

November 7, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

When I became Assembly Minority Leader, my goal was simple: to put our caucus in the best possible position to be successful in 2018 and beyond. The past eight years have been challenging for Democrats nationally. And with the most partisan drawn legislative districts in the country, it has been even more so for Assembly Democrats.

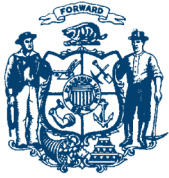
During my time in this position I have worked to make our caucus more focused, more effective, and more intentional with our collective efforts on messaging. Together, we made progress with our floor discipline and the quality of committee work. In the building and outside of the building, I have tried to raise expectations for our caucus and have asked all of you to step up and you responded.

The goal of the minority is to be in the majority and every election is an opportunity to work towards that goal. We knew about the obstacles we faced heading into the 2018 campaign, and unfortunately we were unable to overcome them. With that said, a large part of Tony Evers win over Governor Walker is a result of all the work you have done in holding Republicans accountable for their decisions. Governor-Elect Evers and our candidates around the state ran on the issues we have been pushing over the past several years. In fact, even the Republicans were running on our issues this cycle.

The election of a Democratic Governor dramatically changes our caucus's role despite being in the minority. Many of the bills needing legislative action, including the state budget, will likely require our support in order to pass. This presents an opportunity for all of us to positively impact decisions made in our state. Even more important, a Democratic Governor ensures that Wisconsin won't have rigged maps again in 2022. Remember, *every* Democrat running statewide in Wisconsin in 2018 won, yet Democrats ended up *losing* one legislative seat. This is exactly what the rigged maps were designed to ensure.

As we have experienced over the last decade, no one is going to hand us anything. Our job remains the same during good and bad times. And people are counting on us. The enthusiasm we saw across the state over the past few months has been inspiring. It is my hope that each and every one of us doubles our efforts this upcoming legislative session. Challenge yourself to seek new and innovative ways to reach your constituents. Work to create thorough, well-researched legislation utilizing our service agencies and seeking the expertise of advocacy groups. Communicate in a way that reflects your district and amplifies our caucus message. We are all fortunate to be in these positions of public trust. It is incumbent upon all of us to live up to that responsibility.

Twenty seven of our members have been elected since 2012. We have a younger caucus. We have a more diverse caucus. And now we have an opportunity to create an agenda that harnesses the energy of these new members and reflects the changing demographics of our state. I approach my role with an open mind and a desire to seek new paths forward. The Democratic Party of the future must be flexible enough to embrace the many opportunities these times afford us, while acknowledging the challenges we face as a state.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GORDON HINTZ**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

54th DISTRICT

Our caucus is a talented and hard-working group. I have been humbled by your response to my challenge and your commitment to our shared cause. I have tried to listen and take feedback, ideas, and criticism from each of you, and will continue to do so. It is an honor to be your leader and I look forward to continue steering the ship.

I am writing to ask for your vote to be Assembly Minority Leader. I seek this position with hope, confidence, and optimism that we will build on our successes. I will try to reach you in the coming days. If we miss each other, please feel free to contact me in my Madison office at 608-266-2254 or on my cell phone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Hintz".

Gordon Hintz  
State Representative  
54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District