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# THROUGH THE LENS



Senator Taylor on the Senate Floor.



Clara Barton school visits the Capitol.

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

WEEK OF JUNE 29 — JULY 3

## 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](mailto:sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov).

## -Do You Need Help?-

Constituent relations is one of the most crucial parts of my job as a Senator. Every day, several constituents contact my office with a wide variety of concerns. I make sure to do all that I can to serve them or connect them to resources where they can be served.

I have helped so many people with housing, food stamps, child care, corrections, and so many other issues. I even helped someone mediate a case with Sears which allowed them to return their faulty fridge for a new one. I ensure that my office will do all they can to help with any problem that comes their way. If they are unable to directly assist, they will make the necessary connections to find a solution. If you have any concerns, please contact my office at 414-342-7176.

## -Play Safe This 4th of July, Avoid Fines-

A lot of people around the city during the holiday like to entertain family and friends with personal fireworks. However, this risk could come at a very high cost this 4th of July.

The city is cracking down on the use of illegal fireworks; anyone caught using them will face up to \$1000 per violation. On top of that, any parents caught allowing minors in their care to use fireworks will be fined \$1000 with failure to pay leading to jail time. Please be safe this holiday and stick to the legal fireworks!

## -Budget Finished On Time!-

The Legislature and the Governor completed the budget on-time this past week, with the Governor signing the bill into law on Monday. It's the first time since 1977 that the budget has been fully signed into law by the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of the other. I think that stands as a testament to the commitment my colleagues and I had to get the job done.

Despite it's timely completion, the budget is not without some disappointments. The Governor's veto pen is very strong and powerful. Governor Doyle vetoed many things in this budget that I believe are important and desired by people. A couple of vetoes that stand out include the elimination of the dedicated funding source for Milwaukee County Transit and the elimination of the corrections reforms that have been developed and validated by national experts.

The Legislature will move forward on the long list of things that were vetoed.

# MANNERS MOMENT



**Dana World-Patterson**

Visions Etiquette Training  
visionsetiquettetraining.com

This week let's consider the words of Mahatma Gandhi. He said, "My life is my message". Think of all the places you will go as your attitude reflects your altitude.

Speak about what is lovely, pure and of good report and practice your manners...*It's a good thing.*

## FROM THE BAR

### *Evidentiary*

(1) Constituting evidence or having the quality of evidence. For example, Joan's statement at the scene of a car wreck that one of the drivers was speeding has evidentiary value because it says something about how the accident happened. (2) Something that relates to the evidence in a particular case. For example, if a judge holds a hearing to decide whether or not a particular piece of evidence is admissible at trial, that hearing might be called an evidentiary hearing.

## **-Keeping Them Honest-**

The Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee recently took a positive step toward increasing transparency in the legislative process by passing AB 245, which prohibits former lawmakers from working as lobbyists for the first year after they leave office.

This legislation is promising because it received unanimous bi-partisan support from the Committee. In the future, the Assembly and the Senate will continue to work together to improve the transparency and accountability of your government.

Additionally, the Legislature has been working hard to pass new campaign finance reform laws in Wisconsin. Many of the constituents that voice their concerns to my office are concerned with the role of money in politics. This legislation, combined with the efforts to reform the lobbying process, will help taxpayers like you keep politicians honest.

## **-Welcoming Joe to Team Taylor-**

We have recently added a new member to our team! His name is Joe Vande Slunt and he will be the Communications Director for Team Taylor. Joe is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he majored in Political Science. He spent this spring interning for my office. Prior to his college experience, Joe worked as an assistant news director and on-air announcer for a group of six radio stations in Wisconsin. In his spare time, Joe enjoys golf and is anticipating the upcoming Packers football season.



## **- What's The Legislature Doing This Summer?-**

Many of you have taken the time to ask me a question that goes something like this— "Just what do you guys do over the summer?" That's a valid question and the answer is simple—work!

While the Senate and Assembly won't be back on the floor until September, this summer is wholly dedicated to committee work, fulfilling my duties on various boards, and meeting as many people in the district as I can. The Judiciary Committee has a full plate of bills and issues to work on — namely the drunk driving bills, municipal court reforms, and juvenile justice issues. My committee on Strengthening Families will finish its work over the summer and the Joint Committee on Finance will also meet regularly on stimulus requests.

In addition, I will be attending the Board of Directors meeting for the Justice Center, the national group that advocates and provides the best practices on corrections and justice related matters. As a member of the Board, this is a way that I can help Wisconsin save money and human capital in operating our Justice system.

On top of that full calendar, my staff and I will be at your doors a lot this coming summer. We are beginning our yearly ward walks and I will see a lot of you at your door or around the community. It's a full summer and I can't wait!

## INTERN SPOTLIGHT



**Nathan Marks**

As a new intern in Senator Taylor's office, I'm looking forward to gaining a better understanding of the inner workings of state government, learning more about the legislative process, and interacting with the constituents of District 4. When not at the State Capitol, I can often be found on the UW campus, where I'm a senior Political Science and Economics major. My other interests include Middle Eastern politics, foreign languages (Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic, specifically), biking and running around Madison, planning hiking trips to the Rockies, and playing an online trivia game called Sporcle. I'm excited about the opportunity to work in Senator Taylor's office this summer and hope I can be as helpful to the Senator and her staff as this experience will be for me!

## PASTOR'S PULPIT

"Prayer will get you out of a pinch, prayer will get you out of a crises, prayer will get you out of your dilemma, prayer will get you out of your trouble."

**Bishop T.D. Jakes.**

## -Marrow Donations-

The BloodCenter of Wisconsin is sponsoring a Marrow Donor Registration & Blood Drive in honor of Kayla Smith. Kayla is an energetic school aged girl from Milwaukee who has sickle cell anemia and is in need of healthy bone marrow from a donor.

Thousands of our young people and adults are in need of bone marrow transplants each year. Their survival depends on being matched with an unrelated individual willing to donate their bone marrow. The blood and marrow drive is being held on Saturday, July 11, 2009, 10am to 2pm at the Milwaukee Urban League, 435 W. North Ave. Milwaukee, WI.

For more information, please contact Penelope Stewart (414) 937-6303. Testing for the bone marrow registry is easy. The main components include completion of a health history form and conducting a cheek swab process. For further details, please visit [www.bcw.edu/marrow](http://www.bcw.edu/marrow).

## -Saying Thanks on the 4th of July-

I will be looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and hopefully many new ones as I head out to participate in several Fourth of July parades! On the 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be walking in the Noyes Park 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in addition to the Glendale Days parade.

On Sunday, I will take part in honoring the men and women that are responsible for our freedom by attending Operation Freedom at the Milwaukee County Zoo. If you know a veteran, or see one this Independence Day, take a moment to thank them for their service and sacrifice.



## -Illegal Immigrants, In-State Tuition Eligibility-

A provision in Governor Jim Doyle's budget allows certain illegal immigrants to attend UW campuses at in-state tuition costs. This is good news for undocumented immigrant families, because their children are not currently eligible to apply for federal financial aid.

To qualify, students would have to reside in Wisconsin for three years, graduate from a state high school or earn an equivalent diploma. There are 400 to 650 illegal immigrants graduating from state high schools each year, but they have to pay out-of-state tuition to enroll in the state universities or technical colleges.

State Rep. Pedro Colon, who first introduced the in-state college tuition measure in 1999, said enacting such a law is a vital step for wider access to higher education. Some opponents criticized the provision.

Wisconsin is the 11<sup>th</sup> state to make in-state tuition available to undocumented students. I believe this is a step in the right direction and applaud Rep. Colon for the work he did.

# Team Taylor



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Chief of Staff



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

# Community Events

## Special Adult Driver's Ed

**What:** Special adult driver's ed evening class

**When:** July 7-10

**Where:** Milwaukee Urban League  
435 W North Ave.

24 Hour information line:  
414-874-7843

## 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](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

**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