



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

State Budget Summary

*** Denotes items included by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) but vetoed by Governor Scott Walker.

Education

Education Funding - added \$200 million to K-12 education funding. Restored the \$150 per pupil aid and added \$100 more per pupil in the second year. More than \$10.6 billion is invested into public education over the next biennium.

Sparsity Aids – added additional \$8.4 million to Sparsity Aids (qualifying school districts with enrollment of less than 725 pupils and population density of less than 10 pupils per square mile).

High Cots Transportation Aids – additional \$5 million for districts with a population density of less than 50 pupils per square mile and transportation costs greater than 150% of state average.

Statewide School Choice - expanded the program statewide to provide parents with choices and create a program in which funding follows the child.

Teacher Licensing – gave school districts the opportunity to employ and license individuals with a technical background to teach technical education courses.

Transportation

Reduced Bonding from \$1.3 billion to \$500 million.
The core of the Zoo Interchange project in Milwaukee will be completed, but the third phase will be delayed. Allocated an additional \$350 million in bonding at the discretion of the JFC.

Vintage & Antique Tractors –changed the vehicle registration requirement to allow vintage and antique tractors to travel on highways to participate in parades and tractor club events.

*****Car-Deer Kills** – funding was maintained for the program to remove deer roadkill from Wisconsin roadways. However, the source of the funding was changed and the DNR is now required to report on the program's effectiveness and offer recommendations.

Economic Development

*****Prosperity Southwest WI Revolving Loans** - reinvested \$250,000 into a revolving loan program for Grant, Lafayette, Green, Richland and Crawford counties. Funds redirected from WEDC to a successful local economic development consortium.

Natural Resources & Agriculture

DNR Board & DATCP Board –provisions to make the Natural Resources Board and the Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection into advisory committees removed.

*****Stewardship Fund** – we restored the stewardship fund and created a sustainable plan in which the sale of all DNR land would have a 50/50 split with funds going to debt service and acquisition of new land. ***The Governor vetoed the sustainability plan, but restored the program.

State Park Solvency – I authored a motion for the state parks account that would improve the financial condition of the state park system. We also required the DNR to study ways for the state parks to increase revenue and manage resources for continued sustainability.

Public Safety

*****Lafayette County Sheriff's Department** – added a grant for \$50,000/year for the Lafayette County Sheriff's Dept. to hire an officer dedicated to drug law enforcement.

Law Enforcement Officer-Involved Death

Investigations – added \$630,000 for four positions over the biennium to conduct officer involved incident investigations.

Sexual Assault Victims Servicing Funding (SAVS) – added \$100,000 GPR to the Department of Justice in 2016-17 for grants under the sexual assault victims servicing grant program.

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Health & Human Services

Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) – maintained ADRCs as they currently operate.

SeniorCare – restored the SeniorCare program.

Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – gave MCOs the opportunity to upgrade and be a part of a new regional system of long term care which maintains our existing system. DHS is required to develop a plan to address the needs of our aging population with stakeholder input.

Drug Testing and Treatment for Public Benefit Recipients – created a program to identify and help citizens overcome addiction and destructive behaviors to support and encourage them to get back to work.

Anti-Fraud Support for Entitlement Programs – added \$250,000 for county governments to implement anti-fraud measures for entitlement programs such as FoodShare. These funds have a federal match.

Mental Health Crisis Service Grants - increased funding to counties by \$1.5 million for mental health support.

Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Funding – expanded DSH funding to provide supplemental reimbursement for hospitals that serve high numbers of medical assistance and uninsured, low-income patients. Most hospitals in the 17th District qualify.

Wisconsin Well Woman program - added \$100,000 to the Wisconsin Well Woman Program for breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic services.

Rural Emergency Medical Education – provide a \$40,000 grant for advanced life support training to doctors, physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and paramedics who work in rural hospitals and clinics.

University System

Restored \$50 million of original \$300 million cut.

Tuition Freeze – froze tuition for two years.

UW Platteville – gave UWP ability to negotiate lease agreements which is estimated to save the campus \$250,000 per year and approved \$15 million for the Williams Fieldhouse addition.

Educational Communications Board/WPR/WPTV – restored \$1.6 million in funding and 8.6 positions.

Taxes

My goals in leading the discussion of the tax elements of the budget were fairness and simplification.

Marriage Penalty – increased the standard deduction for married filers to reduce the marriage penalty. This amounts to a \$21 million tax cut statewide with \$19 million of relief going to couples who make less than \$100K per year!

Teacher School Supplies – Federalized deduction for teacher school supplies.

ABLE Act – The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act allows a family member of someone with special needs to create a tax-free account for their loved one with special needs for future expense.

Municipal / Local / Rural Issues

Local Property Insurance Fund – delayed the elimination of this fund by 2 years so that local units of government will have time to figure out new plans.

Property Assessment Policy – removed proposed changes for municipalities and counties.

Broadband Expansion – tripled funding for Broadband Expansion Grants from the proposed \$500,000 per year to \$1.5 million annually for equipment and construction expenses incurred to extend or improve broadband telecommunications service in underserved areas.

Wisconsin Fund for Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) Grants – restored the Wisconsin Fund which provides grants to low-income residents for part of the costs of repairing and replacing failing septic systems.

Collaborative Municipalities – created a levy limit exemption for municipalities who collaborate with other municipalities for various services and projects.

Carryforward – addressed the “tax to the max” policy. Created a levy limit adjustment allowing a political subdivision to increase its allowable levy by the amount of unused levy authority from prior years and set the maximum carryforward factor to 5%.

*** **Frank Lloyd Wright Trail** – established the Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Trail running from Racine to Richland Center.