



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT BROOKS



60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

January 26, 2015

A Note from Rep. Brooks

Welcome to my first e-update as a member of the Wisconsin State Legislature. It is an honor to have been elected to serve as your State Representative. This is poised to be a busy and productive session, as I have been appointed to six important committees: Education, Long-Term Care and Aging; Children and Families; Environment and Forestry; Housing and Real Estate and Colleges and Universities--of which I serve as Vice-Chairman for the 2015-2017 session.



Since assuming office, I have fought tirelessly to repeal Common Core Standards, restore local control of our schools, and reduce the regulatory burdens that make it more challenging for small business owners to create good-paying jobs. As the session progresses, I will continue to champion these issues and work to reduce the size and influence of government.

Taking the Oath of Office as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly

Assembly Republicans Release Forward Agenda

At the outset of this current session, which commenced on January 5, 2015, Wisconsin Assembly Republicans unveiled their [Forward Agenda](#). This agenda focuses on ensuring that Wisconsin remains a state in which more citizens can work, raise a family and retire. The agenda has five areas of reform: building a strong economy; improving education; creating stronger families and safer neighborhoods; promoting self-sufficiency; and responding to changing technology.

The *Forward Agenda* is a comprehensive outline of innovative policy solutions for creating a twenty-first century Wisconsin. The proactive solutions delineated in this framework create a stronger Wisconsin and a better, more secure future for our children and grandchildren.

Building a stronger economy

A foremost priority is growing Wisconsin's economy by improving the business climate, lowering taxes and reducing the regulatory burden on Badger State companies. This requires providing assistance to small business owners to help increase the efficiency as well as having shovel-ready property for business development to encourage new ventures and businesses considering relocating to Wisconsin from other states. Assembly Republicans will continue our [Right the Rules](#) initiative to prioritize government reform by eliminating unnecessary and antiquated rules.

Developing a Twenty-First Century Workforce

Today's students are tomorrow's entrepreneurs, educators and lawmakers. As such, the *Forward Agenda* continues to invest heavily in education, provide new opportunities for student achievement and expand the UW-System tuition freeze for in-state undergraduates. As a member of the Education Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Colleges and Universities, I have made each of these issues my top priorities for this session.

The agenda asks for a systematic review of UW System courses to identify possible inefficiencies that make it more

challenging for students to enroll in required courses.

Improving the Quality of Life

Assembly Republicans will also work to ensure parents have the tools they need to provide safe and healthy homes. The plan includes support for policy initiatives that emphasize healthy early brain development as well as requiring a minimum amount of support in child support cases. The agenda also calls for proven, innovative solutions for our seniors, a greater emphasis on fighting dementia and continued support for our veterans. In addition, there is a renewed commitment to expanding on the mental health reforms from [Speaker's Task Force on Mental Health](#).

Pathway to the American Dream

Social safety nets and taxpayer-funded benefit programs are important aspects of our nation's quality of life, but these programs should assist those who are truly in need. The Assembly Republican Agenda identifies a myriad of meaningful reforms that will discourage dependency and fraudulent activities. Reducing fraud and duplicity of these programs means more available resources and preserves those funds for families who are truly the intended recipients.

Our efforts may involve administering all public benefit programs on the same card system, placing a photograph on benefit cards and screening individuals on benefits for possible substance abuse problems.

Preparing for the future

Rapid changes and improvements in technology mean that some current state policies and consumer protections have become outmoded. Some of this is positive--we can streamline and increase access to state government services through mobile devices, making citizens' everyday lives much easier. But we also have to be mindful of the cyber security and privacy issues that come along with increased technology. Part our agenda pertains to unauthorized location tracking.

Please give us your feedback and contribute your own ideas through the links below.

Share your ideas at www.WisconsinAssemblyRepublicans.com and on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/WisconsinAssemblyRepublicans. #ForwardAgenda



This week in Madison

This week I had the pleasure of meeting with a number of constituents from the 60th Assembly District who stopped by my Capitol office. I enjoyed meeting with employees of Kohler Credit Union who stopped by to introduce themselves and discuss the importance of Credit Unions and their members. Did you know that 11,600 Kohler Credit Union members reside in the 60th Assembly District?

Several important pieces of legislation were approved by the State Assembly this week. I voted in favor of each of the following legislative initiatives:

AB 3-A bill allowing Wisconsinites to appeal to a municipal court matter after it has been reviewed by a Circuit Court.

AB 5-Legislation changing statutory provisions as it relates to intimidating a witness.

AB 8-Legislation making it a felony to invade an individuals privacy by viewing under or through one's clothing.



Meeting with Sue Vandermuese and Sarah Ruiz, employees of Kohler Credit Union.

This week in the 60th District

I had the opportunity to spend much of my time this week in the district meeting with and providing outstanding achievement citations to constituents. It was truly an honor to present an Eagle Scout Citation to Thomas Knowski, an upstanding young man from Port Washington.

If ever you have questions regarding legislation, need assistance dealing with a specific agency, or want to express your concerns, do not hesitate to contact my office. I very much look forward to hearing from you and serving as your voice in the State Assembly.



Presenting an Eagle Scout Citation to Thomas Knowski of Port Washington.

Have a great weekend,

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subject of this E-update, please feel free to contact me.

If you would like to be removed from future mailings, email me and ask to unsubscribe.

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