



# TYLER AUGUST

## 2013–2014 Legislative Session Update



### KEEP IN TOUCH

#### CAPITOL OFFICE:

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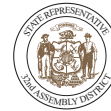
*Phone:* 608-266-1190

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*Web:* www.repaugust.com

#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS & APPOINTMENTS

- Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore
- Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions (Co-Chairman)
- Committee on Insurance
- Committee on Rules
- Committee on Assembly Organization
- Law Revision Committee
- Joint Legislative Council



### TYLER AUGUST

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 32<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Now that the 2013-14 Legislative Session has wrapped up, I once again wanted to share with you what we've been able to accomplish in the State Assembly over the past two years. I believe we have continued to put Wisconsin back on the right track through our reform efforts.

Our top goals were to decrease the tax burden and improve the economic climate. I believe we accomplished both. We cut taxes three times, including the largest income tax cut the state has had in over ten years. The private sector also created thousands of jobs, while the unemployment rate dropped to its lowest point since 2008. All of this was done while growing the state's rainy day fund to historic levels.

In addition, I was elected by my peers to serve as the Speaker Pro Tempore, the State Assembly's second highest constitutional position. My primary duty serving in this important leadership role is to preside over the Assembly during floor session debate. It has been an honor serving in this new capacity and something that I take very seriously.

Once again, in an effort to save taxpayer dollars, I've chosen to only distribute my newsletter electronically. Rather than print and mail it at taxpayer expense, it will be available to view in PDF format on my website: www.repaugust.com.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any question, concern, or comment you may have related to state government. My contact information is conveniently located on the left side of this page.

Sincerely,

**Tyler August**  
State Representative  
32nd District



**Proudly representing portions of Walworth, Kenosha, and Racine Counties**



# TYLER AUGUST

## 2013-15 STATE BUDGET

### Lowering the Tax Burden, Balancing the Budget

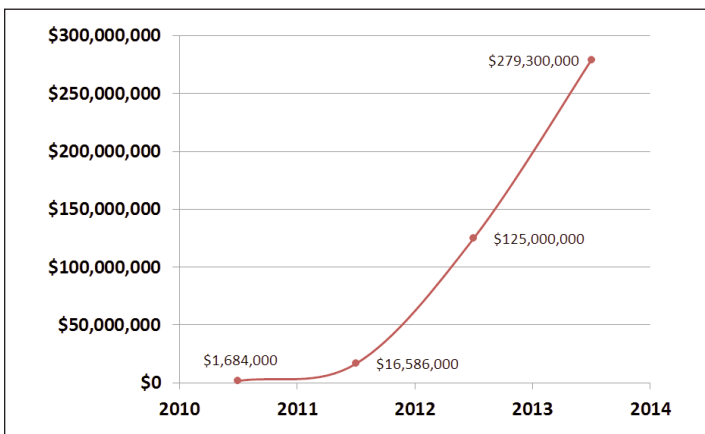
Perhaps the most significant bill the legislature votes on each session is the biennial state budget bill. As you may know, this year's budget was good news for taxpayers as it contained the largest income tax cut in 10 years. This was possible through our prudent management of state finances. We've transformed the budgeting process to more closely reflect the way any family or small business would run their budget. When I was first elected in 2010, our state was facing a \$3.6 billion deficit. Working with Governor Walker over the past two terms, we've managed to turn that deficit into a \$1 billion surplus. I feel strongly that the surplus was due to you, the taxpayers, overpaying – not that the government spends too little.

Therefore, we were able to enact a strong budget that accomplishes the following:

- \$650 million income tax cut, largest cut in 10 years
- Reduced bonding by over \$118 million
- Reduced the size of government by cutting 723 unneeded positions
- Enacted a two-year tuition freeze in the UW System, the first freeze in UW history.
- Grew the rainy day fund to the largest level in state history

I voted in favor of the budget bill because I felt it continued Wisconsin down the right path. I am hopeful we will be able to continue the trend of both reducing the size of government and the tax burden in future years as well.

### Rainy Day Fund Balance



### Tracking Your Tax Dollar

#### A breakdown of where each tax dollar comes from...



#### A breakdown of how each tax dollar was spent...





# TYLER AUGUST

## Reducing the Tax Burden & Improving the Economy

### Cutting Your Taxes

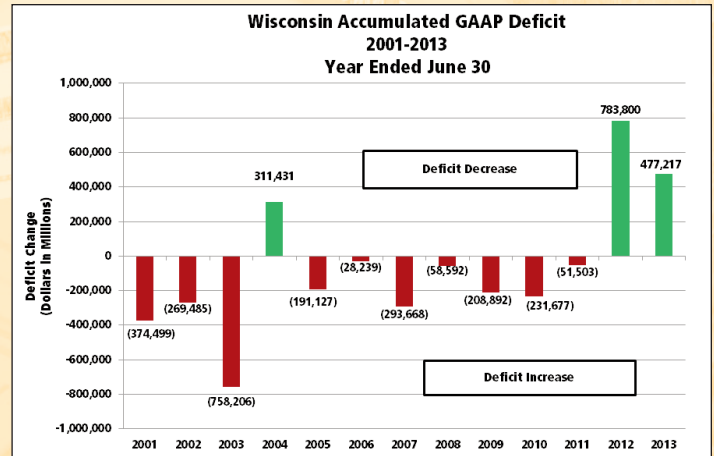
As a result of the responsible budget reforms we've enacted, this session we were able to cut taxes three times. In fact, everyone who pays taxes in Wisconsin will see a reduction in the amount of taxes they pay.

Specifically, we worked with Governor Walker to enact his "Blueprint for Prosperity," which resulted in over a billion dollars in tax relief in the form of reduced income and property taxes. For example, property taxes on the average Wisconsin home will see a \$131 reduction as a result of our action.

### Improving the Economy and Job Creation

One of our top priorities was to improve Wisconsin's economy. We understand that the private sector creates jobs, not the government. By improving the job creation environment for Wisconsin, we accomplished the following:

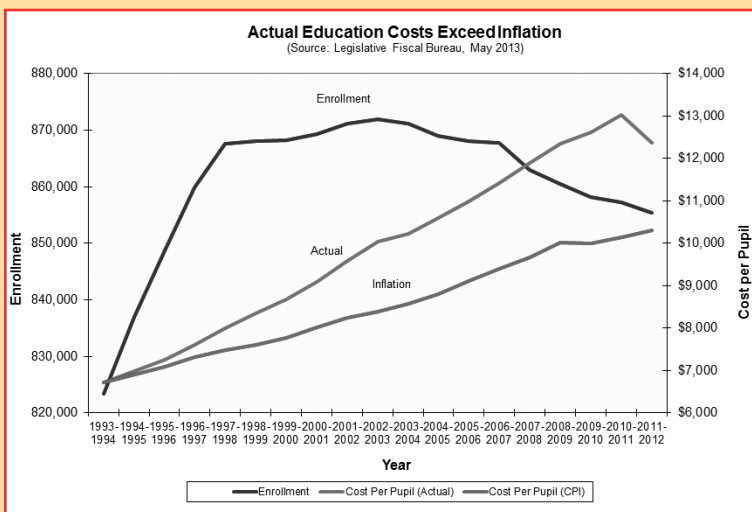
- 17,500 + new businesses
- 100,000 + new jobs
- Decrease in the unemployment rate (lowest since 2008)
- Ranked 5th Best for Manufacturing
- Enacted Mining Reform to Create Jobs
- Listened to the business community through the Right the Rules Project <http://righttherules.legis.wisconsin.gov>



### Unemployment Trend

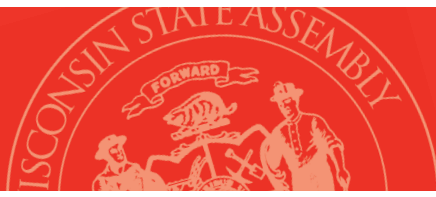


While the federal government sets overall economic growth through fiscal and monetary policy, our reforms in Wisconsin have put our state in a stronger position to grow local jobs, and compete with the other 49 states.  
Source: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).



## HOT TOPIC: K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

As of late, there has been much debate and discussion surrounding K-12 education funding in our state. Many have made claims that the funding does not keep pace with inflation and that we are doing a disservice to public education. Statistics show that this is not the case. As you can see from the graph to the left, K-12 education spending has far outpaced the rate of inflation over the previous 20 years. The public education system is responsible for developing our future generations, but like all other areas of government spending, the resources are not unlimited.



# TYLER AUGUST

## Legislation Tyler Authored

- **Balanced Budget Amendment**  
**AJR 81**

I co-authored a resolution with Rep. Kapenga (R-Delafield) that would add Wisconsin to a growing list of states that are proposing to draft an amendment to the US Constitution requiring the federal government to operate under a balanced budget. With the US debt exceeding \$17 trillion, it may take action from the states to stop the irresponsible and excessive spending at the federal level.

- **25% Cut to Licensing Fees**  
**AB 673**

As the former chairman of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing, I had the responsibility of examining how we license professions in Wisconsin. Through my office's research, I was able to discover that the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), which is responsible for licensing professions in Wisconsin, has been overcharging Wisconsin license holders. This is the result of an arbitrary fee hike made by Governor Doyle. Therefore, I authored a bill that would direct DSPS to cut fees by 25% for every license, which would bring the fees down to reflect the actual expenses that DSPS incurs.

- **Election of the Chief Justice**  
**AJR 67**

I co-authored this resolution with Rep. Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield) that would change the way Wisconsin's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is selected. Currently, our Chief Justice is based solely on seniority. Our resolution would

create a process to allow the Justices to select their leader by a peer vote. This process is actually used by 22 other states, including our neighboring states of Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan.

- **Retirement Income Tax Exemption**  
**AB 87**

Once again, I authored this bill with Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn), which would exempt retirement income from taxation. Our goal is to make Wisconsin a better place to retire for seniors who have already paid taxes their whole lives. Unfortunately, this bill did not pass this session, but I will continue to advocate for its passage next session.

- **Eliminating an Outdated Office**  
**AJR 48**

I co-authored a resolution with Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) that would eliminate the outdated office of state treasurer. Over the past two legislative sessions, Governor Walker and the Republican Legislature have moved duties of the treasurer into different areas of state government in an effort to increase efficiency and save tax dollars. In fact, the only remaining duty is for the treasurer to sit on a board. However the office costs taxpayers over \$1 million each biennium. Our resolution would amend the constitution to remove this office and would have to be approved by a statewide referendum vote.

- **Making it Harder to Raise Taxes**  
**AJR 79**

Working with Rep. Dean Knudson (R-Hudson), I co-authored a resolution

that would raise the threshold required to increase taxes. The resolution would require a two-thirds supermajority for any tax increase to pass, thus making it more difficult for future legislatures to raise taxes.

- **Drone Privacy Act**  
**SB 196**

I authored this bipartisan bill as a proactive step to protect our privacy. As drones become cheaper and more accessible, I wanted to ensure that there were clear boundaries of where these new technologies could be used. My legislation allows the use of drones in public places, but prohibits the use of drones where an individual would have a reasonable expectation of privacy. It also limits law enforcement's use to ensure our 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights are protected.



*Governor Walker signs the Drone Privacy Act into law, authored by Rep. August (center) and Senator Petrowski (right).*



# TYLER AUGUST

## Rep. August Elected Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore

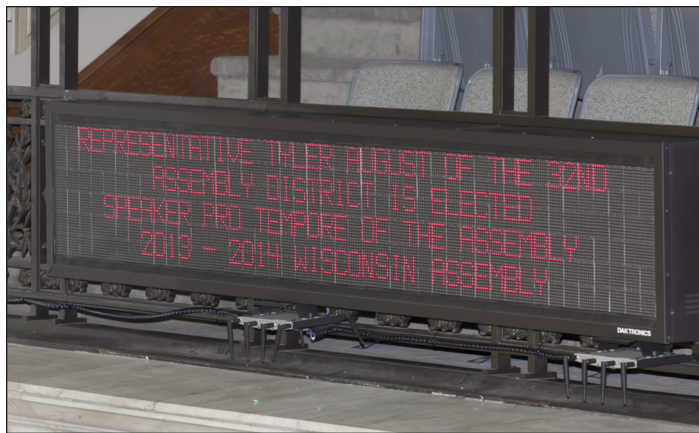
In September, I was elected by my peers to act as the next Speaker Pro Tempore of the State Assembly. As Speaker Pro Tempore, I act as the presiding officer during debate in the State Assembly.

I am humbled by the honor bestowed upon me by my colleagues. As Speaker Pro Tempore, my top priority has been ensuring the State Assembly runs efficiently and fairly.

The Speaker Pro Tempore is the second highest constitutional position in the Wisconsin State Assembly. This key leadership position is selected by all members of the State Assembly. I was elected by a unanimous vote. Pro Tempore is a Latin term for the phrase "for the time being." The main duty of the Speaker Pro Tem is to preside over the Assembly Chamber to ensure smooth and fair operation.



Rep. August is sworn in as the new Speaker Pro Tempore by Justice Gableman.



### Helpful Websites

- Wisconsin State Legislature ..... [www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us)
  - State of Wisconsin ..... [www.wisconsin.gov](http://www.wisconsin.gov)
  - Federal Government ..... [www.USA.gov](http://www.USA.gov)
  - Wisconsin Job Center ..... [www.jobcenterofwisconsin.com](http://www.jobcenterofwisconsin.com)
  - Wisconsin Tourism ..... [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com)
  - Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection ... [www.datcp.wi.gov](http://www.datcp.wi.gov)
  - Dept. of Veterans Affairs ..... [www.dva.state.wi.us](http://www.dva.state.wi.us)
  - No Call List ..... [www.nocall.wisconsin.gov](http://www.nocall.wisconsin.gov)
  - Wisconsin Eye ..... [www.wisconsinseye.com](http://www.wisconsinseye.com)
- Watch the Assembly and Senate floor sessions and committee hearings (live and recorded)

#### Federal Government Contacts

President Barack Obama  
202-456-1111  
[www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)

Senator Ron Johnson  
(414) 276-7282  
[www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact](http://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact)

Senator Tammy Baldwin  
(608) 264-5338  
[www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact)

Congressman Paul Ryan  
(262) 654-1901  
[paulryan.house.gov/contact](http://paulryan.house.gov/contact)

#### State Government Contacts

Governor Scott Walker  
(608) 266-1212  
[www.walker.wi.gov/content/contact-us](http://www.walker.wi.gov/content/contact-us)

Senator Neal Kedzie  
(608) 266-2635  
[www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen11/news/](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen11/news/)

Representative Tyler August  
(608) 266-1190  
[www.repaugust.com](http://www.repaugust.com)



# TYLER AUGUST

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

The 32nd Assembly District covers most of southeast Walworth County as well as small portions of Racine and Kenosha Counties. Below is a map of the district boundaries.

