

TERRY KATSMAS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 26th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO A 14-YEAR LOW



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“Wisconsin’s future looks bright. Our economy keeps growing, the state unemployment rate is at a 14-year low, and we are headed in the right direction. We are working hard every day to improve Wisconsin.” -- Rep. Terry Katsma



E-Updates

Occasionally, I e-mail newsletters to residents of Sheboygan County to help you stay informed about what is happening in Madison. I often use these newsletters to seek your input about proposed legislation, communicate my priorities and offer tips about how you can put your government’s resources to better use. To sign up, please send me an e-mail at Rep.Katsma@legis.wi.gov.



Capitol Tours

Wisconsin’s State Capitol building in Madison is the best in the nation. It has a rich history and a unique beauty that rivals the nation’s Capitol in Washington, DC. I encourage you to visit and experience a free guided tour, available several times each day; if your group numbers more than 10 people, please call ahead to make a reservation at (608) 266-0382. I would love to greet you if you come; just call my office and let me know when to expect you!

2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative TERRY KATSMAS

Proudly representing the 26th Assembly District, serving the communities of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, Oostburg, Cedar Grove and Random Lake.



TERRY KATSMAS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 26th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Thank you for the honor of electing me to serve as your voice in the Wisconsin State Assembly. I take great pride in being your advocate and in being accessible to you.

During the 2015-16 legislative session, I had the opportunity to help enact hundreds of measures that are moving Wisconsin forward. The vast majority of these were bipartisan ideas that are saving taxpayer money, reforming government, improving safety and putting people to work. The legislature’s efforts have made a difference in Wisconsin, but I want to hear from you about the work that remains to be done.

I can’t do my job effectively without hearing directly from you about what you think is important for Sheboygan County and for the state. That’s how many of my successful legislative ideas get started, and I deeply appreciate the e-mails and phone calls that I receive daily from my constituents. Please feel welcome to contact me at any time with your concerns or suggestions—I look forward to continuing the progress we have made together!

Best Regards,

Terry Katsma
State Representative
26th Assembly District

“The 2015-17 state budget put Wisconsin taxpayers first.”

-- Rep. Terry Katsma

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State Representative TERRY KATZMA



INVESTING IN WISCONSIN'S INFRASTRUCTURE

One of my highest priorities during the 2015-16 legislative session has been to ensure that funding remains in place for the long-awaited State Highway 23 expansion project. Expanding the two-lane section to four lanes is a tremendous priority for Sheboygan County not only because of serious safety concerns but also because of the long-term economic impact that the project will have for business in the region.

The delays that we have endured for this project have already cost taxpayers more than \$100 million. When the expansion project was first proposed—way back in 1999—the estimated total cost was \$42 million, but today that estimate is a whopping \$145 million and counting. That's why I have urged my legislative colleagues and Governor Scott Walker to do our part to keep the expansion plan on schedule without any further delays.

The next challenge will be to work toward sustainable transportation funding solutions for the long term. I was a strong supporter of our action this session to repeal Wisconsin's obsolete prevailing wage law that effectively overcharged taxpayers for road construction labor. But I look forward to working toward a better balance between Wisconsin's high gas taxes and our even higher spending.

STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, EXPANDING TAX RELIEF

By far, the single biggest piece of new legislation passed this year was the 2015-17 state budget. Nearly 2,000 pages long, it authorizes practically all of the state's operations over two years.

This budget marked a lot of progress for Wisconsin. The typical homeowner's property taxes will remain flat or even drop slightly (instead of rising by \$100 or more per year, as had been the case until Republicans stopped it). Overall borrowing dropped to a level not seen since the 1980s. We practically eliminated the income tax "marriage penalty" on families. We repealed our archaic prevailing wage law. And at the end of the day, we still deposited a record amount in the state's emergency "rainy day fund."

I don't believe that increasing education spending is the only way to improve results—but I voted to add \$200 million to fund K-12 education beyond what the Governor's budget proposed (even though school enrollment is generally flat). Qualifying low- to medium-income families will have additional opportunities to participate in the parental school choice program. And for our future workforce, we froze in-state college tuition to keep college affordable. These were the right investments for our future.

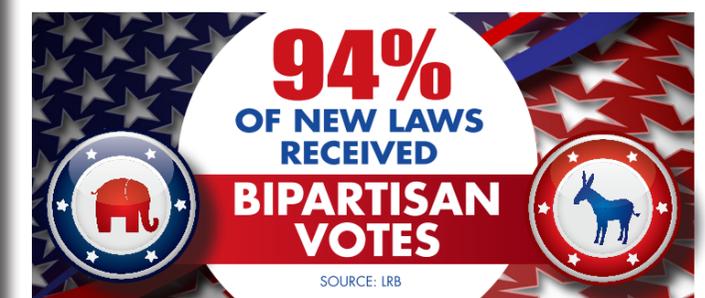
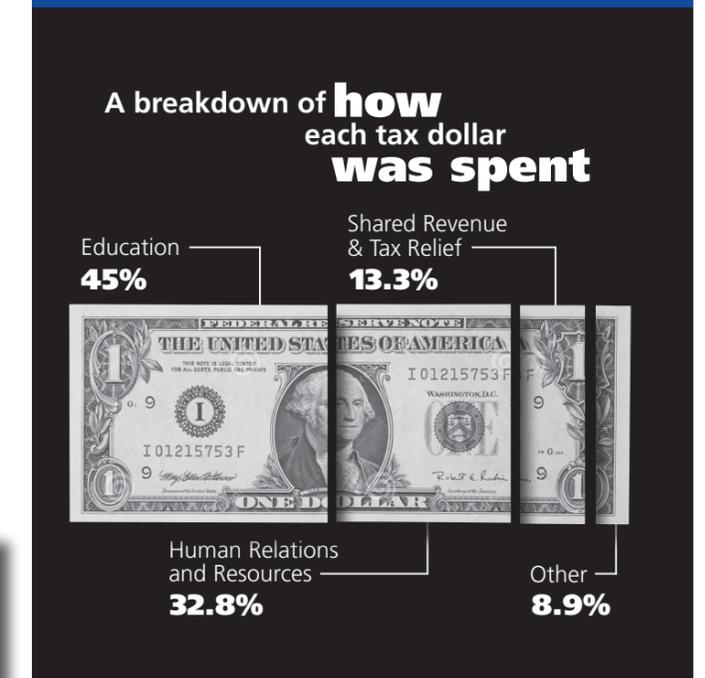
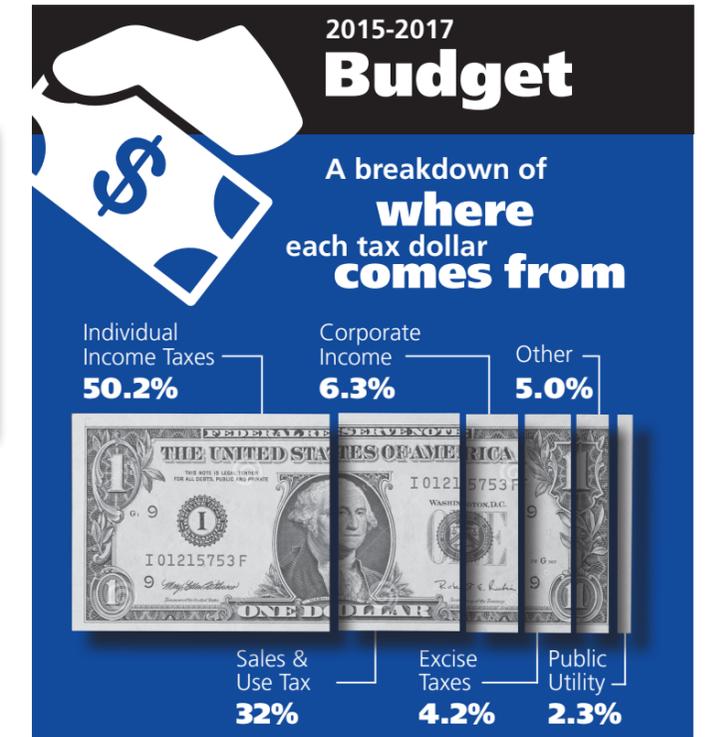


SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

I was honored to be chosen to serve on the bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia. Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and it is the only one in the top ten that cannot be prevented, treated or cured.

The Assembly passed a series of ten bipartisan bills to improve the care of those suffering from these diseases through community-based resources and education. These ideas were developed with the input of experts, caregivers, state officials and caregivers who participated in public hearings held across Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Cares legislative package included investing an additional \$1 million in respite care; expanding the number of dementia care specialists; programs to better educate caregivers and employers about the unique challenges presented by these diseases; increasing training for mobile crisis teams; and new funding for the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Wisconsin. Our work shone a spotlight on these difficult issues, raised awareness of these diseases and developed creative new ways for the state to lend a hand to affected families.



“Advocating for the people of Sheboygan County is my highest priority. I am always eager to hear your thoughts about an issue, answer your questions or help you solve a problem. It is my distinct honor to serve you in Madison, and I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.” -- Rep. Terry Katzma