



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT BROOKS

60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



September 2, 2015

A Note from Rep. Brooks

Fall is officially upon us, which means the start of a new school year, another season of Green Bay Packers football, and return of the Wisconsin legislature. The fall session is poised to be incredibly busy, as my staff and I are working on a myriad of legislative initiatives ranging from entrepreneurship and business start ups, to defining columbaria to the consolidation of countywide health services. I am very much looking forward to your feedback and input on the countless bill brought before the Wisconsin State Assembly, this fall.

The 2015-2016 Wisconsin State Blue Books have arrived in the legislature. If you are interested in receiving a Blue Book, please contact my office, providing your name and address. My staff and I will work diligently to ensure that those requesting a Blue Book, receive it. Blue Books are free of charge to Wisconsinites.

Have a great week.



This week in Madison

It has been an excellent couple of months for job creation and business growth in Wisconsin. New quarterly census job count data shows that Wisconsin gained nearly forty thousand private-sector jobs from March 2014 to March 2015, including more than 6,300 in manufacturing. Wisconsin's quarterly wages by covered private-sector employers grew by 4.5 percent over the same quarter in 2014. Data based on actual job reports from more than 135,000 Wisconsin employers covering the first quarter of 2015 showed:

- Wisconsin added 39,652 private-sector jobs from March 2014 to March 2015.
- Quarterly wages by covered private-sector employers grew by 4.5 percent year over year.
- Wisconsin's manufacturing sector added close to 6,300 jobs over the four twelve month period.
- Construction wages grew by 11.5 percent from the first quarter of 2015.

Moreover, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) reports that Wisconsin is in the top ten for monthly job growth. In July, the Badger State added 8,200 private-sector jobs. Fueled by new manufacturing jobs, Wisconsin is ranked second highest in the Midwest. Wisconsin's unemployment rate of 4.6 percent last month continues to be below the national rate of 5.3 percent (this number does not include those who have dropped out of the federal labor force or stopped looking for full-time work). DWD also found that unemployment rates declined in eleven of Wisconsin's twelve metro areas. Furthermore, all of the state's seventy-two counties saw a decline in unemployment compared to last year at this time.

This Week in Wisconsin

by the numbers

#2 monthly job growth
in Midwest,
TOP 10 in nation

\$71m increase in revenue

#2 in nation
ACT scores

WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY
GOP

Revenue estimates show signs of continued economic growth

Wisconsin took in \$71.4 million more during the 2014-2015 fiscal year than the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau had projected in January. LFB Director Bob Lang said the preliminary collection numbers for the fiscal year are in line with what the agency projected in May. Then, LFB declined to revise estimates for the 2015-17 biennium, noting any bump in 2014-15 could be offset by the economic uncertainty over the next two years.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue reported preliminary general fund tax collections of \$14.54 billion in 2014-15, an increase of 4.3 percent over the previous year. Income and insurance taxes came in below LFB's January estimates. But that was more than made up by bumps in corporate, excise, cigarette, sales and other taxes. Final general fund tax collections for 2014-15, along with departmental revenues and expenditures, will be available in mid-October when the annual fiscal report is released.

A January 2015 LFB memo on the numbers said part of the additional revenue from 2014-15 would go to the budget stabilization fund. But Lang released a follow-up memorandum noting the tax cut package lawmakers approved in early 2014 included a provision suspending transfers to the budget stabilization fund for the rest of the 13-15 biennium.

Overall, revenue numbers are much greater than expected, unemployment remains below the national average and Wisconsin's economy is growing rapidly.



I had the opportunity, last month, to join several of my legislative colleagues in touring the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant in Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

This week in the 60th District

On September 15, 2015, I will be accompanying United States Representative, Jim Sensenbrenner at a series of in-district listening sessions. The details of the forthcoming listening sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Newburg Village Hall, 614 Main Street, Newburg, WI, 9:00-9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Jackson Village Hall, N168W20733, Jackson, WI, 1:00-1:30 P.M.

I look forward to seeing you at these listening sessions and obtaining your input on issues and legislation presently before the legislature.



At an in-district listening session with United States Representative, Jim Sensenbrenner.

I recently had the opportunity to present an Eagle Scout citation to Ryan Boehler, an upstanding young man and member of our community who, for his Eagle Scout project, spearheaded the initiative to construct the boardwalk over the cattail wetlands of the Kratzch Conservancy in Newburg.



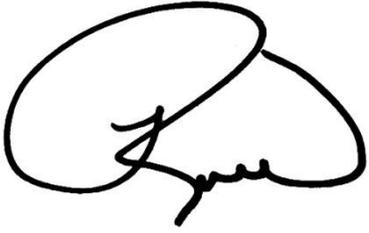
Presenting an Eagle Scout citation to Ryan Bohler

Since my last e-update, I had the privilege of welcoming Port Washington high school student, Jared Bruttig to the Wisconsin State Capitol. Jared spent the day shadowing me and observing the legislative process--he was able to see members of the Wisconsin State Assembly vote to approve a new Milwaukee Bucks arena. I always enjoy welcoming constituents of Wisconsin's 60th Assembly District to the State Capitol.



It was an honor to welcoming Port Washington High School student, Jared Bruttig to the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Have a great week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Brooks". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "R" and a cursive "B".

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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