



Media Release

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Rep. Shankland: Votes for Shared Revenue, Agricultural Road Funding, and Affordable Workforce Housing

MADISON— Following yesterday’s session of the Wisconsin State Assembly, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement regarding the Assembly’s passage of AB 245, legislation to increase state aid to local governments through shared revenue; Senate Bill 247, legislation to dedicate state funding to improve agricultural roads in Wisconsin; and Assembly Bills 264, 265, 267, and 268, legislation to expand affordable housing options throughout Wisconsin.

“The people of Wisconsin deserve to live in a community where their needs are being met. Many of the bills passed yesterday in the Assembly work towards this goal by updating our state’s shared revenue model, making significant improvements to our agricultural roads, and facilitating the construction, maintenance, and preservation of affordable workforce housing in our state. I was proud to cosponsor bipartisan legislation to update our rural roads and make local workforce housing more readily available and affordable, and was glad to vote for legislation to provide significant increases in funding to our counties, towns, villages, and cities in Wisconsin.

“I am grateful that after years of being starved of necessary funding to our local communities, Wisconsin will finally have a shared revenue system that invests in towns, villages, cities, and counties and helps them thrive. These historic increases in funding are essential to Portage County communities and will support our first responders, invest in our community resources, reduce the overreliance on property taxes to fund local governments, and improve the quality of life for our residents overall.

“In addition, I am thrilled that Senate Bill 247, legislation I cosponsored, was unanimously passed by the Assembly. This legislation creates an agricultural road improvement grant program in which the state would reimburse local governments for projects that improve our agricultural roads. This program will strongly benefit our agricultural producers and improve agricultural roads in our rural communities, strengthening our local economy.

“The State Assembly also passed numerous bills from the Workforce Housing Bill Package I cosponsored, a bipartisan package of legislation that offers long-term solutions to the affordable housing challenges that people are facing across Wisconsin. AB 264 creates a residential housing loan program to provide 0% loans to develop single family, workforce, senior, and multi-family housing. AB 265 directly invests in rehabilitating existing housing units, bringing people closer to their workplaces, local businesses, and areas of economic activity. AB 267 updates our state’s workforce housing rehabilitation loan program to allow more people to improve existing properties. Finally, AB 268 converts commercial properties that are no longer being used into workforce and senior housing. In tandem, these four bills will improve access to affordable, quality housing in Wisconsin, which is critical to improving the economic well-being of our communities and addressing our state’s workforce shortage.

“I am pleased that the Legislature has moved toward debating whether or not any given compromise is good enough and away from debating whether or not we should compromise at all. Our job as legislators is and always has been to enact thoughtful solutions to the pressing issues our state is facing, and I am optimistic that we can continue working together to make meaningful steps forward to improve the lives of everyone in Wisconsin.”

**Aid Distributions to Municipalities in Portage County under AB 245*****according to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau*

<u>County</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Current Aid</u>	<u>Additional Aid</u>	<u>Total Aid</u>	<u>%Increase</u>
Portage	Town of Alban	17,003	44,569	61,572	262.1
	Town of Almond	16,950	40,470	57,421	238.8
	Town of Amherst	25,482	53,820	79,302	211.2
	Town of Belmont	14,667	40,454	55,120	275.8
	Town of Buena Vista	29,452	49,287	78,740	167.3
	Town of Carson	17,541	53,266	70,807	303.7
	Town of Dewey	14,540	46,299	60,838	318.4
	Town of Eau Pleine	28,056	47,944	76,000	170.9
	Town of Grant	36,236	61,118	97,354	168.7
	Town of Hull	155,500	146,173	301,673	94.0
	Town of Lanark	21,679	56,052	77,731	258.6
	Town of Linwood	19,644	48,297	67,941	245.9
	Town of New Hope	10,301	42,066	52,368	408.4
	Town of Pine Grove	46,814	44,670	91,484	95.4
	Town of Plover	30,552	56,253	86,805	184.1
	Town of Sharon	37,109	65,848	102,957	177.4
	Town of Stockton	44,945	80,947	125,893	180.1
	Village of Almond	102,556	37,060	139,615	36.1
	Village of Amherst	132,760	48,834	181,594	36.8
	Village of Amherst Junction	19,636	36,421	56,057	185.5
	Village of Junction City	146,893	37,043	183,936	25.2
	Village of Nelsonville	24,348	32,639	56,987	134.1
	Village of Park Ridge	12,677	38,992	51,668	307.6
	Village of Plover	546,159	338,753	884,912	62.0
	Village of Rosholt	82,924	38,001	120,925	45.8
	Village of Whiting	72,797	56,840	129,637	78.1
City of Stevens Point	3,248,573	865,066	4,113,640	26.6	

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