



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Summary of Joint Legislative Council Mail Ballot

[Results will be tabulated and available after March 26, 2014]

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Council recommend establishment of seven Special Committees and appointment of their chairs and vice-chairs as follows:

1. Special Committee on Adoption Disruption and Dissolution
[Representative Joel Kleefisch, Chair, and Representative Fred Kessler, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee shall study the extent of adoption disruption and dissolution in Wisconsin and the efforts in Wisconsin to prevent it. The committee shall consider legislative options such as preventing disruptions and dissolutions and meeting the needs of adoptive children and parents if this occurs. The committee shall also consider options for tracking the number of and reasons for such adoption issues.

2. Special Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives, and Diversions
[Representative Garey Bies, Chair, and Representative Evan Goyke, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review the 50+ courts currently in operation in Wisconsin that utilize nontraditional adjudication methods, the effect they have on recidivism, and the net fiscal impact of these courts. The committee shall examine courts, such as veterans courts, drug and alcohol courts, mental health courts, and drunk driving courts, in Wisconsin and nationally and consider: (a) effectiveness of existing problem-solving courts in Wisconsin in reducing recidivism, the costs to administer these courts, and the savings realized; (b) best

practices of existing problem-solving courts, both in Wisconsin and elsewhere, and potential implementation of these practices at the state level; (c) efforts to establish problem-solving courts that serve multiple counties, impediments to these efforts, and potential changes to improve regionalization of such courts; and (d) appropriate role and structure of state-level training and coordination.

3. Special Committee on the Review of Criminal Penalties

[Senator Glenn Grothman, Chair, and Representative Rob Hutton, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review the penalties for misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses. The committee shall: determine whether current misdemeanor or low-level felony penalties are appropriate; whether any crimes should be classified; and whether any offenses are outdated or should be decriminalized.

4. Special Committee on the Review of Tax Incremental Financing

[Representative Chad Weininger, Chair, and Senator Rick Gudex, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study and review the intent behind tax incremental financing (TIF) laws and how the TIF laws are utilized by cities, villages, towns, and counties. The committee shall also evaluate current TIF laws and recommend legislation that could improve their effectiveness and study how they impact a local governmental unit's finances and property taxes; economic and community development; and job growth.

5. Special Committee on the Review of Wisconsin Technical College System Funding and Governance

[Representative John Nygren, Chair, and Senator Sheila Harsdorf, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review the current governance model of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) in the interest of transferring governance responsibilities of local district boards to the state WTCS Board and examine the current funding model for the WTCS with a preference toward reassigning current local property tax revenue to a broader state tax source.

6. Special Committee on the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) Program

[Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, and Representative Mary Czaja, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study the SAGE program; whether there are alternatives to current class size limitations that would allow schools to achieve the aims of SAGE; and whether the Department of Public Instruction should be authorized to waive the class size limitations in a school that implements alternative interventions, or to otherwise provide funds and assistance for alternatives to class size limitations.

7. Special Committee on Transfer of Structured Settlement Payments

[Representative Jim Ott, Chair, and Representative Dana Wachs, Vice-Chair]

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to do the following: (a) review the current method by which structured settlement payments are transferred in Wisconsin; (b) examine statutes regulating the practice in other states and under federal law; and (c) recommend a statute for adoption in Wisconsin that governs transfers of structured settlement payments. The committee shall consider items such as standards for disclosure of information to structured settlement recipients by entities seeking to purchase future settlement payments, the ability of parents and guardians to enter into structured settlements on behalf of minor children, and guidelines for use by judges in approving the transfer of structured settlement agreements.

**BIENNIAL APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS**

The Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Council recommend that Representative Jeffrey Mursau serve as Chair and Senator Kathleen Vinehout serve as Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

SCOPE: The committee is directed to study issues relating to American Indians and the American Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues. [s. 13.83 (3), Stats.]

2014 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SYMPOSIA SERIES

Symposia Series on Personal Property Tax

[Representative Duey Stroebel, Chair, and Senator Tom Tiffany, Vice Chair]

Scope of Symposia Series: The Steering Committee for the symposia series on personal property tax is directed to conduct information symposia and develop recommendations regarding the state's personal property tax. The Steering Committee shall study the fiscal effect of the personal property tax and personal property tax exemptions, the constitutional concerns that may arise in the context of personal property tax reform, and the administrative and compliance costs associated with personal property taxation; and shall develop recommendations, in the form of a committee report, for personal property tax reform.

Symposia Series on Supporting Healthy Early Brain Development

[Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair, and Senator Alberta Darling, Vice Chair]

Scope of Symposia Series: The Steering Committee for the Symposia Series on Supporting Healthy Early Brain Development is directed to conduct information symposia regarding: (a) research on the impact of early brain development on lifetime physical and mental health, educational achievement, and economic security and the factors that hinder or promote healthy early brain development; (b) policy initiatives implemented in other states that are intended to positively influence early brain development; and (c) relevant programs and initiatives currently in place in Wisconsin. The Steering Committee shall also develop policy recommendations designed to improve the early brain development of Wisconsin's infants and young children.