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# HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

## Capitol Update By Senator Howard Marklein November 25, 2015

### *Listening Sessions, Surveys and Daily Communications*

As your State Senator, I have many ways to connect with the residents of the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District to seek input, listen to concerns, share information and provide assistance. Whether I am attending a Towns Association meeting, hosting a listening session or reading emails, I am always seeking input from the people I represent.

If there is one thing I have learned in the last 11 months, it is that the opinions and preferences of the people of the 17<sup>th</sup> District are diverse and run the gambit. Every issue we have discussed has generated a lot of interest, ideas and conversation. The 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District is engaged.

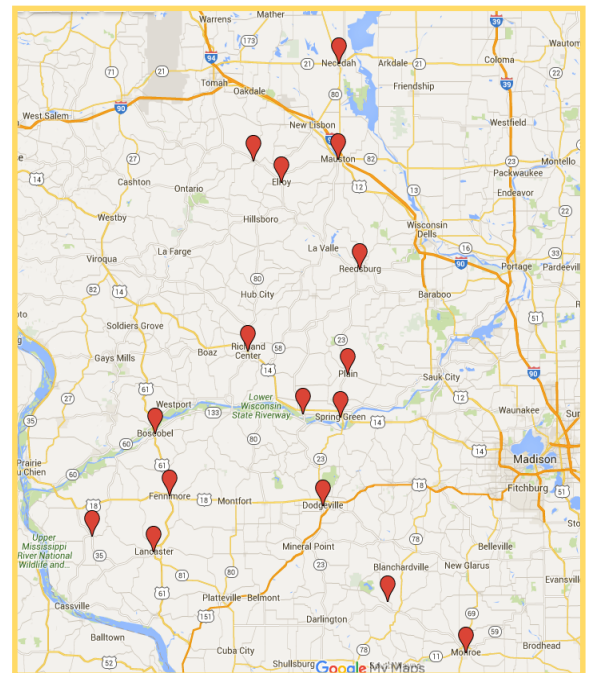
In September and October, I was honored to host 16 listening sessions throughout the district. At least 145 people attended these sessions and shared their ideas, input and concerns. I was also able to distribute Blue Books and Highway Maps at these events to many residents.

During this same timeframe, I also sought input via a survey that was distributed on my E-Update and was printed in several local newspapers. Following, you will find the results of the survey.

Overall, 625 people completed the survey, which is .3% of the 170,000 residents of the district. Many of the same people attended listening sessions. I appreciate the interest and time they shared with me. I hope that we will see increased participation in the political process over the next several years.

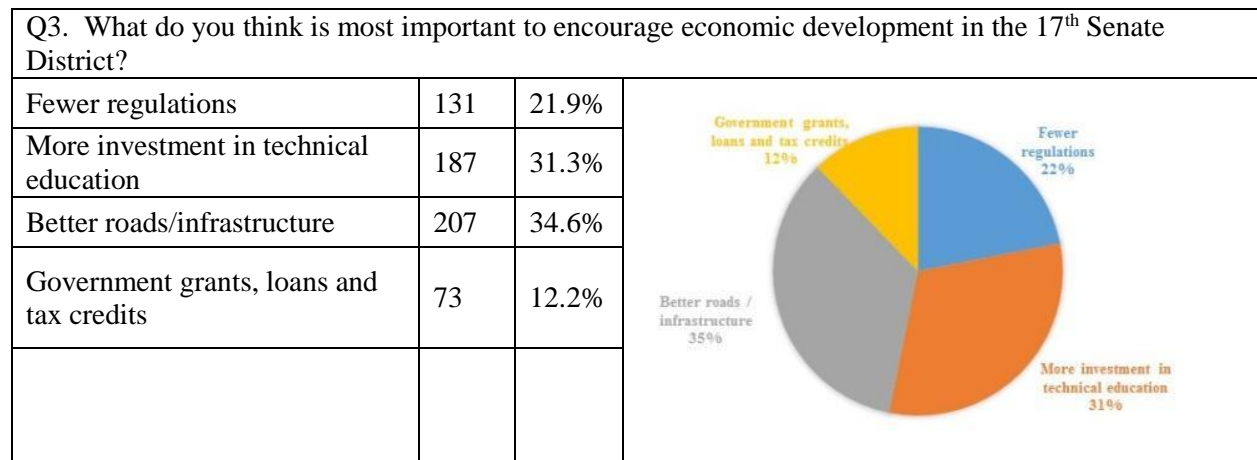
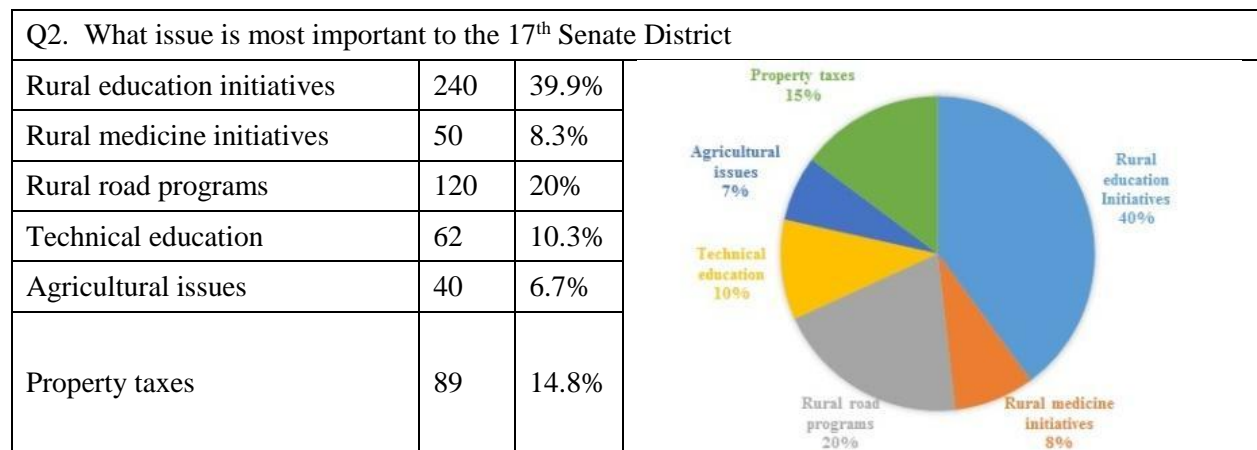
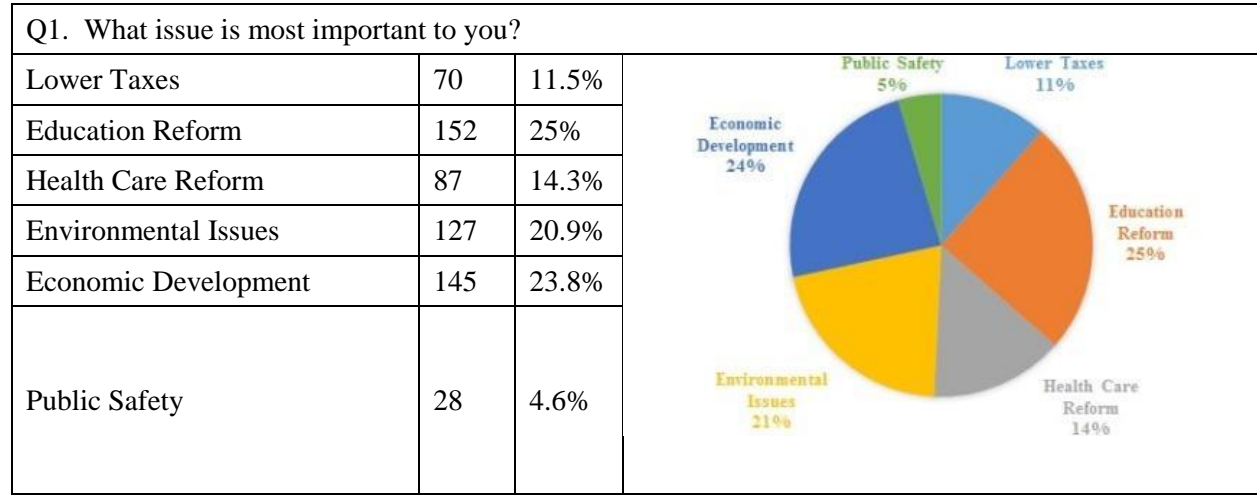
I also appreciate the daily emails and phone calls I receive from residents, as well as the individual conversations I have during meetings and events throughout the district. Combining all of this input with research and my own ideas, I feel like I am representing the residents of the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District with a competent approach.

While I know not everyone will agree with every vote I cast, I have made a strong effort to seek information and input while doing my own homework. I welcome your ideas and will consider your

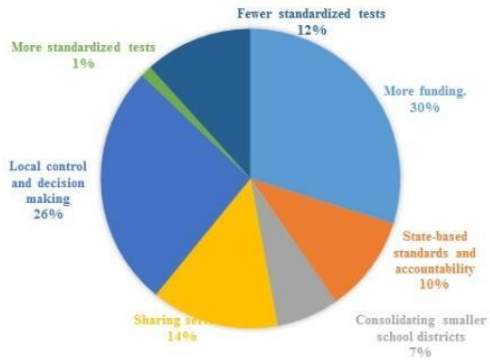


**Listening Session locations.**

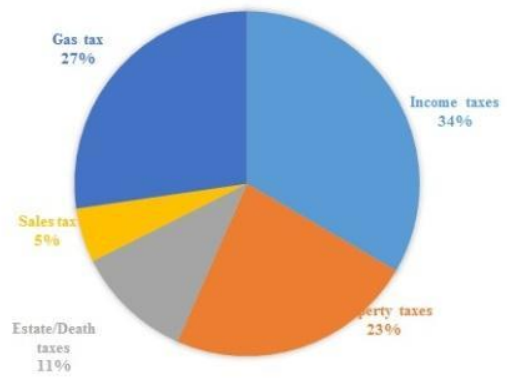
concerns as I seek more information and study the proposals that come before the Senate. Thank you, to all residents of the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District, who participate in the legislative process.



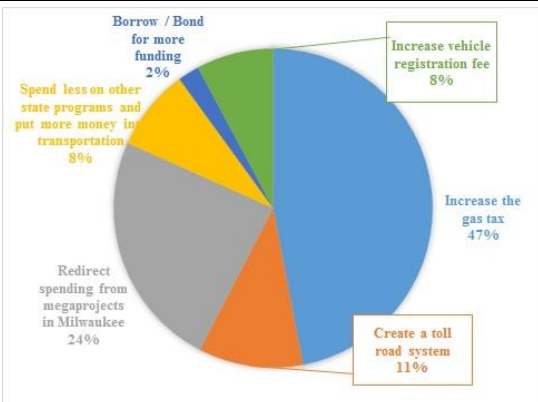
Q4. How can we best improve public education in Wisconsin? (Two top ideas)		
More funding	353	57%
State-based standards and accountability	124	20%
Consolidating smaller school districts	80	12.9%
Sharing services	163	26.3%
Local control and decisions making.	310	50.1%
More standardized tests	14	2.3%
Fewer standardized tests	138	22.3%



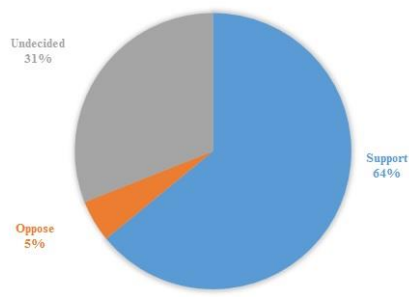
Q5. Which taxes need reform?		
Income taxes	195	33.4%
Property taxes	135	23.2%
Estate/Death taxes	64	11%
Sales tax	30	5.1%
Gas tax	159	27.3%



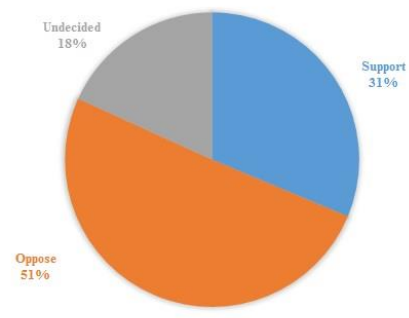
Q6. How should we pay for road construction?		
Increase the gas tax	283	47%
Create a toll road system	64	10.6%
Redirect spending from megaprojects in Milwaukee	145	24.1%
Spend less on other state programs and put more money into transportation	50	8.3%
Borrow / Bond for more funding	13	2.2%
Increase vehicle registration fee	47	7.8%



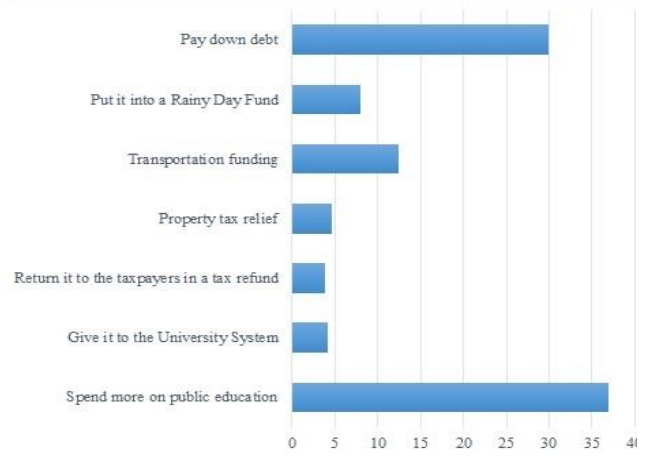
Q7. Do you support or oppose legislation that would require our state government to use Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for our finances and budgeting?		
Support	390	64%
Oppose	30	4.9%
Undecided	189	31%



Q8. Do you support or oppose reforming the Government Accountability Board?		
Support	191	31.3%
Oppose	308	50.5%
Undecided	111	18.2%



Q9. If there is a future budget surplus, how should Wisconsin use those funds?		
Spend more on public education	226	36.9%
Give it to the University System	25	4.1%
Return it to the taxpayers in a tax refund	24	3.9%
Property tax relief	29	4.7%
Transportation funding	76	12.4%
Put it into a Rainy Day fund	49	8%
Pay down debt	183	29.9%



For more information and to connect with me, visit my website <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/17/marklein> and subscribe to my weekly E-Update by sending an email to [Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov). Do not hesitate to call 800-978-8008 if you have input, ideas or need assistance with any state-related matters.