to reforming how the Byrne JAG program is operated. This will likely mean Wisconsin will receive less of these funds that we are currently using to fund drug treatment courts, the treatment and alternatives diversions program, AIM courts, drug enforcement police units, and other services. Wisconsin will need to examine how to fill this gap that will be left in funding the justice system.”

As this little snapshot reports, Wisconsin has many challenges ahead in our justice system funding. These are the kind of valuable and needed connections that yield important information that I and my colleagues need. The NCSL Law and Criminal Justice committee is an important connection for my office, as well as the Council on State Government's Justice Center Board of Directors. These national organizations allow me to connect to the best practices that are happening in America and bring them to Wisconsin.

How Can Change Come

I am very proud that **Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church** has scheduled a blood drive with BloodCenter of Wisconsin for **Sunday, May 3, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** I urge you to schedule an appointment to donate. It is important that we maintain an ample blood supply in our community, and that can only be done with BloodCenter of Wisconsin, as they supply 100% of the blood to every community hospital in our area. The blood you donate will save lives right here in your community.



Phillip Hermann

Patients are counting on receiving this blood to help them survive or heal. Let's all participate and make this blood drive a success for all of us. If you haven't signed up yet, please consider doing so. You'll be doing more good than you know.

Please click on the link and enter Drive Number **DRV0094310** to schedule an appointment

Link: <https://portal.bcw.edu/sites/mobapt/default.aspx?key=241071210011>



The Week Ahead:

Saturday

-MTEA Legislative Breakfast

Sunday

-Blood Drive

Monday

-MJS Editorial Board

Tuesday

-Joint Finance Committee

Wednesday

-Finance Policy Review

Thursday

-Joint Finance Committee

Friday

-Bill signing: IM Legislation

Quote of the Week

"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on."

-Robert Kennedy

A Job Well Done

I am pleased to report that our great city and county experienced monumental victories this week in the Legislature. In these austere times, my colleagues and I were able to wrestle a total of \$134 million annually for Milwaukee County transit, parks & culture, emergency as well as monies for public safety. The Milwaukee to Chicago Passenger Rail Service will undoubtedly further open up the city as the metropolitan hub of the state.



Other economic development initiatives that I spearheaded include a budget provision granting funding to a program that will match college students to emerging and start up businesses. These start ups, in effect, would have the benefit of qualified and enthusiastic assistance in their early years that they might not have been able to attract or afford otherwise.

Also, 2009 Senate Bill 161 has been sent to the Governor for executive action. The bill specifically deals with the administration of income maintenance and other programs that provide state supplemental payments to persons receiving federal supplemental income. The Medicaid Assistance program that includes the BadgerCare Plus; and the food stamp program which were originally administered by counties through contracts with DHS; will now be handled by the state agency. It is truly a new dawn for Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Intern Spotlight!

Senator Taylor and the members of her staff would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all the interns from the University of Wisconsin-Madison who dedicated so much time and effort to our office this semester. With their hard work, can-do attitude and enthusiasm, they were able to overcome any obstacle in their way and helped our office run a little bit smoother. Besides, they're not a bad-looking bunch. Despite weeks of midterms, papers and the rigorous coursework that comes with college, these bright and exceptional students still found time out of their busy schedules to come in and help out when they could. They always came in with a ready smile, and there was no task we could give them that they would turn down. The sound of laughter from the office wasn't an uncommon occurrence, and as is often the case, the semester came and went too fast. So, as we say goodbye to these students, we would like to express our thanks and wish them luck in all their future endeavors.



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



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Senator Taylor's Website:

www.senatortaylor.com

WI Legislature Site:

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

Legislative Hotline

1-800-362-WISC

Community Events

Fatherhood Initiative Focus Group

What: Discussion about what fatherhood is and prepares future/current fathers for the role.

When: Every Thursday 3:00-5:00PM

Where: Project Return
2821 N 4th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 374-8033

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: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 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