

COMMUNITY ALERT

UniverSoul Circus

The circus is coming to town!
UniverSoul Circus will be in Milwaukee September 17–21

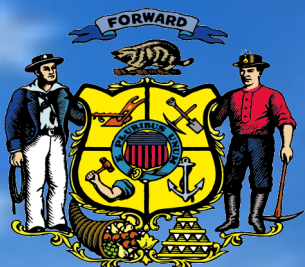
For more information or to get tickets, visit:

www.universoulcircus.com

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!



COURT STRIKES DOWN SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN

Last week's decision is a victory for so many families all over the State. For me it about equality, fairness, and justice, and that is what this decision accomplishes. Wisconsin is ripe for this sort of progress and I support today's decision. In today's unanimous decision, Republican appointee Judge Richard Posner wrote that "the discrimination against same-sex couples is irrational, and therefore unconstitutional." He continued that same-sex marriage bans derived from the hate and savage discrimination of gays. Certain to be appealed, this decision makes this case likely to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. There are other cases before the court that contest the same issue. This fall the U.S. Supreme Court will likely decide, once and for all, whether states may ban same-sex marriage.



REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH



Yesterday marked the 13th anniversary of the attacks on America on September 11, 2001. This date has been burned into our national conscious and we will forever mourn the loss of many innocent Americans. The events on that date forever changed many things in our country. We entered a war and changed our national security policies and budget priorities as a result. Some of these issues have caused divisions, which unfortunately are often highlighted. However, what unites us all about that day is our respect for the extraordinary bravery displayed by the men and women who sacrificed so much to ensure others were safe, as well as the diligence of our men and women in the armed forces who successfully captured Osama Bin Laden. We all came away with a far greater appreciation for the precious gift of life and freedom we enjoy in this country every day. This tragedy showed us that although many of us have may have different beliefs, ideologies, and cultural backgrounds, we are all united as citizens of America. I believe we should carry this lesson forward; especially in the legislature as we face many partisan issues. The more we talk and listen to one another, the more we are able to find common ground, and the harder it is for terrorists - and other opportunists - to exploit our differences, fears, and prejudices.



**NAACP
FREEDOM FUND DINNER**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Michelle Alexander

New York Times bestselling author and Ohio State University law professor!

Friday, September 26

The Pfister Hotel
424 East Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
5:30 pm– Reception
6:30 pm– Dinner & Program,
Book signing to follow
Program

**Senator Taylor's
Office**

(414) 342-7176
sen.taylor@legis.wi.gov
www.senatortaylor.com
Rm 19 South, State Capitol

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

DISPARITIES: HOW THEY ARE AFFECTING BLACK CHILDREN



A new report by Casey Foundation shows that the state of Wisconsin has the largest income and achievement gap between White and Black students in the nation. The report used 12 indicators; among them education, income, health, and safety. There are many contributing factors to this issue, but teen pregnancy, illiteracy and wholesale incarceration have wreaked havoc on many of the communities I represent. In particular, jobs that could provide the economic means to turn lives around “are not trickling in at the level to make a difference”. More than half of the African American men in Milwaukee are unemployed. I am resolved to keep fighting for the communities I represent, and working on legislation that addresses our concerns.

VOTER ID LAW BEFORE 7TH CIRCUIT TODAY

Today, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments over Wisconsin's voter ID law. There have been several lawsuits filed, raising challenges to the voter ID law since it passed the Wisconsin legislature in 2012. This July, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled the law constitutional. However, today a panel of three federal judges will question whether the ID requirement at the polls violates the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Governor Walker and Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen are pushing to have the law in effect this November. However, the Department of Transportation is experiencing great difficulty in issuing free IDs. In addition, poll workers would have to be retrained, and absentee ballots updated. At this stage in the game, it would be impossible to accomplish in an equitable way.



Wise Words of the Week!

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

“The nature of the criminal justice system has changed. It is no longer primarily concerned with the prevention and punishment of crime, but rather with the management and control of the dispossessed.”

-Michelle Alexander

