

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



## COMMUNITY ALERT

**Community  
Brainstorming  
Conference  
April 25th**

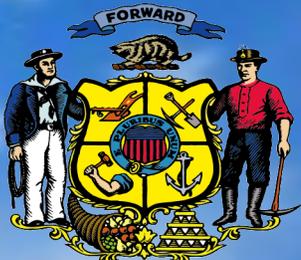
**St. Matthew  
Church**

2944 N 9th St,  
Milwaukee, WI  
8:00am

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always,  
I'm Here to  
Serve



## Walker's Wisconsin Success Story Is Just That, A Story

Walker has been widely recognized as a stringent conservative who has brought Wisconsin into the forefront of the national spotlight. However, his claim to fame is due to a number of contentious and divisive legislative and political acts that will impact Wisconsin long after he has moved on. Whether on the campaign trail or in office, Walker looks the community dead in the eye, says one thing and does another. His repeated attempts to harm seniors through continued efforts to cut SeniorCare, refusal to take the Medicaid expansion funds from the federal government, limits to worker's rights, and efforts to take a portion of life insurance benefits from the children of a parent who received indigent burial assistance are simply shameful. Further attempts to disguise the more than \$2 Billion in budget deficits, by acts of imitation benevolence such as the creation of the UW Authority, which would remove \$300 million dollars from the state's responsibilities. The proposed drug testing of FoodShare, Badger-Care, and some unemployment applicants, but lack of a real treatment plan that outlines providers, funding and adequate scope of testing, is just another attempt to manage the budget by limiting the number of residents we serve.



## Joint Finance Committee Holds First Votes



The Joint Finance Committee met on Wednesday, April 15 and Friday April 17 for its first votes on Governor Walker's 2015-2017 Biennial budget proposal. The committee was set to tackle the proposal to eliminate the Judicial Council and to move the Judicial Commission to the Supreme Court; however, both were removed from the budget proposal. On Wednesday, the committee voted unanimously in support of the Governor's budget proposal to cut money and two positions from the Secretary of State's Office. Also, the committee voted to approve the creation of a state-wide coordinator for problem-solving courts to help improve the state's justice system. However, the vote did not allocate any new funding for the position, leaving the agency to fund the position with its own resources. Friday included a vote to unanimously tie 30% of Wisconsin's Technical College's state funding to their success in training and placing workers in high-demand fields.



## Mother's Day Activities

### Milwaukee Zoo:

Moms get in free on May 10th

### Milwaukee Public Museum:

Moms get in free On May 10th

### Senator Taylor's Office

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Contact Us!

We Enjoy Hearing From You!



## 2nd Annual Divine Nine "Lunch with Legislators"

The Wisconsin Divine Nine is a collaborative organization of nine historically African-American, international Greek lettered fraternities and sororities. Founded during the early 20th century at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, they numbers are total nearly three million members world-wide. From pioneering work in the Suffrage movement, to life-changing social and community initiatives, members of these organizations share a proud and vital history of service. Nationally, Divine Nine members include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch, currently nominated by President Obama as his next attorney general, and Michael Jordan, to name just a few. Currently in the State Capitol, colleagues and staff that are members of the Divine Nine, include Sen. Lena Taylor, Sen. Nikiya Harris-Dodd, Rep. Mandela Barnes, and Policy Director Michelle Bryant. During their Day at the Capitol, the group will attend panel discussions on education, civil rights/social justice, and strengthening families.



## Walker's Budget to Raise Taxes by \$48 million

An analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau finds that Gov. Scott Walker's budget raises taxes and fees by \$48 million. Walker faces a budget shortfall of at least \$2.2 billion. Although he's greatly reduced education expenditures and other government services since taking office, he's offset the resulting budget gains with massive tax cuts to the very wealthy and giveaways to his corporate backers. Most of the tax increase, \$22 million, is Walker's proposal to delay implementation of a law that expanded when retailers could claim certain sales tax reductions for bad debt. That law is set to begin in July 2015 but Walker is calling for it not to take effect until 2017. This follows the Governor's track record of proposing and implementing radical new legislation without having to consider the immediate effects. Walker's budget would also increase annual state park vehicle admission fees by \$3 and nightly camping fees by \$2, raising \$1.9 million annually.



## Wise Words of the Week!

*"I never worry about the problem. I worry about the solution."- Shaquille O'Neal*