



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**WHAT IF?**

*By Rep. Gary Hebl*

Thanksgiving is over, the leftovers are (mostly) eaten, and the radio waves are filled with holiday cheer. As the holidays approach, it's hard not to be filled with wonderment and hope.

This year, the people of Wisconsin have watched from the sidelines as the current majority continues its slow and steady march toward its ultimate goal of one-party rule. Given the hard-right political turn our state government has taken since 2010, it's hard not to think, "what if?"

What if a Democrat had won the governorship in 2010?

Imagine a state that wasn't always persistently ensnared in political animosity. A state government that came together not to protect the interests of an entrenched majority, but to promote and support the people of Wisconsin – laborers, farmers, teachers, students, business owners, children.

I can't help but play a game of 'make believe' where the legislature isn't calling extraordinary sessions to open the floodgates for corporate campaign donations, but rather is calling extraordinary sessions to address job growth in Wisconsin, or to stem the continued hemorrhage that is Wisconsin's brain drain dilemma, or to deal with our current unsustainable road funding formula.

For a moment, imagine a Wisconsin where someone else was elected governor in 2010:

- A governor that had prioritized the people of Wisconsin on day one, rather than a governor that focused on what would best enhance his bid for the presidency.
- A Wisconsin government that values and invests in public education and quality of life, rather than diminishing and demonizing public schools and teachers.

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- A Wisconsin that understands the economic, social, and cultural benefits of a fully-funded UW System, one of Wisconsin's greatest economic drivers.
- A Wisconsin that values each voter's choice, rather than diminishing voters by drawing lopsided legislative district maps and passing bills to prop up billionaire donors.
- A state that is keeping pace with our peers in high speed rail infrastructure, including a critical lifeline of high speed rail connecting Chicago and Minneapolis.
- A state with a sustainable road funding plan to fix potholes and help local municipalities meet the demands of motorists.
- A Wisconsin that acknowledges the value of accepting federal Medicaid dollars that actually saves Wisconsin money while insuring more Wisconsinites.

Think about this Wisconsin "wonderland". A world where the legislature comes together in a bipartisan manner to protect and secure jobs from iconic Wisconsin institutions like Oscar Mayer, SC Johnson, and Joy Global, rather than ignoring the best interests of Wisconsin workers and instead calling a special session to secure the jobs of members of the current Republican majority.

I won't give up on a Wisconsin Legislature that puts our communities ahead of our own interests. Our state deserves better.

*Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the village of Cottage Grove, and the townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.*

Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at [Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov).

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