



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Bringing Back Wisconsin's Progressive Traditions, Fighting for Clean Campaigns**

Wisconsin has a long and storied history of progressive reform and good democracy, dating back to the days of "Fighting Bob" La Follette and his Progressive Party. Fighting Bob, who served as both Governor and US Senator for Wisconsin, fought to limit the influence of corporations over the government, fighting then against the threatening influence of railroad trusts. Since his time, Wisconsin has had to battle the influence of big money in our government time and again, and unfortunately, today, the war wages on. That's why I'm co-sponsoring the "Issue-Ad Disclosure Bill" and the "Impartial Justice Bill" now in the State Assembly.

These bills do a lot to reduce the role of special interests in our state elections and to bring real campaign finance reform to Wisconsin.

- The Issue-Ad Disclosure Bill would:
  - Take aim at phony "issue-ads" you've probably seen on TV that applaud or attack candidates but don't specifically tell voters to vote for or against them.
  - These ads typically come from special interest groups with vague sounding names, such as "All Children Matter" and "Building a Stronger Wisconsin", and donors to these groups are allowed to remain unnamed, unregulated and unaccountable.
  - This secrecy allows these donors to make slanderous and often untrue statements about candidates without the fear of backlash or accountability.
  - The Issue-Ad Disclosure Bill requires any group participating in political campaigns to disclose who their donors are and how much they donated.
  - The Issue-Ad Disclosure Bill brings these groups into the spotlight of public scrutiny and protects the rights of voters to know who is trying to buy influence over their voting decisions.
  
- The Impartial Justice Bill would:
  - Increase the amount of public financing available to candidates for State Supreme Court, ensuring they can run without the financial support of big money donors and special interest groups.
  - The Impartial Justice Bill would also provide additional public money for participating candidates if their opponents exceed the amount provided or if they are attacked by third party groups.



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- The Impartial Justice Bill would help ensure that the judges that are elected are even handed in their interpretation of the law and are not overly sympathetic to the pet causes of the groups who paid for their election.

These bills, together with the recently approved Assembly policy which bans state representatives from fundraising during state budget negotiations, form a package of campaign finance reform that I'm happy to put my name behind. Not only will these measures help state government put public priorities ahead of political gain, they will help Wisconsin reclaim its progressive roots and become the "laboratory of democracy" for which it was once known. I know Fighting Bob would demand no less.

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