



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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\*\*\*Tranel audio clip attached\*\*\*

## **State Representatives Tranel and Novak: Statement on Gov. Evers Finally Moving to Reopen State Historical Sites**

Madison, WI – Rep. Travis Tranel and Rep. Todd Novak released the following statement after Governor Evers announced that he would use \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to reopen the closed State Historical sites across Wisconsin.

“It’s fantastic to hear that the Governor has decided to take our advice and move \$1 million from the American Rescue and Recovery Act funds to the State Historical Society to help open up all the closed sites in southwest Wisconsin. I want to thank Lancaster Mayor David Varnam and Cassville Village President Keevin Williams for making the trip to Madison to testify in support of our bill. This was a lot more work than it should have been. However, at the end of the day we were able to persuade Governor Evers to do the right thing, which is great news for Wisconsin’s tourism industry.” - *State Representative Travis Tranel (49<sup>th</sup> District)*

“I am glad to see Governor Evers allocate federal funds to re-open the state historic sites. In my view, this action was long overdue as we’ve known about this problem for some time. The Governor has had full discretion to use federal ARPA funds to solve this problem since the funds became available earlier this year. This action will offer a sense of relief to our local sites and will provide a much needed boost to our tourism industry. Time is of the essence as there will be a lag between this announcement and the doors actually opening up at these sites. I hope the Governor directs his agencies to move quickly to ensure the sites can open as soon as possible.” – *State Representative Todd Novak (51<sup>st</sup> District)*

Rep. Tranel, Rep. Novak, and Sen. Jacque co-authored Assembly Bill 391 to require the Governor to reopen all of the closed sites statewide in 2021. Their legislation passed the State Assembly this week with strong support and moved on to the State Senate for action.

The closed State Historical sites include: First Capitol – Belmont; H.H. Bennett Studio & Museum - Wisconsin Dells; Pendarvis – Mineral Point; Reed School – Neillsville; Stonefield – Cassville; Villa Louis – Prairie du Chien; and Wade House – Greenbush.

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