

## COMMUNITY ALERT

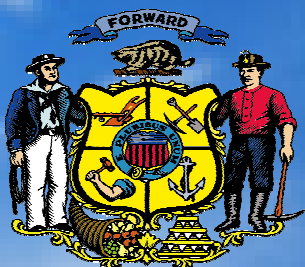
### Organize a Coat Collection!

The Granville-Brown Deer Chamber in partnership with District 4 of the MPD are working to get winter coats to the bots and girls in the Woodland area north of Brown Deer Road. For more information contact Mary at 313-357-5493

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!



## Democracy in 2013



Before we consider what lies ahead, think it is important to reflect on the triumphs and trials of the last year. It has been 48 years since the historic Voter Rights Act. In 2012, Wisconsin broke records for voter turnout. In the 2008, we elected the first African-American President of the United States. In 2012, he was reelected to fight for us once again! Yes, we have made significant achievements, but 2012 presented us with new challenges (and some old ones) that we must overcome—the only way to do that is to recommit to our democratic project of the United States. Participating in democracy is for each of us our duty as a citizen. The United States are designed to be a government of the people. The only way that can be accomplished is if every individual becomes a public citizen and a champion of democracy. The November elections brought both wins and losses to the Democratic Party; those losses will become all the more difficult as Republican continue their launch on middle-class America. However, 2012 presents an opportunity and leaves no room for apathy in our communities. We need to take responsibility. We can be exceptional citizens, for these times are too important not to be taken seriously. The question is, how do we support democracy and good citizenship? Of course, we need to continue to vote in every election. Just as importantly, we need to take a look around our neighborhoods and get involved. We need to be good neighbors. We need to give our time and service as well as our votes. In the end, I believe that community involvement and voting are two sides of the same coin. One cannot exist in earnestness without the other. I encourage you to look forward to 2013 with optimism in your heart.



The Office of Student Affairs/Diversity at the Medical College of Wisconsin will again offer summer enrichment programs for students from backgrounds that are historically underrepresented. Applications for these programs are now open!

More information and applications can be found at

<http://spss.mcw.edu/mrlWeb/mrlWeb.dll?I.Project=t=HSPROGRAMS>

## Senator Taylor's Office

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### ***Mining a Possibility, If Done Right***

Mining will be a huge issue in Wisconsin this year. Like many of my colleagues, I believe that jobs and the economy should be the legislature's first and foremost focus in 2013. So, mining jobs are important. It would be great if we could create an environmentally safe mining option that was good for Wisconsin's economy, but we have to do it right. It has to include education of skilled labor to fill those jobs by also increasing funding for technical colleges. We will work together across the aisle for a solution!

### ***Walker Refuses to Set Up Pardon Board***



In his two years in office, Governor Walker has not set up a Pardon Board. Although he has not given a reason why, I do not believe he has any plans to grant any pardons during his time in office. In Wisconsin, a pardon does not erase a crime but only acknowledges that the state has forgiven you. I believe that it is a mistake not to give pardons and help those who have served their time start their lives again.

### **Contact Us! We Always Enjoy Hearing From You!**

*"It's not the years  
in your life  
that count.  
It's the life in  
your years."*

*-Abraham  
Lincoln*



*"The way is not  
in the sky.  
The way is  
in the  
heart."*

*-Siddhartha  
Gautama*