



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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Van Roy's Views: No More Golden Years in the Red

MADISON – Wisconsin is becoming too expensive for seniors.

High taxes on everything from income to property have made staying in the state where many have lived their whole lives a financial hardship and, in some cases, a financial impossibility. But no one should have to leave Wisconsin to retire because our state's tax system makes it unaffordable. Moreover, we should not turn other seniors off to Wisconsin with oppressive tax rates. Hey, when your average winter temperature is 17 degrees, you can't afford to have a terrible tax climate too!

I am committed to making Wisconsin an affordable place to retire. Last week, I voted for AB 1159, which eliminates state income tax on pensions. The bill, which passed on a bipartisan 79-17 vote, will allow Wisconsin seniors to keep \$267 million of their own money. Hopefully, it will also make Wisconsin a more reasonable place for them to spend their golden years.

AB 1159 is one of many measures we passed this session to make retiring in Wisconsin financially possible for all seniors. In addition to AB 1159, I also voted to:

- **Eliminate Taxes on Social Security Benefits**—I supported eliminating taxes on Social Security benefits. Seniors live on a fixed income and do not need to be taxed on the benefits they receive, especially after they were taxed to provide the benefit in the first place! This proposal, which was included in the state budget, saves seniors \$99.7 million.
- **Fully Fund SeniorCare**—SeniorCare helps more than 90,000 Wisconsin seniors obtain their prescription drugs. By fully funding the program, we are making sure Wisconsin seniors have help with one of the most expensive areas of many seniors' budgets.
- **Freeze Property Taxes**—All too often, seniors are priced out of their own homes due to escalating property taxes. With property taxes threatening seniors' ability to stay in their homes, I supported AB 100, which would have frozen property taxes.

No one should have to say "I want to retire in Wisconsin, but I can't afford it." People of all ages should be able to enjoy our beautiful state without having to worry if the high taxes will send them into retirement poverty. These proposals bring us one step closer to making sure seniors who want to live in Wisconsin can afford to do so. That way, Wisconsin seniors won't have to worry about spending their golden years in the red.