



TERRY KATSMa

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 26th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-0656
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0026
Rep.Katsma@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

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Contact: Rep. Terry Katsma
(608) 266-0656

Defending First Amendment Rights

Madison—Representative Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg) voted in the Assembly this week in support of several bills that will better protect free speech and encourage participation in Wisconsin’s political processes. On Tuesday, October 20th, the Assembly passed Assembly Bill (AB) 68, which reforms the John Doe investigative tool that is unique to Wisconsin. On Wednesday, October 21st, the Assembly also passed AB 387, which updates the state’s outdated and confusing campaign finance law, and AB 388, which restructures the Government Accountability Board (GAB) that has proved incapable of acting as the nonpartisan watchdog it was intended to be.

“These are significant and long-overdue steps for the defense of constitutionally protected speech in our state,” explained Rep. Katsma. “Time and time again, the court systems have practically pleaded with the legislature to modernize our broken campaign laws. And far from fostering the nonpartisan environment that it was intended to create, the GAB structure we have today merely allows partisan behavior to run rampant and unchecked. I applaud the legislature’s action on these bills that help restore constitutional liberties and rebuild the public’s confidence in Wisconsin’s government. I look forward to seeing these reforms enacted into law.”

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Representative Terry Katsma represents the 26th Assembly District including the cities of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls; the villages of Adell, Oostburg, Random Lake and Cedar Grove; and the towns of Lima, Holland, Sherman and Wilson. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions and as a member of the committees on Consumer Protection, Housing and Real Estate, Ways and Means and Workforce Development.