

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVE DOYLE

SERVING WISCONSIN'S 94th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Capitol News



Friends and Neighbors,

Staying in touch with you is an important part of my job as your State Representative. As we begin 2013, I want to update you on some of the issues that we are currently debating in the Legislature.

This e-Newsletter is designed to be an informative resource for constituents such as yourself to learn more about my work in the Legislature, current events affecting the state and happenings around the district. Maintaining an open dialogue with my constituents is important and this e-Newsletter is a place for you to voice your thoughts on issues that affect you, the district, and the great people of Wisconsin.

Despite the challenges of a highly partisan political environment, I am hopeful for the future. My focus remains on our community and what I can do to help improve the quality of life for you and your family. I am proud to represent you and I remain committed to finding solutions that best serve you, my constituents and the

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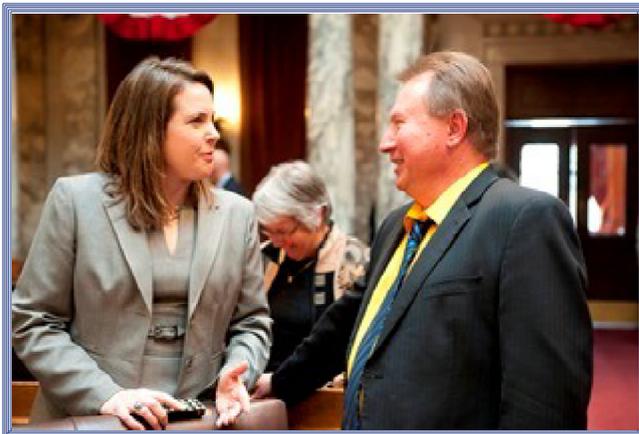


In The District

people of Wisconsin. Thank you for the privilege to serve as your State Representative.

Sincerely,

STEVE DOYLE
State Representative
94th Assembly District



Rep. Steve Doyle and Rep. Dianne Hesselbein discuss an upcoming bill on dental coverage

STATE BUDGET

On February 20, the Governor presented his 2013-2015 biennial budget to a joint session of the Legislature. While a lot of discussion has focused on the partisan aspects of the budget, I'd like to focus on the facts of what this budget proposal really means for the people of western Wisconsin.

This session's budget includes several provisions which have the potential to help Wisconsin get on the right track. For example, the Governor proposes to add \$5.3 million to improve the long-term solvency of the Veterans Trust Fund, which is used for nearly all of the State's veterans' programs. Our 9,700 veterans in La Crosse County deserve this and more. In terms of higher education, a proposed \$181.35 million increase in funding to the UW-system could mean an end to the years of frozen salaries and bring much-needed funding stability to the program.

Another proposal that could begin to rebuild our Wisconsin economy is the plan to increase the tourism budget by \$1.6 million. Tourism is a \$16 billion business here in the Dairy State, and this increase is a good investment considering that every



Barre Bowling Blast

March 9, 11 am -6:30 pm
Features Sports Bar and Grill, 1425
W. Hwy 16, West Salem, WI
(608) 786-9000

*All proceeds go to the Lions
Foundations and Area Communities.*
Contact Features Sports Bar and Grill
to sign up your team.

Holmen Business Association (HBA) Expo

March 10th, 11am
Holmen High School, 1001 Mchugh
Road, Holmen, WI

*Over 60 vendor booths,
entertainment, children's center, food
court and door prizes.*

LCT Presents "The Dining Room"

March 8 - 24, 7:30 pm: Thursdays,
Fridays, and Saturdays. 2 pm:
Sundays.

*A comedy about family, life and you
average dining room.*
La Crosse Community Theatre
Website

dollar of advertising produces six dollars of revenue and 1 in every 13 jobs in our state is sustained by tourism activity.

There are also some very serious concerns raised by parts of the budget. The most controversial issue has been the proposal to increase taxpayer funding for private voucher schools by \$94 million, a 29% increase. This means a per-pupil increase of taxpayer funding for these unaccountable private schools. In comparison, our public schools will receive an increase of less than inflation and the budget freezes all spending for public school districts.

This increase in voucher funding could not have come at a worse time for our local schools, which are already struggling to make ends meet with their funding. In the Onalaska School District, the average student receives \$4,708 in state aid which is \$1,734 less than the amount received by the average voucher student. In West Salem, students receive \$236 less than their voucher school counterparts. The math here is not that complicated: we simply cannot keep decreasing the funds for public schools and expect them to be able to compete with these taxpayer-supported voucher schools which are bound by a different set of rules.

In addition to the voucher proposal, I also worry about funding for our state's technical college system in this budget. Technical college funding would be set to increase at \$5 million per year, a far cry from the funds needed to replace the \$72 million cut from last year's budget. In a time when people are so desperate for work that they are returning to school for training, we are short-changing them of the quality education they need and deserve. Just as alarming are the planned reductions to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the homestead credit, which are designed to help those we frequently refer to as the working poor.

One of the more serious concerns I have with the budget is a financial one. As it stands right now, the budget is not a balanced budget. Using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), Wisconsin will have a \$2 billion structural deficit at the end of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 and a \$2.644 billion structural deficit by the end of 2014-2015. At a time when we are encouraging people and local governments to spend within their means, the least we can do in State government is to follow that same advice.

In the coming weeks, my colleagues and I will be closely reviewing the Governor's proposal and focusing on the facts in order to better understand the exact implications of the plan. The introduction of the Governor's proposal is just the first step in the budget process. The next step will be when the Joint Finance Committee takes up the proposal and debates the merits of each

Celebrate West Salem Business Expo

March 17th, 11 am - 3 pm
West Salem High School, 405 East
Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI

*Local businesses, civic organization
and local educational institutions
come together to honor our
community and exhibit their product
and services.*

Heider Center Presents "Robert Baca Jazz Orchestra

March 25th, 7:30 pm
Heider Center, 405 E. Hamlin Street
West Salem, WI

*Part concert, part history lesson, an
part entertainment.*
www.heidercenter.org

Coulee Region Chill Hockey

March 1st and 2nd, 7pm
March 8th, 5 pm
March 9th, 8 pm
March 30th, 7 pm

Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road,
Onalaska, WI
Coulee Region Chill Website

**If you have any changes to these
events or new ones that you want
featured in my e-newsletter, send
them to me at
rep.dovle@legis.wisconsin.gov.**

appropriation. I encourage you to continue to contact me on budgetary issues of concern to you throughout the entire process.

LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN 2013

Bipartisanship is the new buzzword



Rep. Steve Doyle being sworn in for his second term by Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson

Bipartisanship is the theme for the upcoming legislative session in 2013. In the last election, voters sent the message loud and clear that they are demanding that we work together. Is it possible? Absolutely, if both sides are willing to make the effort. Is it probable? That depends upon whether the Governor, 99 State Representatives, and 33 Senators are willing to set aside partisan differences to focus on areas of common interest to solve the most important problems facing our state. The election is over. It's time to work together.

While the nation as a whole adds jobs every month, Wisconsin is lagging far behind. According to Forbes Magazine, Wisconsin has sunk to 42nd in the country for business climate. They suggest that our "results have been middling at best as job growth is projected to be second worst in the U.S. through 2016." We need to turn that trend around as soon as possible. A focus on job creation needs to be the first priority on every Wisconsin legislator's agenda. In fact, the first bill I will introduce is my jobs bill from last session that passed unanimously at the committee level. This proposal will allow Technical Colleges to use an existing popular grant program to teach business diversification. It will help Wisconsin small businesses compete and expand in a global economy, completing the circle in our efforts to find new jobs for displaced workers. Best of all, it does so without adding a dollar of spending.

Technical Colleges, along with our universities, are at the front

In The Legislature

Legislative Committees

Assembly Committee on Corrections -
Ranking Member

Assembly Committee on Insurance

Assembly Committee on Tourism

Assembly Committee on
Transportation



Hometown Heroes



Do you know someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help out our community? Then nominate them to be featured in my new weekly section "Hometown Heroes."

Just send a picture and a short description of why you think this person is a "Hometown Hero" as well

line for training workers for jobs that require diverse skill sets to keep up with the changing economy. Last session, with a budget deficit, the state made massive cuts in education at all levels. I'm glad to hear the Governor talk about trying to restore some of the cuts to higher education and our K-12 schools. Strong public education is the start of a trained work force, ensuring that everyone is contributing to a growing economy.

One issue that calls for bipartisan cooperation to create jobs is iron ore mining in northern Wisconsin. A balanced mining bill has the potential to create thousands of jobs while ensuring that the Department of Natural Resources has the ability to protect our environment. As you may know, the current mining proposal AB 1 is virtually identical to the bill from the last legislative session, known as AB 426. Even with the new amendments, it appears that some legislators feel that corporate profits are more important than clean drinking water for our children, protection of pristine and irreplaceable wildlife habitat and an open and transparent process for granting mining permits. This is not the way to conduct business or create jobs. I will continue to monitor the progress of this bill as well as the alternative proposals.

There are 14 new Democratic members of the Assembly and 11 new Republican members. All that new blood could help create a different environment in Madison that would lead to more efficiency and bipartisanship. I am looking forward to getting to know these new people who have chosen to give their time to public service and making Wisconsin a great place to live. I feel optimistic that we can focus on job creation and put aside petty bickering. It is what the people who have elected us expect. Now let's get to work.

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as contact information for both you and the person to rep.doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Each week I will showcase one of these heroes on my website and here on **facebook** and send them a certificate of appreciation on behalf of myself and the whole community.

Ordinary people to extraordinary things every day. Let's take a moment to thank them for their service.

You can also write to me in Madison with your recommendations.

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