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# TYLER AUGUST

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 32<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

For Immediate Release  
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## **August Supports Balanced Budget**

*Budget that does not increase taxes and repeals prevailing wage for local projects passes Assembly and now heads to Governor Walker for his consideration.*

MADISON...Following months of hearings and debate, the State Assembly passed the 2015-17 biennial state budget bill. State Representative Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva) voted in favor of the bill, which, if signed by Governor Walker, would result in a balanced budget with no tax increases. Additionally, the budget includes the lowest amount of bonding in nearly 30 years, middle class tax relief, and a repeal of prevailing wage laws for local governments.

August noted this is the third consecutive balanced budget without raising taxes since Republicans took control of state government in 2010, despite inheriting a \$2 billion budget deficit in 2011 from former Governor Doyle and legislative Democrats

“This state budget continues our strong record of enacting bold government reforms that result in a balanced budget without raising taxes,” said August. “Wisconsin middle class families and taxpayers win under this budget that reduces the tax burden and freezes college tuition.”

August also stressed the positive impact that the repeal of the prevailing wage laws on local governments will have on taxpayers. The archaic prevailing wage artificially drives up costs for local taxpayers and its repeal will allow more small businesses in the construction industry to compete.

“As a co-author of the bill to repeal the prevailing wage, I was very pleased to see it included in the state budget,” said August. “The old prevailing wage laws were anti-free market and its repeal on local projects is estimated to save taxpayers up to \$300 million.”

August also pointed to the following positive provisions included in the budget:

- Decreased borrowing for the state’s transportation fund by almost \$450 million.
- Ensures transportation funding is distributed equally across state and not given exclusively to Milwaukee.
- Removes the taxpayer spending on the Milwaukee Bucks from the budget.
- Overall state bonding will be the lowest in almost 30 years.
- Increased deduction for married couples.
- Simplifies and streamlines our state’s tax structure
- Freezes tuition at the University of Wisconsin, saving families and students millions.
- Reforms public assistance programs like Medicaid that had been on an unsustainable track.
- Removes proposed changes to the state’s open-records laws.

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“Overall this budget is fiscally responsible and will continue the path toward reducing the tax burden in our state,” said August. “Small businesses, families, and taxpayers will all see benefits with the reforms included in the bill.”

After passing both the State Senate and State Assembly the budget now goes to Governor Walker for his consideration.

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