



COMMUNITY ALERT

BLOODCENTER OF WISCONSIN'S SUPER BLOOD DRIVE

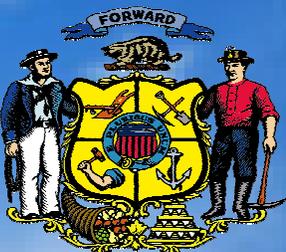
Jan. 23
7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Wisconsin State Fair Park's Tommy Thompson Center
640 S. 84th St.
West Allis

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!



One Million Signatures Gathered to Recall Walker

United Wisconsin, the organization formed to recall Governor Scott Walker, turned in about 1.9 million signatures to the Government Accountability Board, including 845,00 signatures to recall Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and more than 21,000 each for Republican Sens. Pam Galloway (R-Wausau), Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), and Terry Moulton (R-Chippewa Falls). Signatures were also filed to recall Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau).

The signatures have been filed and the next step is validating each of the signatures and determining who will run for governor in a recall election against Scott Walker. Thus far, only former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk has announced her intent to run. I am very proud of the Wisconsinites who refused to sit down and took the first step towards taking their state back.

GOP Introduces Bill to Block Health Care Reform



This week, two Republican lawmakers, Rep. David Craig (R-Big Bend) and Sen. Leah Vukmir, circulated a bill that will not allow any executive agency in Wisconsin, like the state Department of Health Services, from taking any steps to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act (PPACA).

The PPACA was signed into law by President Obama in 2010. Among other things, the law expands health insurance coverage to all Americans; requires employers to offer coverage; and enlarges Medicaid, Medicare, and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).

The states must cooperate to ensure that the provisions of the PPACA are enforced. To this day, Wisconsin has not even begun taking the appropriate steps to implement the federal law. Additionally, GOP legislators have effectively prevented any debate on the implementation of the PPACA by shutting down the Special Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation, which was charged with proposing the best ways to execute the law.

This bill cannot be allowed to pass. The PPACA is part of the healthcare reform needed in this country because it will provide greater coverage, access, and affordability for years to come. I encourage you call to call the Legislative Hotline at (800) 362-9472 to voice your opposition to your legislators.



FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

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Senate Approves Expedited Foreclosure Bill



In session on Tuesday, the Senate approved the Expedited Foreclosure Bill (SB 307), which I co-authored with Sens. Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) and Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee). The bill is an important one that will put abandoned homes back on the real estate market in five weeks, rather than the two months allowed under current law.

Neighborhood blight and abandoned homes cause decreased property values and higher costs for local governments. The bill will not cause our economy to rebound, but it will remove a burden from the shoulders of property owners and local governments because homes can return to the market faster.

This bill will not solve the housing market problem. It will not restart the home-ownership process for those who lost their homes. But it is a start.

Legislators Call for A.G. Holder to Help Protect Voting Rights

Last Friday, 22 Wisconsin legislators sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder asking him, and the U.S. Justice Department, to review Wisconsin's voter suppression law. Myself, several of the other lead authors of the letter, and Earnestine Moss, President of the League of Women Voters of Dane



County, held a press conference to discuss the importance A.G. Holder's review. This law puts Wisconsin in the same category as states who have historically denied their citizens the right to vote. We hope A.G. Holder will heed our letter and help protect our citizens' right to vote.

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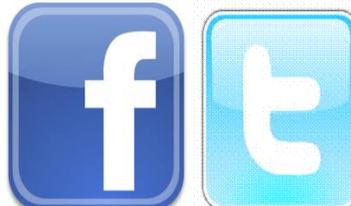
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Contact Us! We Always Enjoy Hearing From You!

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.

Maria Robinson



If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.

Maya Angelou