



# JOE SANFELIPPO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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New Berlin resident *Arthur Angove* was recognized in November for his military service during New Berlin's annual Veterans Day ceremony at City Hall. Angove, who served in the United States Air Force from 1953 to 1955 and is chaplain of American Legion Lee R. Ystad Post 488, is pictured holding a bugle his uncle, Rex Klingensmith, carried through Belgium, France and Germany during WWI. Angove used the bugle to sound Taps at the conclusion of the New Berlin ceremony.

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## MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SAY IN HOW OUR GOVERNMENT WORKS:

Your active participation in the legislative process is extremely important. That involvement helps ensure I represent our district's best interests to the greatest extent possible. Listed below are some tools to become engaged in legislative operations:

### A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Wisconsin State Legislature:

[legis.wisconsin.gov/pages/cg/cgcover.aspx](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/pages/cg/cgcover.aspx)

### Wisconsin Legislative Notification Service:

[notify.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov)

If you do not have access to the internet and would like more information on these programs, please call my office at (888) 534-0015.



*I visited with General Mitchell Elementary of West Allis as they toured the Capitol.*

**Free tours of the state Capitol** are offered Monday through Saturday at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Groups of 10 or more are urged to make a tour reservation by visiting [tours.wisconsin.gov/pub/Reservations](http://tours.wisconsin.gov/pub/Reservations) or calling (608) 266-0382. I encourage you to stop by my office at Room 306 North if you find yourself at the Capitol. You can schedule a visit by calling (888) 534-0015.

## HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS:

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

Wisconsin Do Not Call Registry ..... (888) 382-1222  
Consumer Protection Hotline ..... (800) 422-7128  
Better Business Bureau ..... (800) 273-1002

### FAMILIES/VETERANS

EdVest College Savings Hotline ..... (888) 338-3789  
Department of Veterans Affairs ..... (800) 947-8387

### BUSINESS

Office of Business Development ..... (608) 267-7873  
Small Business Development Center.... (800) 940-7232

### SAFETY

Crime Victim Center ..... (800) 446-6564  
Arson Hotline ..... (800) 362-3005  
Travel Information ..... 511

### HEALTH

SeniorCare ..... (800) 657-2038  
Wisconsin ForwardHealth ..... (800) 362-3002  
Medicare ..... (800) 633-4227

### STATE GOVERNMENT

State Legislative Hotline ..... (800) 362-9472  
My Toll-Free Number in Madison ..... (888) 534-0015

2016 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



# State Representative JOE SANFELIPPO



## JOE SANFELIPPO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For the past three years, it has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve you as your citizen legislator in Madison.

While we have accomplished many great things during that time, it's important to remember that more work needs to be done to ensure Wisconsin continues to be a great place to live and raise a family.

I have authored numerous bills this session that I believe will benefit the residents and businesses of the 15th Assembly District, as well as the entire state. But I will not be content with everything we have achieved in the past. I promise to look forward and continue to work hard on your behalf to make Wisconsin reach its full potential.

My office doors are still always open, so please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for putting your trust in me to serve as your representative in state government. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

**Joe Sanfelippo**  
State Representative  
15th Assembly District



*Rep. Sanfelippo at Nat'l Night Out in West Allis.*

### Address:

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## 2015-16 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Health (Chairman)  
Campaigns and Elections  
Mental Health Reform  
Financial Institutions  
Transportation



# State Representative **JOE SANFELIPPO**



## ■ REDUCING WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

The state Assembly took some major steps this session toward curbing waste, fraud and abuse in public benefit programs.

The handful of bills passed by the Assembly ensures that certain taxpayer-funded benefits are only used to help our citizens in need.

A recent state audit shows that \$86.3 million in overpayments were made in the Unemployment Insurance program from 2011 to 2014. The Department of Workforce Development also found that 64,700 fraudulent payments were likely attributed to 44,488 unique social security numbers. Almost 14,550 of those numbers were involved in two or more instances of fraud during the audit period.

Assembly Bill 212 creates a “two strikes” provision that makes repeat Unemployment Insurance benefit fraudsters ineligible for UI benefits for seven years. The legislation targets individuals who intentionally and repeatedly commit UI fraud and reserves the harshest penalties for dedicated cheaters of the system.

The other related bills passed by the Assembly remove FoodShare benefits from an inactive account and expunge unused benefits after one year; require drug testing and treatment for eligibility for certain work experience programs; obligate certain unemployment insurance claimants to submit to drug tests; limit the number of FoodShare replacement cards that can be issued in a year; and require photo identification cards for FoodShare recipients.

When combined together, these bills are expected to protect taxpayer money from fraud and save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars while still ensuring our state’s most impoverished citizens continue to receive the assistance they need.

## 2015-16 LEGISLATION

### ■ SUMMER READING PROGRAM

It’s a staggering statistic: Only 36.6 percent of students in Wisconsin are considered proficient or better at reading.

That is why I authored Assembly Bill 338, which expands the Milwaukee Summer Reading Project by providing the successful program with \$1.125 million over the next biennium.

Since the project was established in 2010 by the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University, almost 30 percent of participating students have achieved progress of more than 18 weeks over a six-week period, which is the equivalent of a semester. If the program continues to show the results we envision, we will look to expand the curriculum to other school districts in the state.

### ■ HEROIN DUIs

I authored Assembly Bill 557 to give law enforcement more tools to crack down on motorists who are driving under the influence of heroin.

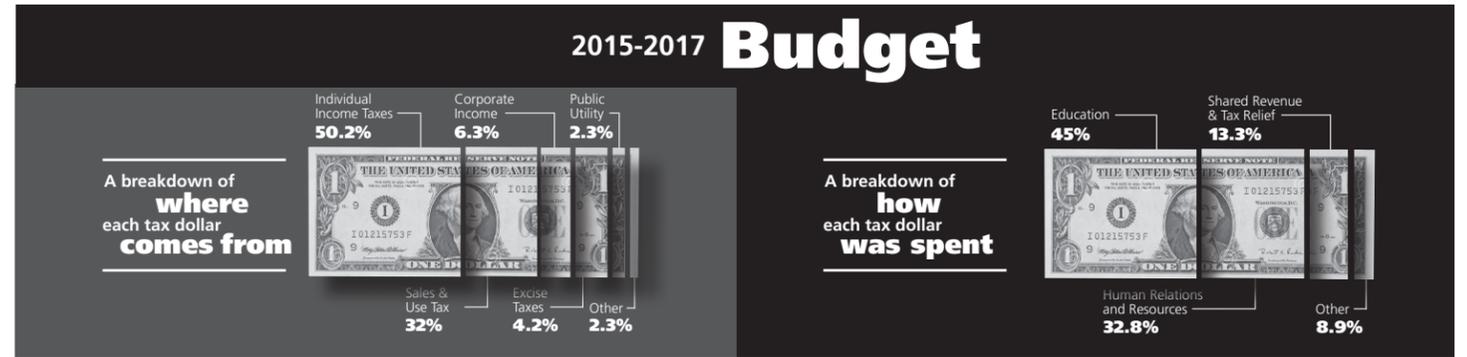
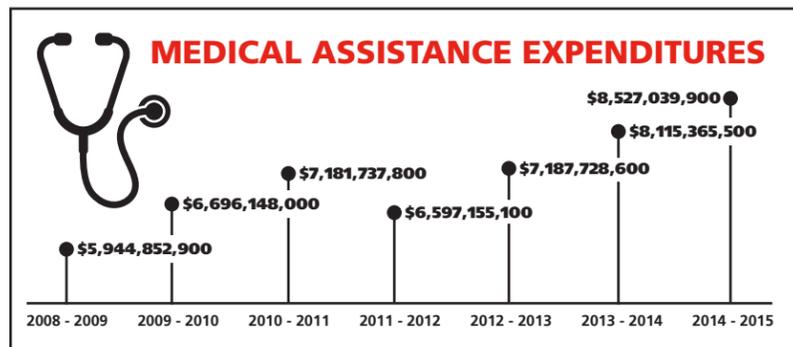
Heroin is currently listed as a restricted controlled substance when operating a vehicle in Wisconsin, but once the drug is consumed, it immediately converts to the unique heroin metabolite, 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM).

My bill adds 6-MAM to the state’s list of restricted controlled substances, making it easier for courts to convict drivers under the influence of heroin. It also helps release some of the burden from law enforcement in documenting impairment.

### ■ MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND ENROLLMENT HISTORY

(According to the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau)

- The average monthly enrollment in medical assistance programs has jumped from **860,201** in 2009 to **1.1 million** in 2015, an increase of close to 245,000 citizens.
- The average monthly enrollment of the elderly, blind and disabled has gone up by almost 37,000 residents since 2009.
- Wisconsin citizens are expected to see an increase of nearly **\$1.9 billion** in Medicaid benefit funding in the 2015-17 biennium.
- The Commonwealth Fund has ranked Wisconsin as having the 11th best health care system in the country.



### ■ HOPE LEGISLATION

The abuse of heroin and other opioids has become a public health crisis in Wisconsin that is hitting both large cities and rural communities.

The number of heroin-related deaths in Wisconsin rose by nearly 50% in 2012, according to a survey of county coroners. In Milwaukee County alone, heroin-related deaths skyrocketed by 72% from 2012 to 2013.

This session, we found it important to concentrate our efforts on what many experts believe is the root cause of Wisconsin’s heroin problem: prescription drug abuse. Numerous studies have shown that a dependence on painkillers often leads to heroin addiction.

This year’s Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) package focused on our state’s prescription drug monitoring program, implemented stricter reporting requirements and gave the Department of Health Services oversight authority over the operation of pain management clinics across Wisconsin. One of the bills also ensured that state residents can purchase Narcan – a live-saving drug used by first responders to reverse the effects of an overdose – from pharmacies without a prescription.

### ■ 2015-17 BUDGET

I’m proud we were able to put together a state budget that once again holds the line on property taxes. Because of our responsible budget practices in recent years, the state’s general fund ended the fiscal year with a \$135.6 million surplus, according to the Department of Administration.

The 2015-17 state budget sustains that same fiscally responsible approach by freezing property taxes and University of Wisconsin tuition, simplifying the tax code, providing \$21 million in tax relief by reducing the marriage penalty and lowering transportation bonding by \$450 million.

We also continued to prioritize K-12 public education. As you can see in the chart above, nearly half of the biennial state budget is going toward education – by far the largest portion of the \$73 billion spending plan.

The budget also helps some of the most vulnerable seniors in our state by protecting our long-term care programs like IRIS and FamilyCare. In addition, Medicaid benefit funding will be going up by nearly \$1.9 billion over the biennium.

I would like to thank the numerous constituents from my district who reached out to my office to share their thoughts on how to best address Wisconsin’s future. Because of that teamwork, we were able to create a budget that benefits each and every one of us.

For a complete list of laws passed this session, please visit: [docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015)

To view all the bills authored by Rep. Sanfelippo, please visit: [docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/author\\_index/assembly/1248](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/author_index/assembly/1248)

### ■ UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

(According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

- Wisconsin’s unemployment rate of **4.3 percent** in December 2015 was among the lowest monthly rates since March 2001.
- Wisconsin’s total employment grew by 20,700 year-over-year to a record high of **2.97 million** in December, while the number of unemployed declined by 26,800 over the year.
- Average weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for 2015 dropped to their lowest levels since 1989. Average weekly continued UI claims are also at a 16-year low.
- Approximately **81,000** job openings were listed on [jobcenterofwisconsin.com](http://jobcenterofwisconsin.com) in mid-February.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO A 14-YEAR LOW

