



State Representative
JOAN BALLWEG



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

PSRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1749
Madison, WI

*****ECRWSS*****
Residential Customer

Proudly representing the 41st Assembly District, which includes the communities of Adams, Green Lake, Marquette, Wisconsin Dells, Lake Delton and Ripon.

Listening Sessions

Everyone is welcome to attend my spring listening sessions held throughout the 41st Assembly District. Come share your thoughts on this legislative session, other state issues or ideas for future legislation.

Friday, March 27th

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: Markesan Public Library
75 Bridge Street, Markesan
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Montello City Hall
20 Underwood Avenue, Montello
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.: Caestecker Public Library - Lower Level
518 Hill Street, Green Lake

Tuesday, March 31st

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Ethel Everhard Public Library
117 E. 3rd Street, Westfield
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Adams County Community Center, Room 145B
569 N. Cedar Street, Adams
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Kilbourn Public Library - Community Center
620 Elm Street, Wisconsin Dells

Thursday April 2nd

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: Ripon Public Library
120 Jefferson Street, Ripon
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Princeton Public Library
424 W. Water Street, Princeton
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.: Berlin Public Library
121 W. Park Avenue, Berlin

In addition, I'll be visiting many senior meal sites across the district this spring. Watch your local dining site schedules for those dates.



State Representative
JOAN BALLWEG

Wisconsin State Legislative Update

Spring 2020



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As another legislative session draws to a close, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude that you chose me to serve the 41st Assembly District in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

During the 2019-2020 legislative session, I continued to work on issues brought forward by residents of the 41st District. I also had the opportunity to chair the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention which focused on evaluating our state's current prevention efforts and how we could better support those who are struggling. In addition, I continued to serve as Co-chair of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules. Oversight of administrative rules is an assignment I take very seriously, as they dictate how our state laws are applied.

As always, I appreciate hearing from you and look forward to seeing many of you at my spring listening sessions (see back). I'm excited to share the progress we've made this legislative session in this spring's newsletter.

Best regards,

Joan Ballweg
State Representative
41st Assembly District



Applications are currently being accepted for the **16th annual Joan Ballweg Leadership Scholarship on my website**. All graduating seniors who live in the 41st Assembly District and are continuing their education at a 2-year college, 4-year university or technical college program are eligible. The deadline for applications is April 3, 2020.

Phone: (608) 266-8077
Toll Free: (888) 534-0041
Fax: (608) 282-3641

✉ Rep.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov

Facebook.com/WIRepBallweg

Twitter.com/RepBallweg

Legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/ballweg
Sign up for E-Updates!



State Representative
JOAN BALLWEG

Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention

In 2017, 918 Wisconsinites died by suicide. As the 9th leading cause of death in the state, suicide has touched many lives and is an important and growing public health issue. That is why I am grateful to have been chosen to chair the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention this session and have the opportunity to create a safe and healthy forum to discuss this sensitive and often stigmatized topic.



The task force was comprised of 15 bipartisan legislators who traveled across the state to hear directly from youth, educators, survivors, family members, farmers, law enforcement, veterans and first responders about their experiences and how we could better support those who are struggling.

In September, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, the task force released ten policy proposals. These proposals will create a statewide suicide prevention program, increase funding for local suicide prevention programming, provide grants to train firearm retailers on recognizing the signs of suicide, give tuition assistance to farmers who want to learn about topics such as farm business and production management and more.

There is not one simple solution to suicide. When a life is lost to suicide, it is more than a single death. It devastates a family and an entire community. I intend to continue my work on this issue in future legislative sessions and want to thank the members of this task force for their dedication to addressing this important crisis.



Rep. Ballweg visiting Lucy Smith Morris's historic home with Berlin Library Director, Chris Kalupa and current homeowner, Sue Koch.

100th Anniversary of Wisconsin Ratifying the 19th Amendment

On June 10, 1919, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to ratify the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. On June 10, 2019, I had the honor to join the women of the 104th Legislative Session at a centennial reception unveiling Wisconsin's original 19th Amendment document.

Celebrations will continue throughout the country until the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment being ratified as part of the U.S. Constitution, which will take place on August 26, 2020. Today, more than 68 million women vote because of the women's suffrage movement.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to explore a local connection to this movement by visiting Lucy Smith Morris's historic home in Berlin. Lucy Smith Morris was dedicated to the women's suffrage movement and became close friends to many national leaders like Susan B. Anthony, Julia Ward Howe and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Lucy eventually went on to organize Wisconsin's women's clubs into one coalition, the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, and served as their first president. She now has a historical marker in Nathan Strong Park, just across the street from her home.

Accomplishing Our Priorities

Early this legislative session, Assembly Republicans sent a letter to Governor Evers outlining our policy priorities. Despite what you may be hearing about political gridlock, the Wisconsin Legislature accomplished many of those goals this session. In fact, out of all the bills signed into law this year, more than 95% had bipartisan support. We cut income taxes, increased funding to fix roads and bridges, increased funding for K-12 education and doubled our rainy day fund.

The 2019-2021 state budget put Wisconsin's children first. It provided an increase of more than \$600 per student, increased support for special education by 22%, doubled the current funding for student mental health programs and increased special education funding by \$96 million. I am happy with the investments we made to ensure that every Wisconsin child receives a top notch education.

Additionally, I was able to see many of my bills pass including two that were brought to my office by constituents. One expands two Tax Incremental Districts (TIDs) in the Village of Lake Delton. This proposal was presented to my office by local education and business leaders and is an example of how we can come together to support our local communities. Another idea from a constituent in Neshkoro aligns the statutes relating to the transportation, casing and possession of crossbows with what is currently in place for firearms and bows.



While there is still work to do in all of these areas, I am proud to continue to move Wisconsin forward.

