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THROUGH THE LENS



Taylor smiles during 2009 inauguration.



Team Taylor hard at work during budget process.

4th Senate District LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF JUNE 15 — JUNE 19

Welcome to my Legislative Update!

I'm State Senator Lena C. Taylor and this is my legislative update. If you do not wish to receive my weekly update, please let me know at sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov.

-Strengthening Wisconsin Families to Meet-

The committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families is scheduled to meet Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 10:00 am. I will meet with my co-chair early next week to discuss the items we wish to address.

Although the agenda is not yet certain, I do know among the policy items to be discussed will be a bill of rights for foster children, pre-service training for staff managing cases, foster parent training, and a piece of legislation which would extend court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21.

I am extremely passionate about building stronger families in Wisconsin and this committee is one tool with which we may accomplish this.

-Free is Always Good-

If you're like me, anytime I see an opportunity to experience different things throughout the city for free, I jump at it. Milwaukee County FREE days provides that opportunity. FREE days lets Milwaukee County Residents only, enjoy attractions in the county free of charge.

Every Wednesday residents can explore the Milwaukee Art Museum and every Monday explore the Milwaukee Public Museum. Every Monday from 9:00 AM to Noon residents can enjoy the Mitchell Park Domes. Lastly, January 3rd, February 7, April 4, November 7, December 5, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are all Free days at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Get out and have some fun on Milwaukee!

-Wisconsin's Unemployment Climate-

As is the climate across the country, Wisconsin has seen its rise in unemployment claims. The increased case load has put a great stress on staff at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Subsequently, my office has seen an increase in calls from constituents regarding their unemployment claims. Please know my office is a resource for you, if you are have concerns with your unemployment claim.

I understand that during these hard times, this is the only thing keeping food on the table. I am here to serve and I will do all I can to do just that.

MANNERS MOMENT



Dana World-Patterson
Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

“It is important that each of us make an extra effort to be more civil to each other and lead by example. How we treat our clients and customers really does have an effect on how they view our organizations. Let's take this week to really think about how we treat each other, not just our customers but our colleagues and families too.”

FROM THE BAR

VERBAL CONTRACTS

In order to be considered valid, a verbal contract must contain three elements:

Offer: The person making the offer in a verbal contract must communicate their intent to enter into a contract.

Acceptance: A verbal contract is not valid until the offer is accepted.

Consideration: In addition to an offer and acceptance, verbal contracts must contain consideration.

-Entrepreneur Fair-

The Mosaic on Burleigh is hosting an Entrepreneur Fair for those motivated yet hesitant spirits who want to start a new business in tough economic times. The company plans to provide technical assistance to people who are interested in opening their own business or who may want to expand their existing business. Specialists who will be present to help every entrepreneur fulfill their goals will include accountants, advertising agents, bankers, business coaches, business planners, financial experts and others from every agency.

The Entrepreneur Fair will be on Thursday, June 25 at St. Joseph's Hospital in the Klieger Auditorium from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. The Klieger Auditorium is located in Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St Joseph Hospital; 5000 W Chamber, Milwaukee WI 53210.

The fair is free and open to the public. Space is limited, so don't wait! Contact 414-447-7070 to reserve a seat.

-Senate Approves Milwaukee Transit, Parks Funding-

There are some major wins for Milwaukee that will be included in the Senate version of the state budget. The budget includes the dedicated funding source for transit, parks, culture, and EMS and mandated property tax relief for Milwaukee County

I believe this budget includes some of the largest victories Milwaukee County will have ever won. The will of the people in the November 2008 referendum will be clearly stated in the Senate action today. Milwaukee County Transit and Parks will be funded as the voters asked, and taxpayers will see 67 million dollars in mandated property tax relief.

The action by the Senate will remove the one-county RTA as proposed by the Finance Committee and in its place provide Milwaukee County with sales tax authority. The authority will include revenue sharing with local municipalities in Milwaukee County to help fund police, fire, and EMS services. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will be required to authorize the sales tax in a board action.

-Zoo Interchange Update-

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is reaching the final phase of the Zoo Interchange Corridor Study. The study has looked into a variety of alternatives for improving the flow of traffic from 124th Street on the west to 70th Street on the east and from Lincoln Avenue on the south to Burleigh Street to the north. Today more than 350,000 vehicles use the interchange, and the volume of traffic forecasted for the future only makes this project more important.

There have been many proposed alternatives, but the recommended alternative involves the core of the interchange and would move all left-hand exit and entrance ramps to the right side and implement updated design standards such as smoother curves and double lane ramps. Relocations for this project include a Milwaukee Zoo maintenance facility, a Zoofari Center, one commercial building, and five residential units on the south side of I-94 and west of I-894. Other proposed alternatives have fewer relocations but may not have the long term benefits of this recommended rebuild.

Public hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2009 from 2 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, June 24, 2009 from 4 to 8 p.m. During the hearings the impacts of the project will be discussed, which include environmental concerns and how to deal with the presence of utilities and railroads. Attendees will have the opportunity to review exhibits and submit testimony.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT



Jinny Kim

I started interning with Senator Taylor in June and will continue working into the fall. All of the members in Senator Taylor's office seem dedicated to what they are doing and they are friendly. As an intern, I generally respond to constituent issues particularly related to the Department of Corrections. I like the fact that I could contribute a small part in resolving various issues in Wisconsin. During my internship, I would like to learn more about how the state government works and how laws are made.

PASTOR'S PULPIT

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

-Archbishop

Desmond Tutu

-Operation Dream-

Operation Dream is a mentor program for low income youths ages 4-17 in the city of Milwaukee. Since 2006 the program has provided weekly education and instruction to low income boys on Saturdays at the COA Youth and Family Center at 909 E Garfield Avenue. Operation Dream strives to teach young people the basic skills necessary to reach positive life goals.

Core development areas include health and fitness, academic achievement and family and community. The military-style program is goal oriented and begins with a six week basic training. Past student participants have learned discipline, respect and social skills to help them avoid the troubles of the streets. In addition to education and training activities students also take monthly fieldtrips to universities and sporting events.

Operation Dream is a non profit organization that relies on community support. The program is provided free of cost, and includes transportation services. Parents or guardians interested in enrollment should call (414) 507-5008 or email operation-dream@gmail.com.

-Black Health Coalition Celebrates Victory-

On June 16, 2009, the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin hosted a victory celebration in honor of the Smoke-Free Wisconsin Act which was signed into law on May 18, 2009. This event opened with remarks from members of Smoke-Free Wisconsin and closed with a celebratory meal thanking everyone for their hard work and dedication.

This important public legislation means everyone in Wisconsin will have the right to breathe clean, smoke-free air in public and at work starting July 5, 2010. Smoke-Free Wisconsin is now diligently working on maintaining Wisconsin's Comprehensive Tobacco Control and Prevention Program. The goals of this program include: education, prevention of tobacco use, and promotion of cessation of tobacco use.

-State Budget contains Taylor's Corrections Reforms-

The State Budget now includes the Justice Reinvestment policy that will make our criminal justice system more cost-effective, by focusing resources where they can cut crime and recidivism rates, rather than continuing down the high-failure, high cost path we were on. The vote on the budget saves Wisconsin taxpayers \$2.5 billion by averting growth in the prison population and the need to build and operate additional prisons. I commend Senate Republicans for joining the Democratic caucus in the revisions we made to the Risk Reduction Sentence in our deliberations adding a bi-partisan voice to this debate."

This framework opens up crucial dollars to make Wisconsin communities safer so that immediate public safety investments can be made. Revisions were made on the floor to ensure that the framework was properly codified in state law. These include specialized courts, law enforcement, the Department of Justice, prosecutors and public defenders, and mental health services and drug treatment.

In addition, the Wisconsin Senate scaled back provisions of Governor Doyle's corrections policies that were introduced separately from the Justice Reinvestment study committee process.

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Community Events

Be the Match—Marrowthon

What: An opportunity to become a registered bone marrow donor. A chance to save a life!

When: June 8-22nd

Where: On-line at www.bethematch.org
Promo code: 1DMGTYK

Or call 1-866-702-HOPE

Milwaukee Trolley Loop

What: Get around downtown Milwaukee this summer on the free trolley loop

When: June 03–Sep 05
Wed-Sat 11:00 am-10:00 pm

For info:

Contact 414-562-RIDE

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