



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2007

For More Information:

Representative Phil Montgomery	(608) 266-5841
Representative John Nygren	(608) 266-2343
Representative Gary Tauchen	(608) 266-3097
Representative Karl Van Roy	(608) 266-0616
Representative Jeffrey Mursau	(608) 266-3780
Representative Frank Lasee	(608) 266-9870
Representative Garey Bies	(608) 266-5350

ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS UNVEIL 2007 AGENDA

Initiatives Will Focus on Job Creation, Tax Relief, Education, and Health Care

Green Bay... Assembly Republicans from Northeast Wisconsin unveiled their agenda for the upcoming legislative session at the Brown County Job Center on Thursday. The agenda places emphasis on the creation of new jobs and focuses on issues relevant to Wisconsin's working families.

"This session, we are poised to tackle the tough issues facing Wisconsin families," said Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon). "From lowering taxes to making quality education a reality for every child—the needs of Wisconsin families have shaped the Assembly Republican agenda."

Assembly Republicans will keep fighting to get Wisconsin out of the top 10 highest taxed states in the nation, and bring Wisconsin's tax burden in line with families' ability to pay.

"Wisconsin families cannot continue to live and grow here as long as we are one of the top ten highest-taxed states in America," said Frank Lasee (R-Bellveue). "Assembly Republicans understand that Wisconsin families need property tax relief and they need it now. Anyone who has ever done a household budget knows, the state cannot continue to spend more than it takes in without serious consequences."

Citing quality and accessible health care as a top priority, the Assembly Republicans have pledged to make health care more affordable for working families by making individual health insurance premiums tax deductible, fighting for personal health savings accounts, and working with Wisconsin's federal delegation to secure the future of SeniorCare.

"Assembly Republicans are finding common-sense answers to ensure that the people of Wisconsin have access to quality, accessible, and affordable health care solutions," said Gary Tauchen (R- Bonduel).

-more-

In order to spur new business growth, Assembly Republicans will work to improve economic incentives for small businesses by removing the bureaucratic red-tape that limits businesses' ability to grow jobs in Wisconsin, as well as expanding the successful venture capital tax credits that provide incentives for new investment in small, Wisconsin based start-up companies.

"We have an opportunity to make Wisconsin's economy more competitive," said Nygren. "As a member of the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to tackle these critical issues."

The Northeastern legislators noted that Wisconsin's most valuable asset is its workforce. In order to ensure that Wisconsin's workforce grows to be the most skilled and competitive in the country, Assembly Republicans will work for the passage of the Higher Education Tax Credit.

"Since Wisconsin's job force is primarily manufacturing, our agenda helps existing businesses train their workers to keep up with changing technology so they can remain viable and competitive in the global marketplace," stated Representative Karl Van Roy (R-Howard). "We also have measures to attract new businesses that have higher-skilled, higher paying jobs of tomorrow that will support working families. These ideas, among others, will bring about positive economic change for Northeast Wisconsin."

Assembly Republicans are determined to pass a state budget that invests more money into education than ever before. In addition, they will protect our children by keeping felons out of schools and improving school safety for all children.

"Education is our top funding priority," said Jeffery Mursau (R-Crivitz). "Assembly Republicans passed a budget that included \$11.52 billion for K-12 education in the last state budget. This year, Assembly Republicans will pass a budget that invests more dollars in education than ever before."

Assembly Republicans are preparing to pass sweeping ethics reform to restore the public's trust in their state government and eliminate perks for politicians by eliminating sick leave benefits for elected state officials. Assembly Republicans will promote accountability and at the ballot box by requiring photo identification before voting, and will reform state government budgeting by reforming the line-item veto and eliminating the "Frankenstein Veto."

"Wisconsin's families want a responsive and responsible state government," said Garey Bies (R-Sister Bay). "That's why Assembly Republicans will work to provide sweeping ethics reform, eliminate the state Crime Lab backlog, and reform the line-item veto by eliminating the "Frankenstein Veto."

The Wisconsin State Assembly will be in session next week to begin the process of moving the agenda forward.

###