



Chris Danou's Capitol Report
County Fairs Give Me a Chance to Hear From You

Summer is a special time in our community and throughout Wisconsin. With just about every community having its own parade or festival, as well as other celebratory events and county fairs, there's always something to do.

This past weekend, I had a blast attending the Trempealeau County Fair, and catching up and connecting with new people. It gives me a chance to see and visit with constituents and also hear what's on people's minds about what's happening in Madison. Depending on who you talk to, sometimes people express satisfaction and sometimes they express disappointment and concern.

Most of the people I spoke with this past weekend asked questions like, "why are they trying to get rid of open records?" and "why is all that money going to an arena in Milwaukee when we have roads that need to be fixed?" Several others asked about school funding and what it means to our area. Another question related to the issues at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). All of these questions have a common denominator in that they all stem from decisions made by the Governor and the Republican majorities in the Assembly and Senate.

I think it's pretty clear that people have legitimate concerns about issues related to public education, roads, WEDC, as well as health care, state parks and other matters facing the state. When we have an absent Governor whose touring the country in a presidential bid along with hyper-partisan, ideologically driven members of the legislature, decisions aren't made that are in the best interest of our community, region or state moving forward.

Obviously, people have their own political leanings and feelings (as do I) when it comes to each issue. However, we need to get back to the basics in Wisconsin. We need to make sure we invest in things that put us on a responsible path for the future. We need to make sure we honor our traditions that make us a desirable place to live and raise a family. We need to make sure we protect the natural resources that contribute to our unique scenery and high-quality of life. Most importantly, we need to remember we are one state and we need all regions to do well just as much as we need our own community to succeed.

While people have questions, concerns or disagreements, their feelings all stem from the same place. They want to make sure we continue moving forward and are able to keep up in the highly competitive 21st century. I know my wife and I want our two sons to have even more opportunities than we did, but in order to make that happen, we need to make sure we're thinking long-term with our legislative decisions. In order to do that, we need to take a moment to recognize our community and keep in mind all the great things we have going for us. The county fair is a great time and place to do just that.

County fairs truly are a chance for us to come together and celebrate our culture, identity and community, and to highlight our successes. I'm glad I had the chance to talk with so many people last weekend at the Trempealeau County Fair and I look forward to doing the same this weekend at the Buffalo and Jackson County fairs. For more information about these events, please visit: <http://www.buffalocountyfairwi.com/> and <http://jackson.uwex.edu/2014-fair-book/>. I hope to see you there and please feel free to come up and say hello!

