



CALVIN CALLAHAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Callahan Votes for a Responsible Budget

Madison, WI – On Tuesday State Representative Calvin Callahan (R - Tomahawk) joined his Republican Assembly colleagues in passing a balanced state budget for the 2021-2023 biennium. This budget includes historic property and income tax cuts, an unprecedented investment in K-12 schools, and historic levels of funding to other important areas. The tax cuts, which will save the average Wisconsin family \$1,200 annually, are a sharp contrast to the \$1 billion tax increase proposed by the Governor.

“I look forward to seeing these tax cuts help the hardworking folks back home revitalize the economy of the 35th Assembly District.” Representative Callahan stated. “I am proud that this budget will put a substantive amount of money in the pockets of families and business owners.” As well as lowering income and property taxes, \$200 million will be utilized to eliminate the burden on small business owners throughout the state.

This budget includes historic funding of K-12 schools and special education. A minimum of \$781 per pupil if they taught in-person instruction for at least 50% of the time during the 2020-21 school year coupled with unprecedented funding from the federal government gives an average spending increase of \$2,898 per pupil. By comparison, the 2019-21 budget included \$263 per pupil in year one and an additional \$179 per pupil in year two. The budget also doubles our investment in school mental health, which has been a top concern of parents and educators.

“During my listening sessions, it was important to constituents that we reward schools and educators who do a great job of educating our children,” Representative Callahan continued. “Countless parents, teachers, and school board members tell me that, in addition to per pupil funding, special education and mental health needed to be prioritized. I am proud that this budget provides record levels of funding to those areas.”

Additional areas of funding include:

- **Transportation:** This budget continues our investment in the local road program despite the Governor trying to cut this number in the last budget by providing \$25 million more than he proposed.
- **Broadband:** We provided \$125 million in bonding for broadband expansion throughout the state.
- **Agriculture and Consumer Protection:** The pandemic caused many stresses on the meat processing industry, which is why this budget makes significant investments in that area to help clear the backlog. It also added an additional County Conservation staff, which will help out our farmers.
- **Natural Resources:** The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program was reauthorized, which provides certainty for communities that are planning projects. We made investments in water quality programs with more funding for



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the Clean Water Fund, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, the Well Compensation Program, and nonpoint source water pollution abatement programs.

“This is a responsible budget, something that all Wisconsinites can be confident will not place a burden of debt on their grandchildren,” Representative Callahan said. “Legislative Republicans have proved to the Governor and our constituents that a balanced budget can fully fund the priorities of Wisconsinites. I want to thank the members of the Joint Finance Committee for turning a budget that was a wishlist of policy and fiscal irresponsibility into a budget that will benefit the whole state.”

The budget will be voted on by the Senate later today, and if it passes it will be brought before the Governor for his consideration.

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The 35th Assembly District includes all of Lincoln County and portions of Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, and Shawano Counties.