

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



### COMMUNITY ALERT

#### African American History Month Celebration

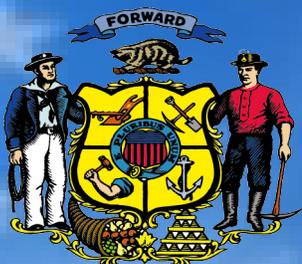
For the entire month of February my office has sponsored a Black History display in the Capitol

First Week in February The African American Historical Society of Wisconsin will feature a display of the African American experience

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 !



### STATE SUPERINTENDENT DISPLEASED WITH REPUBLICANS EDUCATION PLAN

Follow the release of the Assembly's version of the new school accountability legislation, State Superintendent Tony Evers suggest lawmakers, "hit the pause button" and consider the main purpose of the bill. Superintendent Evers stated

that the sanctions outlined in the Assembly bill that are supposed to motivate underperforming schools, focus on punishing schools rather than improving the quality of education. Mr. Evers shared limited support for the Senate's version of the school accountability legislation as it would assign a letter grade to schools, but it lacks the penalties suggested by the Assembly. Mr. Evers said that he agreed with Gov. Walker that local governments should be in control of responding to underperforming schools. Stating that, "I think simplicity is a good idea, and I think the governor and I see eye to eye on this."



### WALKER REJECTS NEW CASINO PROPOSAL



On Friday January 23rd, Gov. Walker rejected the bid of the Menominee Tribe to build a Hard Rock Casino in Kenosha. Walker cited a "comprehensive review of potential economic impact" and came to the conclusion that the risk to state taxpayers was "too great." The Menominee Tribe and Hard Rock International expressed their frustrations, blaming the Potawatomi tribe and Walker's presidential ambitions for the rejection of their bid. Laurie Boivin, Menominee Chairwomen, stated, "It is our belief that this project would have improved the lives of nearly 9,000 members of the Tribe. Instead, one Tribe – the Forest County Potawatomi and the one goal of Governor Walker – the Presidency, has led to no for our people." In response Forest County Potawatomi Attorney General Jeff Crawford said, "Governor Walker and his Administration gave the Kenosha casino project a thorough review, and we agree with his determination that this project is not in the best interest of Wisconsin."



**MKE BUSINESS NOW  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUM-  
MIT**

Math & Science Academy  
110 W Burleigh Street  
Milwaukee, WI

**Saturday, January 31**

The Summit takes place from  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of the MKE BUSI-  
NESS NOW ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SUMMIT is to provide infor-  
mation and resources for those  
interested in starting or growing  
a business. This event includes  
informational workshops, re-  
source booths and a panel dis-  
cussion

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**GOP THINKS THEY KNOW BEST FOR MKE**



This Senator Alberta Darling, (R-River Hills) and Rep-  
resentative Dale Kooyenga, (R-Brookfield) released a  
plan to “combat poverty in Milwaukee,” entitled  
*New Opportunities in Milwaukee*. After my col-  
leagues and I have reviewed the proposed 25 page  
plan, we will provide a more detailed response. How-  
ever, it must be said today that I am frustrated by the lack of respect, col-  
laboration, and inclusion of Milwaukee area Legislators in the development  
of this proposal. I am also taken aback by even the existence of this plan;  
particularly, when I have personally reached out to both offices to collabo-  
rate on many of these issues for over a year. In fact, as recently as yester-  
day I was told by Senator Darling’s office that no plan had been committed  
to paper. So as my GOP colleagues seek to create opportunities for Milwau-  
kee, perhaps it would be beneficial for them to extend an opportunity for  
those elected by the people of Milwaukee to help craft the plan.

**JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE: BUDGET PROCESS**

It is anticipated the Governor will introduce his  
budget Tuesday, February 3 and the Joint Finance  
Committee will meet to introduce the budget  
once the speech has concluded. The Legislative  
Fiscal Bureau usually needs about 4 weeks to do a  
budget analysis, and we expects agency briefings to start at the end of  
February or the beginning of March. The Joint Finance Committee is cur-  
rently looking at holding four public hearings, likely mid to end of  
March. We expect the Joint Finance Committee to begin holding execu-  
tive meetings on the budget in April, completing action before Memorial  
Day. The bill is slated to be done and signed in mid to late June.



**Wise Words of the Week!**

**Contact Us!**

**We Enjoy  
Hearing  
From You!**

*“Education is the passport to the future.”—  
Malcom X*

