

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Page 1

I. Keep on Walking

II. A Clarion Call for Education

Page 2

I. Justice Center Appt.

II. Minimum Wage

III. Call for Volunteers

Page 3

I. Greater New Birth

II. UniverSoul Circus

III. Mortgage Mediation

Page 4

I. Community Events

II. Contact Information

THROUGH THE LENS



Passing out candy on the 4th of July.



Meeting a nice lady who is enjoying the parade.



4th Senate District

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF JULY 27-JULY 31

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.

-Keep on Walking-

During the warm seasons, my staff and I take seriously our commitment to communicating with the community about the work that is happening in Madison and around the state. This week we will be heading to Northwest Milwaukee!

Ward Walks will continue to happen throughout the remainder of the session. When the weather gets a bit colder, they continue by phone. Ward Walks by phone are simple short surveys conducted by my staff and volunteers asking about concerns you may have with the state, any issues you need resolved, and just a general check-in.

Between now and June 1 of next year, the entire 4th Senate District will be walked, called, and contacted to let you know what is happening in our world under the dome. When you see us out walking and knocking on doors, stop and say hi! We appreciate bumping into the people we serve.

-Call to Educational Excellence-

Recent test results from the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), administered by the U.S. Department of Education, reveal that Wisconsin fourth and eighth grade reading scores among black students were the lowest of any state, and the reading achievement gap between black and white students is still the worst in the United States. This is not new territory for Wisconsin. In the last tests of 2003 and 2005, Wisconsin ranked at the bottom of the list. This news frustrates me and breaks my heart. We can not stand by and let it happen. Those scores are our clarion call to rescue our children and their future.

The Obama Administration has made it clear that innovation with results is the type of education investment they seek. We have the greatest educational variety in the nation, but the NAEP test results are a testament that improvement is needed across the system. If we rank the worst in the nation among the neediest and have the greatest educational gap, what does that say about us? What does that say about our expectations and our sense of urgency? We cannot continue to accept this when we know that it is destroying our cities, our communities, our businesses, and our children and their future. Our kids deserve a quality education and we must demand it and provide it to them.

Between increased accountability in the choice program and increased educational performance at MPS, we are moving toward a road of better returns. We all must answer the clarion call to raise our education expectations for our community, for our kids, and for our future. Will you answer the call?

MANNERS MOMENT



Dana World-Patterson
Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

Learn to receive compliments graciously. When someone says something positive about you, do not deny or refute the compliment. Instead, thank them for their compliment and enjoy their praise!

FROM THE BAR MISTRIAL

n. the termination of a trial before its normal conclusion because of a procedural error, statements by a witness, judge or attorney which prejudice a jury, a deadlock by a jury without reaching a verdict after lengthy deliberation (a “hung jury”), or the failure to complete a trial within the time set by the court.

-Taylor Appointed to National Justice Center Board-

Earlier this summer, I was honored to be appointed by Council of State Governments (CSG) President and Governor of West Virginia Joe Manchin, III, and CSG Chairperson and Idaho State Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis to the board of directors for CSG’s Justice Center. The Center runs the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, which I enjoy overseeing in Wisconsin.

I will join the 25-person board for a period of two years. I am looking forward to using our experiences in Wisconsin to inform the board’s efforts, and I know that working with such a diverse group of national experts will benefit Wisconsin by advancing the best thinking on complex criminal justice issues. The board is a small, bipartisan group of key legislators, leading court and law enforcement officials, and members of several governors’ cabinets from corrections and health and human services agencies.

Together, we will guide various projects that the Justice Center administers, including those on criminal justice/mental health issues, prisoner re-entry, and state’s investments in public safety. The Justice Center is also launching a new project regarding school discipline and its impact on involvement in the juvenile justice system. State officials across the country have used the findings and technical assistance provided through Justice Center projects to develop legislative initiatives. Congress has also worked closely with leaders of the board, drawing on recommendations provided by the Justice Center to shape national policy.

-Minimum Wage Going Up-

Working folks in the state of Wisconsin are about to get a boost in their paychecks. Minimum wage is going up to \$7.25 per hour, starting Friday, July 24th. The wage increase in Wisconsin matches the Federal increase to \$7.25.

Currently, minimum wage workers only make \$6.50 an hour, which amounts to a wage of \$13,520, if a person were to work 40 hours a week. Under new legislation, that same person would make \$15,080, an increase of \$1,560. That increase can help combat rising costs of healthcare, food, and other expenses.

Employers with questions about the new minimum wage rates can call the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division of the Department of Workforce Development. The Milwaukee office number is 414-227-4384.



-Volunteer Recruitment-

Calling all volunteers!!! I am always looking for people to help out in the office and in the community. If you or someone you know is looking for a volunteer Opportunity, please contact my office.

Every Friday I go out into the community with my staff and volunteers to speak with my constituents and hand out my legislative update. It is a great opportunity for me to hear from the people I serve, but it is also an opportunity for those who want to help to roll up their sleeves and help other people!

Please contact my office at 414-342-7176 and speak to Alan Charles. He will be more than happy to get you involved in any way we can. Thank you!!!

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 very 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 know more about how the state government works and how laws are made. I have also recently joined the media team for Team Taylor!

WORD OF THE WEEK

"America is not like a blanket-one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size. America is more like a quilt-many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread."

-Rev. Jesse Jackson

-Greater New Birth Clinic-

Saturday, August 15th, marks what will be one of the biggest community events I will be involved with. I am hoping to get over 1,000 people from the community to attend Greater New Birth's "Taking It to the Streets" Clinic.



The clinic will include information about driver's license recovery, job training, weatherization assistance, immunizations and BadgerCare assistance, public safety information and small business networking. The last time we held this event, we served over 350 people. This time around we expect to serve many more. Please help make this event a success by getting the word out and making sure you're there.

The clinic is scheduled for August 15, from 10:00 am—2:00 pm at Greater New Birth Church, 2207 W. Center Street, Milwaukee, WI. Make sure you come out!

-UniverSoul Circus-



I am very excited about the UniverSoul Circus. They are an amazing group of talented individuals that are here to inspire and entertain, and they are coming to Milwaukee! The tour stop is set for September 2, 2009.

I have been working closely with the UniverSoul Circus promoters to get the word out in the community. It is a blessing to have such a wonderful group of talented people coming to our city. We will not let this opportunity be wasted. I am hosting the Unity Luncheon scheduled Friday, July 24th at Ponderosa, in order to introduce Todd Morris (promoter) with UniverSoul Circus. There will be more updates to follow as progress continues to develop on this topic.

-Fight for Mortgage Mediation Continues-

In what promises to be a better way forward for both homeowners and lenders, I unveiled the Mortgage Mediation Act this week, which attempts to mediate a foreclosure proceeding between a homeowner and lender. This legislation patterns successful programs from Minnesota and other states around the nation.

This bill creates a process to protect homeowners who own a first or second mortgage on a residential property. They would be able to seek mediation if they went into default on a loan and the foreclosure process has begun. If the homeowner has missed two consecutive loan payments, the lender must send the borrower a notice when beginning to foreclose. The lender then would provide the homeowner with a written solution to the problem, which includes contact information about credit counseling services available. The homeowner then has a right to request mediation from the director of state courts, which will assign a mediator and report the results to the court. Parties must act in good faith in order to receive a positive review from the mediator.

The legislation is widely supported and has been drafted with the help of bankers, community banks, mediators, the Courts and various University systems, in addition to legislative colleagues and, most importantly, from the input of homeowners.

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Community Events

What: Milwaukee Air & Water Show

When: Saturday, July 25, 10AM

Where: Lakefront at Bradford Beach

Info: Don't miss the exciting Air and Water Show performances, featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Jet Demonstration Team, along with a spectacular lineup of other air and water show performers.

What: Meet Chairman Bob!

When: Friday, July 24, 11-4 pm

Where: 1100 E. Garfield Ave

Info: Roundy's Corporation (Cops and Pick 'n' Save) Chairman Bob will be stopping by to serve \$1 lunches to area shoppers. Yum!

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

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

US Congresswoman Gwen Moore
414-297-1140

SENATE CONTACTS
Sergeant-at-Arms Office
608-266-1801

Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline
414-278-1240
Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

US Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

Human Resources
608-264-8471

US Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451

Senate Chief Clerk's Office
608-266-2517