

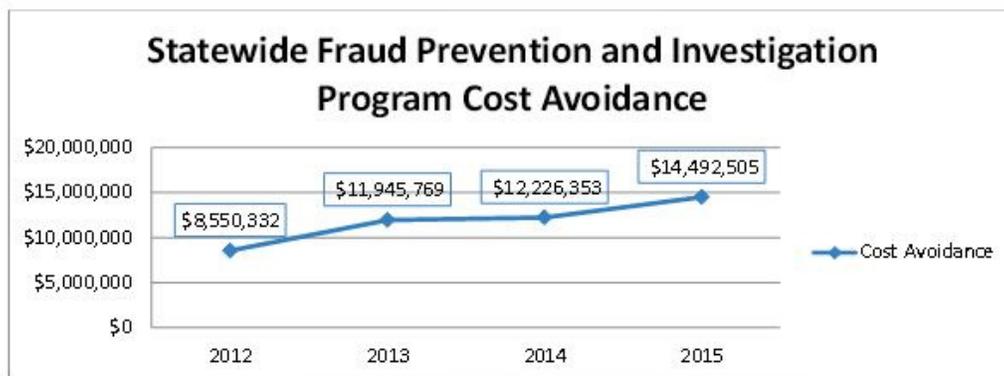
March 11, 2016

Office of the Inspector General

The Department of Health Services' Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was established in October 2011. The OIG is charged with protecting the taxpayers of Wisconsin by preventing and detecting waste, fraud, and abuse of public assistance programs such as Medicaid, FoodShare, and FamilyCare. Led by Inspector General Alan White, the OIG consolidates all Department of Health Services investigation activities within one office. Staff within the OIG work closely with other state and local partners in identifying misuses of public assistance funds, and where appropriate, forward fraud cases to federal, state and local officials for prosecution.

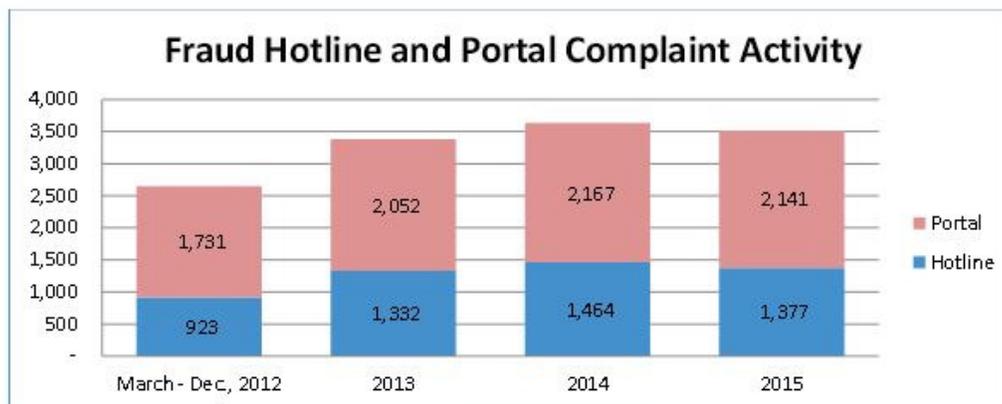
Recently, the Department of Health Services released a report on the work the OIG has been doing. In the nearly five years since it was started, the OIG has:

- Increased identification of recipient fraud overpayments by 80 percent and identified \$38 million in overpayments to Medicaid and FoodShare recipients;
- Identified nearly \$50 million in Medicaid provider overpayments and recovered nearly \$40 million in overpayments to Medicaid providers;
- Increased monitoring of Medicaid providers to ensure compliance of rules and regulations, and increased the number of audits to more than 2,000 a year; and
- Collected nearly \$90 million through drug settlements.



(Source: DHS Office of the Inspector General 2011-2015 Comprehensive Report)

The OIG has helped ensure that taxpayer funded benefits are going to individuals who actually need it. The OIG has set up a toll free hotline and online portal so the public can easily report complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse. Since these tools became available, the Inspector General's Office has received more than 8,000 complaints online and more than 5,000 phone calls.



(Source: DHS Office of the Inspector General 2011-2015 Comprehensive Report)

The OIG has been doing important work to ensure that services are available for those who really need them. They've investigated user fraud and waste as well as provider/vendor fraud. They have even done internal audits of DHS to make the agency more efficient and accountable to taxpayers. If you'd like to read DHS report on what the OIG has been doing over the last few years, you can click [here](#). OIG has indicated that they would like to make reports like this an annual occurrence.

National History Day

I have volunteered to judge at the [2016 Northwoods \(Minocqua\) Wisconsin Regional History Day](#) Event this weekend. The event is going to take place tomorrow at Lakeland Union High School.

National History Day (NHD) was started in 1974 by a college professor who wanted to get his students more engaged in learning history. He was worried about the decline of this study and knew that the traditional way history was being taught wouldn't excite his students. He came up with the idea for an academic competition to encourage students to do original research on historical topics and turn that research into a creative project that expresses the history behind the topic.

Today, over half a million students take part in NHD. Students may construct entries either as an individual or in a group. Submission are grouped into one of five categories: Documentary, Exhibit, Paper, Performance or Website. There is also an annual theme, and this year the theme is "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History". The entries are judged on three factors: Historical Quality, Relation to Theme, and Clarity of Presentation

I will be a judge for the Northwoods Regional History Day event. This weekend at Lakeland Union High School, students who reach enough points will then advance to the state competition, and then on the the national competition.

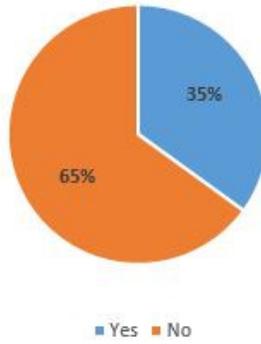
Good luck to all the competitors!

Survey Results

This week, I wanted to share a little more of my fall survey results. This week I am going to share the results from the "Yes/No" portion of the survey. This section consisted of seven questions - below you will find the questions and the results.

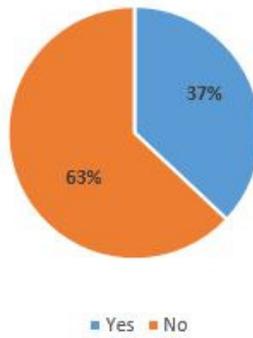
Question 1: Do you support national education standards as established by the federal government?

Question 1



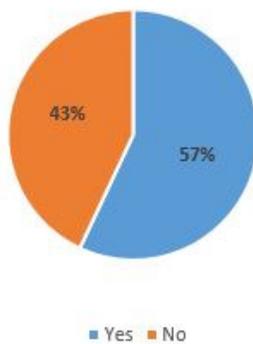
Question 2: Do you support the use of WI tax dollars to address global climate change?

Question 2



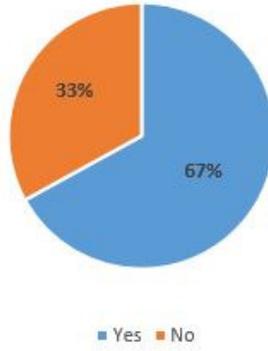
Question 3: Are Wisconsin universities and technical colleges adequately preparing students for the job market?

Question 3



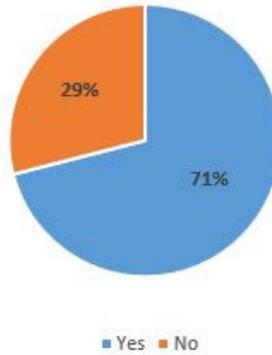
Question 4: Should 17 year-olds be treated as adults in criminal court cases?

Question 4



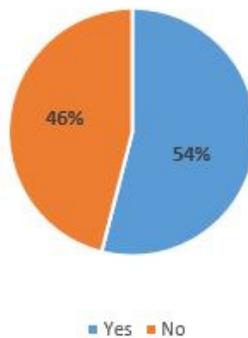
Question 5: Do you support more stocking of game fish in Wisconsin?

Question 5



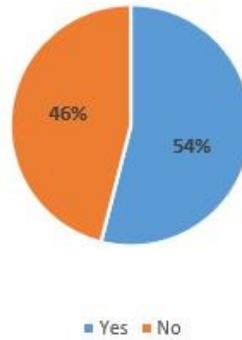
Question 6: Do you support the wolf population goal of 350 in Wisconsin?

Question 6



Question 7: Do you support allowing municipalities to raise taxes by referendum to fund transportation infrastructure?

Question 7



I mentioned the question regarding fish stocking a few weeks ago in a previous update, but I found it interesting that the issue with the second highest support (67%) was treating 17 year-olds as adults in criminal cases. This was an issue that came up this legislative session and I'm sure it will come up again.

The two issues with least amount of support were national education standards (35%) and support for spending WI tax dollars to address global climate change (37%). This was only a small sample of my constituents, but I'm sure these issues will also continue to be present.

It is helpful to have a general idea of where my constituency stands on these issues. Thank you again to those that participated.

DNR's Update

Wisconsin has experienced some unseasonably warm weather in the last week with daytime temperatures in the 50s and 60s and even a low 70 reported in Milwaukee. The warm weather has melted most of the snow cover statewide, with just snow surviving in some forested areas of the Northwoods. Snowmobile and cross-country ski trails are now closed statewide and most will remain so even if the state does experience a late season snowfall.

State park and forest trails that were groomed for skiing are now open again to hiking, but most properties are reporting that rail-trail, mountain bike and horse trails are closed, as conditions are soft and muddy and use of trails in these conditions can cause significant damage to trail surfaces.

With the general inland game fish season now closed except on those waters open to game fishing year-round, only a few panfish anglers have been venturing out, but ice conditions are rapidly deteriorating and many shorelines in southern and central Wisconsin are opening up, making access difficult and dangerous.

Most anglers on Green Bay are removing fishing shelters prior to this Sunday's deadline as waters are rapidly opening up. Anglers were out in high numbers around Sturgeon Bay last weekend with many limits for whitefish reported. Anglers were open water fishing the Fox River at Voyageur Park for walleye but success rates have been low, though with the warmer weather that is expect this to change.

Raccoon, skunk, muskrat, mink, and opossum activity has increased as temperatures have increased and snow has departed. Wild turkeys have been strutting and starting their spring courtship. Flocks are breaking up and the large groups of toms and jakes have already decreased in size as they establish their spring pecking order.

With the warm weather and south winds there has been a significant increase in spring migrants sighted this week, including red-winged blackbirds, killdeer, robins, song sparrows, swamp sparrows, bluebirds, turkey vultures and more. Other early migrants returning to breeding territories include American woodcock, great blue herons and

eastern meadowlarks. There was a heavy waterfowl migration across the southern half of the state, including common goldeneyes, all three mergansers, green-winged teal, pintail, wood ducks, and many others. Greater white-fronted geese are moving through in numbers, as are large flocks of Canada geese and occasional cackling, snow, and Ross's geese. Canada geese are staking out territory and will begin nesting soon. Sandhill cranes are courting and dancing. Bald eagles are incubating eggs and some great horned owls already have chicks.

Maple syrup season has gotten off to a very slow start due to mild temperatures, especially overnight lows staying above freezing. One producer placed out 670 taps late last week and harvested 370 gallons of sap on Monday. The 10-day forecast does not show any significant changes to overnight lows. The concern is that trees will bud out soon resulting in an early end of the season.

A number of observers reported seeing leopard frogs, spring peepers have been heard in the south and salamanders were active with the warm temperatures. Unfortunately the warm weather has also brought out reports from shed hunters and maple tappers finding the first ticks crawling around on them.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date		Location
March 12	<u>Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade</u>	Rhineland
March 12	<u>Pickerel-Pearson St. Patrick's Day Parade</u>	Pickerel
March 12	<u>Porcupine Hike</u>	Manitowish Waters
March 12	<u>Cabin Fever Party</u>	Boulder Junction
March 12	<u>American Legion Birthday Party Dinner Dance</u>	Three Lakes
March 17	<u>Sno-Buddies Corned Beef</u>	Conover
March 17	<u>St. Patrick's Day Supper</u>	Merrill
March 19	<u>Taste of Tomahawk</u>	Tomahawk
March 19	<u>Hodag Home Show</u>	Rhineland
March 19	<u>7th Annual Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Spaghetti Dinner</u>	Crooked Lake
March 19	<u>Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt</u>	Boulder Junction
March 19	<u>Huge Spring Craft & Vendor Sale</u>	Merrill

March 26	Easter Egg Hunt	Lakewood
March 26	Easter Egg Hunt	Merrill
April 2	Phelps Maple Syrup Fest	Phelps

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

If you would like to be removed from future mailings, [email me](#) and ask to unsubscribe.

State Capitol Room 409 South- PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-2509
Email: Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov