



# State Representative AMY LOUDENBECK



**Proudly representing the 31st Assembly District:**  
the communities of Janesville, Beloit, Elkhorn, Clinton, Darien, Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, Sharon, Walworth, and Williams Bay.



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## Making History at SCERB

The 16-member State Capitol Executive Residence Board (SCERB) was created in 1967 to oversee and approve any renovation, repairs, installation of fixtures, decorative items or furnishings for the grounds and buildings of the State Capitol and Executive Residence. Rep. Loudenbeck had served as a member of SCERB since 2011, including being vice-chair for several years. In July of 2020, Rep. Loudenbeck was elected to be the Chair of SCERB.

Recently, Rep. Loudenbeck led the board through the restoration and re-installation of the Forward and Col. Heg statues that had been severely damaged by protesters in 2020, as well as the proposal for a new statue of Vel Phillips, a prominent and accomplished figure in Wisconsin history, on the grounds of the Wisconsin State Capitol.

In September of 2021, after a year of careful restoration work, the Col. Heg and Forward statues were re-installed on the Capitol grounds. SCERB directed the Department of Administration (DOA) to proceed with the restoration in July of 2020, and DOA was able to secure federal grants totaling \$60,000 to help fund the restoration of the statues. In addition to the grants, the Wisconsin Historical Foundation received

nearly \$13,000 in donations from Wisconsin citizens to help with the restoration projects.

Additionally, the Vel Phillips Statue Task Force proposed commissioning an artist to create a statue of trailblazer Vel Phillips, to be donated to the state for permanent display on the Capitol grounds. A project of this magnitude, particularly one that requires a waiver of board policies that have been in place for decades, deserved thoughtful consideration. After several months of work, the board voted to conditionally approve the placement of the statue on the grounds. While there is still a long way to go before the statue will be installed, it was a historic vote for SCERB. The proposed Vel Phillips statue will be the first statue of an African American woman on State Capitol grounds in the United States.



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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE      SPRING 2022



*“It has been the privilege of a lifetime to represent and serve my friends and neighbors in southern Wisconsin.”*  
– Rep. Amy Loudenbeck

### CONTACT ME

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As you are likely aware, this will be my final term in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

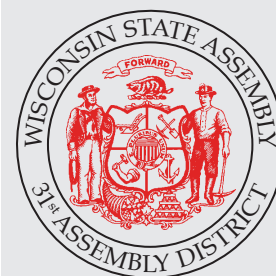
I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to represent and serve the residents of southern Wisconsin. During my tenure in the legislature, I've had the opportunity to work with many wonderful people – constituents, colleagues, stakeholders and staff - on policy issues they're passionate about. I'm grateful for the experience, knowledge and relationships serving in the Legislature has provided me.

I am proud of my record of results and sincerely hope the bills I authored leave a positive mark in Wisconsin history. State Legislatures truly are laboratories of democracy, and I am so thankful for the support and assistance I have received from my staff and our legislative service agencies allowing me to turn ideas into action and offer real solutions to the challenges facing our great state.

### A Brief History of Rep. Loudenbeck's Legislative Accomplishments

During her tenure in the Assembly, Rep. Loudenbeck has worked with her colleagues in both houses and across the aisle to successfully author over 40 bills that have been signed into law. These signed bills cover a wide variety of policies ranging from anti-human trafficking and support for homeless and vulnerable youth to agriculture, water quality and economic development. She led the effort to provide Family Care to Rock County residents and chaired a Legislative Council Study Committee on the preservation of burial sites that led to the passage of landmark legislation settling a complex policy matter. Her work on policies related to health care and public safety spanned several legislative sessions and multiple bills including community EMS, telehealth, charity care, Next Generation 911 and shared services for fire/EMS.

Rep. Loudenbeck was first elected in 2010 and has proudly represented residents of Rock and Walworth counties for the last 11 years. For the past four legislative sessions, she served on the powerful Joint Finance Committee, and as Vice Co-Chair since 2018. She is the current Chair of the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board and Co-Chair of the Joint Information Policy and Technology Committee. Rep. Loudenbeck chaired the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development during her second term and has been a member of 11 other Assembly committees.





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## 2021-2022 Highlights and Accomplishments

### Bills Signed into Law

**2021 Wisconsin Act 7**, authored with Senator Jerry Petrowski (R- Marathon), allowed the State Public Defender (SPD) to exceed the 10% cap for merit raises for the remainder of this fiscal year. This allowed for the SPD's office to help close the gap between SPDs and Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs). SPD vs. ADA pay disparity was already having a negative impact on retention, and the pandemic exacerbated that discrepancy.

**2021 Wisconsin Act 11**, authored with Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), requires the University of Wisconsin System to recognize and reward time spent by state integrated specialists teaching Wisconsin farmers in the same way other faculty are evaluated for teaching in a classroom.

**2021 Wisconsin Act 19**, authored with Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), removes the limit on the number of schools a student can apply to under open enrollment only for applications to virtual charter schools. State law had previously allowed a family to apply for open enrollment to three districts within a school year, but did not allow for any accommodations/additional applications if a student was denied admittance into all three of the districts to which they applied.

**2021 Wisconsin Act 43**, authored with Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), allows the State Fair Park Board to issue permits to vendors to allow alcohol sales at the State Fair Park grounds and requires vendors to follow Chapter 125 with a few exceptions. The provisions in the bill align Wisconsin Statutes with current and historic procedures for vendor alcohol sales at State Fair Park.

**2021 Wisconsin Act 104**, authored with Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), makes necessary statutory changes to ensure Wisconsin's specialized emergency response teams, the Statewide Urban Search and Rescue Task Force and the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams, are maintained and the individuals serving on them are protected. Act 104 expands the scope of emergencies the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force can respond to including emergencies like collapse, trench, high angle

and swift water rescues. It also streamlines the reimbursement schedule for team deployments, and makes changes to contributions for duty disability for the team members.

**2021 Wisconsin Act 115**, authored with Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), protects first responders from unnecessary and preventable danger by creating an emergency response area, similar to a work zone. In this emergency response area, just like in a work zone, fines double for speeding, reckless driving, and other traffic citations, and drivers may not use a handheld device while driving in an emergency response area. Tragically, collisions with emergency or roadside response vehicles or workers have more than doubled in the last five years.



**2021 Wisconsin Act 121**, authored with Senator Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield), is a technical bill that provides clarity and uniformity to the definitions of "Free and Charitable Clinics" and "Telehealth" in Wisconsin Statutes. As we continue to develop state laws and policies to keep pace with advances in technology and care delivery innovations, it's important to make sure that definitions are clear and consistent across Wisconsin's statutes.

**2021 Wisconsin Act 132**, authored with Senator Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie), changes the payment structure for subsidized guardianship placements by having the state pay for the program instead of the individual counties. Guardianship is a permanency option for children placed in out-of-home care. Under subsidized guardianship, it is possible for a relative, a person who is like-kin, or a foster parent to become the permanent legal guardian without terminating parental rights.

### Bills Passed by the Legislature, Awaiting Final Action by the Governor

**Assembly Bill 679**, authored with Senator Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield), makes permanent a provision to allow hospitals to seek federal Medicare reimbursement for certain services provided in a home setting. By allowing this program to continue, these regulatory flexibilities will create additional capacity options and allow hospitals to provide a high quality of care in a patient's home prior to discharge from an inpatient service.

**Assembly Bill 708**, authored with Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), creates a Geographical Information System (GIS) grant program to assist counties with the cost of data preparation and gathering, data collection contracts and staff training. Standardized geospatial data is a pivotal piece of Next Generation-911, helping to accurately locate 911 calls and efficiently route responders via dispatch. This bill will help local units of government update 911 infrastructure to ensure a reliable 911 system statewide.



### Bills in Progress

**Assembly Bill 592**, authored with Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), helps to address maternal mortality and protect continuity of care for Medicaid-eligible postpartum women by requiring DHS to file for an extension of postpartum coverage. Ongoing care is required for many mothers with chronic conditions exacerbated by pregnancy which often require monitoring and medication beyond the current 60-day coverage window for many Medicaid-eligible postpartum women.

**Assembly Bill 766**, authored with Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), increases expenditure authority of SEG conservation funds from the boat registration account for local boating law enforcements aids, and increases the aid payment limit to 80% of eligible costs. On large lakes it is important to have dedicated law enforcement available to patrol the waters and ensure everyone's safety. Eligible costs include patrol hours, search and rescue missions, and training boating safety enforcement officers.



**Assembly Bill 820**, authored with Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), modernizes the language for the Mike Johnson Life Care & Early Intervention Services Grant to include access to clinical services and lab work related to receiving Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for individuals vulnerable to HIV. PrEP is a medication that significantly reduces vulnerable individuals' odds of contracting HIV, but the cost of recommended lab work and clinical visits is often a barrier to accessing PrEP for uninsured or underinsured individuals.

**Assembly Bill 874**, authored with Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), would require DHS to submit a state plan amendment for Medicaid to allow for Wisconsin EMS providers to take part in supplemental payment opportunities for public and private EMS providers. If approved by the federal government, these supplemental payments could help to alleviate some of the funding pressure on EMS service providers. Both urban and rural EMS providers across Wisconsin are facing significant issues with funding and staffing, which is leading to problems with access or lack of coverage for many communities.

**Senate Bill 332**, authored with Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), would have extended the allowable work hours for 14- and 15-year-olds to between 6:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on a day preceding a school day, and between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on a day preceding a non-school day, as long as the employer and employee are not covered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. All other requirements for breaks, minimum hours of rest and maximum number of hours a 14- or 15-year-old is allowed to work in a single day remained in place. The bill was intended to help very small businesses but was vetoed by Governor Evers.