



REP. KARL VAN ROY • 90<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

# VAN ROY'S VIEWS

LEGISLATIVE E-UPDATE

Friday, September 28, 2007

## Budget Update - Sept. 28 Deadline Passes

A lot has happened in the past week of budget negotiations. Unfortunately, when all was said and done, a whole lot of nothing was accomplished.

For the past two weeks, I've written about the Assembly's proposed budget compromise (Assembly Bills 506 and 507) to fund our schools and local units of government at the levels proposed by the Governor and Senate and to meet a September 28 deadline set by the State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction. Today is the final day for Senate and the Governor to pass these stand-alone bills that would prevent property taxpayers from being thrown under the "property tax hike bus."

Despite the overwhelming support for this compromise received from Assembly Republicans and Democrats alike, the Senate Democrat leadership refused to schedule these bills for a vote. So much for bipartisanship.

According to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Senate's inaction hits property taxpayers hard. Without knowing the amount of state aid they will get, local schools and governments will be forced to use their funding levels from last year when writing their budgets. Property taxpayers will have to make up the difference, to the tune of \$591 million or about \$200 on a median-valued home.

Also this week, the Governor decided to host a budget summit between legislative leaders. Over the past several days, Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) and Senate Leader Judy Robson (D-Beloit) have been meeting with the Governor's staff at the executive residence to discuss the differences between the various budgets. Talks will continue next week. Hopefully, Speaker Huebsch can convince the Senate Democrats that Wisconsinites can't afford another \$18 billion in tax increases. That is the message that I'm hearing from the folks I represent here in Green Bay. Being the 8th highest taxed state in the nation is already bad enough. Do we really want to be #1?

**\$\$\$ Unclaimed Property \$\$\$**

The Office of the State Treasurer currently holds \$339 million dollars in unclaimed money and property belonging to more than one million individuals and businesses, including 19,000 from Brown County alone.

With changes of address, lost mail, and busy lives in general, it's pretty easy for people not to get what is due them. I checked the list and found three listings in my name! I got a nice little windfall I wasn't expecting.

The Office of the State Treasurer is required to maintain custody and records for all property received under the provisions of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act. This property includes unclaimed savings and checking accounts, child support payments, uncashed dividends, stocks, customer deposits or overpayments, certificates of deposit, credit balances, refunds, matured life insurance policies, uncashed death benefit checks, and the contents of safety deposit boxes.

If your name is on the list or you are the legal heir to anyone on the list, you are entitled to the unclaimed property. You can call the **Office of the Treasurer at 1-877-699-9211** with your questions or to request a claim form.

For an alphabetical listing of unclaimed property for individuals and business in **Brown County**, [click here](#). *(Note: Requires Microsoft Excel to open an Excel spreadsheet.)*

The following links may also be helpful:

[Wisconsin Unclaimed Property Online Search](#) - search all listings in Wisconsin  
[Wisconsin Unclaimed Property Frequently Asked Questions](#) - FAQ  
[National Unclaimed Property Online Search](#) - search listings in other states

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