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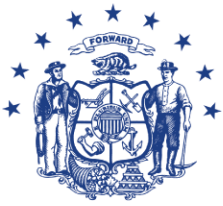
### REP DOYLE: WE CAN DO BETTER

With the start of the new legislative session and the Governor's State of the State address this week, it is a good time to reflect upon where we are as a state and where we want to go. We are coming out of a recession. Our economy is showing encouraging signs of growth. And members of the two parties are even beginning to work together in Madison. But as I sat on the floor of the Assembly this week, I thought to myself, 'we can do even better than we are right now.'

Almost every day I hear a story of someone who has finally found a job after months of searching. Unemployment in Wisconsin has gone down recently, falling to 5.2 percent in November - the lowest since 2008. This is good news, but it is not good enough. We still have a lot of work to do before Wisconsin is back to where we need to be economically. We need to create family-supporting jobs, not just minimum wage or part-time jobs, and we need to close the skills gap. The hardworking people of Wisconsin deserve a state that is competitive with our neighbors and able to attract new businesses and development. There are still too many people not working full-time. We can do better.

Our Sunday paper has lists of students on the honor roll, performing above and beyond academic standards. Our children are thriving and our schools are rising to meet the challenge of educating the next generation for a changing world. But we still have work to do. Public education is the foundation of our state. My colleagues and I need to come together to create meaningful school accountability and transparency to ensure that no matter where a child lives or whether he or she attends a public or private school, they are guaranteed the same quality of education. We need to reward success, not just punish failure. Our schools are doing more with less, but they are stressed and can't continue to be financially strangled. We can't forget that we are educating the next generation of workers and job creators. We can do better.

In the last legislative session, I saw a little more cooperation between the parties, the stark partisan divide perhaps beginning to fade. We are still only four years out from Act 10 and the flare-up of polarization between the parties. We have definitely made progress; last year, my job creation bill was passed nearly unanimously by the Legislature and signed by the Governor even though I'm a member of the minority party. I was proud to help pave the way for other members of my party to pass legislation that we can all agree on. I'm looking forward to more bipartisanship this term. But even with this step in the right direction, we still have a long way to go before we get to the productive bipartisan spirit that I remember from when I was a legislative staffer. We used to know members of the other parties as people, not just opponents. We can do better.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**STEVE DOYLE**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

94th DISTRICT

There are many new faces in the Assembly; newly elected representatives who are eager to get to work. They have a lot to learn, but the most important thing is one simple fact: our enemies aren't and should never be members of the opposing party. We need to fight poverty, joblessness, deficits in education, pollution, drug abuse and crime, not each other. The first step is to remember why we are all here. Each of us was elected to our office because of our commitment to making our state a better place. We should focus on where we agree, not where we differ. We can do better.

At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of both parties to make the effort to bridge the divide. Both Republicans and Democrats must take ownership of the situation and put politics aside to ask 'what can I do to make Wisconsin even better?' That is what I will work for in the next biennium. Because I know we can do even better.

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