



Representative Ripp with the Lodi Quilters Guild at the unveiling of their Capitol Christmas Tree Skirt.

KEITH RIPP

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State Representative

KEITH RIPP

2014 Capitol Update



SERVING THE 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Please Visit Wisconsin's Job Website!

I encourage you to take a look at the over 30,000 positions on Wisconsin's official jobs website, www.jobcenterofwisconsin.com or call (888)-258-9966. Upon registering, your resume and profile will be made available to potential employers and the state will e-mail job opportunities directly to you.

LEGISLATIVE E-UPDATE

I periodically send e-mail updates regarding legislative activities and issues I am working on. Please email me at Rep.Ripp@legis.wi.gov if you would like to receive these updates.



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

As Spring approaches, I am sure you are as excited as I am to be back outside walking and enjoying the warmer weather; this winter has been particularly cold! One of my favorite aspects about Wisconsin is the changing of the seasons because this state is truly unlike any other of its kind in the world. It brings new opportunities to explore the unsurpassed beauty of the state and to grow in every facet of life, including here at the State Capitol. I am so proud of the growth Wisconsin has accomplished over the past few years and I am confident in the direction we are heading.

As the 2013-2014 Legislative Session comes to a close, I look back on the last two years and the substantial improvements we have made. The State Legislature passed numerous beneficial pieces of legislation that make Wisconsin a better place for all its citizens. Our primary focus was to build on the smart fiscal decisions from last session and create a successful 2013-2015 Biennial Budget that focuses on cutting taxes, investing in education, and reforming our government system. This budget paves the way for boosting our economy and encourages job creation throughout the entire state by enacting one of the largest tax cuts in the history of Wisconsin. In addition, with the recent announcement of a \$911 million surplus by Governor Walker in his State of the State Address, over \$800 million of your hard-earned tax dollars will be returned to your pockets. I am excited about the future of our great state, and I am committed to working hard in order to ensure Wisconsin can continue moving forward.

In this newsletter, I review the 2013-2015 budget and highlight many pieces of legislation I introduced and passed this session. I am honored to serve the residents of the 42nd Assembly District, and am thankful for the chance to represent you in the State Capitol. One of my favorite jobs as your representative is assisting you and hearing your ideas on our wide variety of state issues. I would like to thank you for your support and taking the time out of your busy schedules to discuss your thoughts and concerns with me about improving our district and the state of Wisconsin. My door is always open so please do not hesitate to contact me as your voice in Madison.

Warmest regards,

Keith Ripp
Wisconsin State Representative
42nd Assembly District

KEEP IN TOUCH

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Transportation (Chair)
- Agriculture
- Small Business Development
- State Affairs and Government Operations
- State Fair Park Board
- Governor's Council on Highway Safety
- Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

Legislator of the Year



George Meyer, President of the Wildlife Federation, presenting Representative Ripp with the 2013 Conservation Legislator of the Year Award.

Helpful Toll-Free Numbers

- Telemarketer Do-Not-Call List(866) 9NO-CALL
- Consumer Protection Helpline(800) 422-7128
- Veterans Information.....(800) WIS-VETS
- SeniorCare Hotline(800) 657-2038
- State Park Reservations(888) WI-PARKS
- EdVest College Savings Hotline.....(888) 338-3789
- Wisconsin Farm Center(800) 942-2474

Helpful Websites

- Wisconsin State Legislaturewww.legis.state.wi.us
- State of Wisconsinwww.wisconsin.gov
- Federal Governmentwww.USA.gov
- Wisconsin Job Centerwww.jobcenterofwisconsin.com
- Wisconsin Tourism.....www.travelwisconsin.com
- Capitol Tours.....www.tours.wisconsin.gov
- Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection..www.datcp.wi.gov
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....www.dva.state.wi.us
- No Call List.....www.nocall.wisconsin.gov
- Online Blue Bookwww.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb
Everything you ever wanted to know about Wisconsin government
- Wisconsin Eyewww.wisconsineye.com
Watch the Assembly and Senate floor sessions and committee hearings (live and recorded)
- Legislative Updateswww.legis.wisconsin.gov/spotlight
Weekly updates on recent legislative activity and an option to sign up to track specific proposals

2014 Area Summer Fairs for our District

- July 9-13:**
Marquette County Fair
Westfield, WI
- July 10-13:**
Lodi Ag Fair • Lodi, WI
- July 16-20:**
Dane County Fair
Madison, WI
- July 16-20:**
Fond du Lac County Fair
Fond du Lac, WI
- July 23-27:**
Columbia County Fair
Portage, WI
- July 31-August 3:**
Green Lake County Fair
Green Lake, WI
- July 31-August 10:**
Wisconsin State Fair
West Allis, WI
- August 6-7:**
Alto Fair • Waupun, WI
- August 13-17:**
Dodge County Fair
Beaver Dam, WI

Ripp has four bills signed into law

Law will streamline sary," Ripp said. "This bill ensures that students and



Rep. Ripp speaking before the full Assembly.

Legislative Goals Accomplished

✓ AJR 2: In the past, repeated raids of the Transportation Fund to pay for unrelated, ongoing state expenses detracted from the fund's intended purpose and eroded public confidence. This joint resolution ensures that funds collected for transportation purposes

are used as intended. It was passed out of both legislative bodies in two consecutive sessions and will appear as a question on the 2014 ballot.

✓ AB 41: This bill creates a competitive local freight bridge improvement program within the DOT to help local governments upgrade or replace their bridges. Local governments would work with local industries to identify bridges on high-priority routes that are an impediment to their transportation operations. They would then file applications with DOT for assistance in upgrading bridges.

✓ SB 155: This bill combines the Wisconsin No Call List with the Federal Trade Commission No Call List. With this combination, consumers will no longer have to call the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection every two years to be placed on Wisconsin's list. One call by the consumer registers their number on the federal list permanently for the remainder of time that number is in service or associated with the current consumer.

✓ SB 258: offers a fix to 2011 Wisconsin Act 179 (2011 Assembly Bill 259) which created standards and guidelines for participants of any youth athletic activity to submit a concussion and head injury information sheet. In practice, current law requires a three-season sport student to fill out the sheet three times in one year and requires the school district to keep track of all three sheets. This bill changes the

requirement so only one sheet needs to be filled out per student per year.

✓ AB 592: Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in deed-processing schemes that target new and existing home-owners. Homeowners receive official-looking notices recommending they obtain a deed to their home in order to confirm their ownership in the property for a fee of \$80-\$90. However, these deeds are often readily available for almost no cost from the local Register of Deeds. This bill will hopefully cut down on the number of these scams that occur in Wisconsin.

✓ AB 600: In the private sector, one of the most direct ways to increase prospective business in the food and beverage industry is by offering samples at Trade Shows. Under current law, a manufacturer, rectifier, or wholesaler of intoxicating liquor may furnish taste samples free of charge, but a winery cannot. This bill adds wineries to the list of acceptable furnishers, cutting back on red tape and promoting winery expansion.

✓ AB 601: This bill allows underage persons to participate in a tour of the wine-making process with or without a parent present, allowing those persons to attend with extended family and/or friends. While this bill does not allow underage persons to taste samples, it gives them an opportunity to spend time with their families looking for activities that everyone can enjoy together.

Transportation and Implements of Husbandry Legislation (SB 509)

Over the past thirty years, agricultural equipment (implements of husbandry) has significantly increased in size and complexity. The newer, larger equipment brought the benefits of increased efficiency and capacity, but state statutes have not kept up with the changes. At the same time, there has also been a broad misconception that because agricultural equipment is exempt from registration requirements with the Department of Transportation, it is also exempt from laws governing weight and size. In fact, the equipment is now and has always been limited to the same weight limits that apply to any other vehicle on the road.

This misconception led to widespread lack of enforcement to the extent that many if not most farming operations now own one or more pieces of equipment that exceed current statutory limits for operating on a roadway.

Over the past year, I have worked with the IoH Working Group, the Legislature, DOT, DATCP, and stakeholders in the industry to find a solution to this ever-increasing issue. SB 509 is the culmination of that effort. The purpose of the bill is to ensure the continued success of agriculture and grow our economy by updating our statutes to reflect modern standards in the industry. We must balance the need for increased weight and capacity with the need to maintain public safety and manage impacts on infrastructure.

As the state of our Transportation system becomes an increasing concern, we need to make sure that we continue to protect the taxpayer investments in our infrastructure. As Transportation Chairman in the Assembly, I am dedicated to working with my colleagues and stakeholders to find a long-term solution. This Implements of Husbandry legislation is a significant step in the right direction for long-term sustainability of our roadways.

Some of the major provisions in the bill include:

1. Deletes outdated and unworkable restrictions on farming operations that prohibit use of agricultural equipment at night and on weekends.
2. Increases the total weight and axle weight allowed for agricultural operators by 15% above current law.
3. Creates a no-fee permit for overweight equipment that operators can submit to state and local governments on an annual basis. The bill also gives towns and counties the ability to opt out of requiring farmers to get the permit.
4. Maintains local control over county and municipal roads while providing accountability for the industry by requiring regulators to show cause in writing for any route denial.



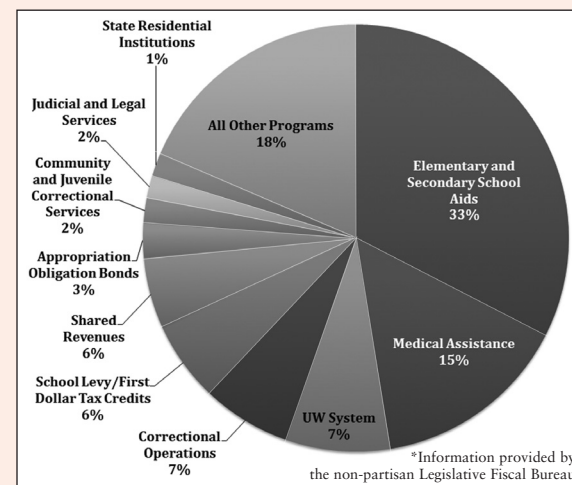
Keith working on his livestock and grain farm.

The state of Wisconsin is required by our Constitution to balance the budget every two years. With the tough fiscal choices we made last session, we turned a \$3.6 billion deficit into a \$1 billion surplus. These hard decisions enable us to focus on future challenges and to continue moving Wisconsin forward in this session's budget.

Education remains our top priority and continues to be Wisconsin's largest funded program with 33% of the budget going toward elementary and secondary school aids. This includes over \$250 million in additional funds for public schools. We also focused on transportation by providing a 4% increase for mass transit and general transportation road aids to counties beginning in 2015, and a 4% increase for the distribution and mileage aid rate for municipalities. We reduced the number of vulnerable residents in our state by hundreds of thousands, enabling Wisconsin to remain a national leader in insuring its residents.

We also continue to foster an environment for small business owners to expand their businesses by stabilizing the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and decreasing taxes by nearly \$1 billion. I have no doubt that this budget will help the private sector create jobs and will encourage economic growth.

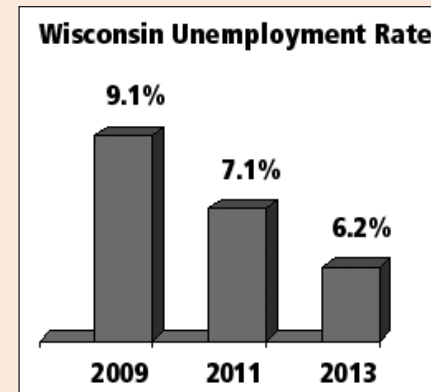
2013-2015 Budget Spells Success for Wisconsin



Wisconsin's Economic Prosperity

Wisconsin's economic prosperity is growing! As you can see below, our unemployment rates here in Wisconsin have continued to decrease to a rate of 6.2 percent in 2013, below the national average of 6.7 percent. We have also dramatically increased the dollars available in our Rainy Day Fund, ensuring protection for our state in a bigger way than past legislatures. Wisconsin's budget is balanced and we have a projected \$977 million surplus at end of biennium. Wisconsin is moving in the right direction and our tough decisions continue to benefit our state's hardworking citizens.

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.

Rainy Day Fund

