



CINDI DUCHOW

(608) 237-9197

Toll-Free (888) 534-0097

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Rep.Duchow@legis.wi.gov

RepDuchow.com

P.O. Box 8952

Madison, WI 53708-8952

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rep. Cindi Duchow

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(608) 237-9197

Rep. Duchow Responds to Governor Evers' Budget Address

Madison, WI – Tonight, Governor Evers delivered his biennial budget address to the Wisconsin Legislature. Rep. Duchow (R-Delafield) released the following response:

“The biennial budget is the most critical piece of legislation we work on each session. We determine how roughly 100 billion taxpayer dollars are spent over two years. The number one priority for me in the 2025-2027 state budget is accountability. We should not allocate a single taxpayer dollar without being able to track how it is spent, and if it is being used efficiently.

Last month, Milwaukee Public Schools posted the worst reading scores in the entire country. The only answer the Governor seems to propose is spending your hard earned tax dollars to prop up a broken system. Although Milwaukee is certainly the worst case scenario, we desperately need to improve the literacy of all Wisconsin students. Before we spend more money on K-12 education, there should be a plan on how that money will directly benefit students and lead to better outcomes.

Tonight, Governor Evers touted his plan for clean water in Wisconsin. What he wants you to forget is that he vetoed a Republican proposal that would have provided grants to local governments and landowners to fight the effects of PFAS – leaving \$125 million unallocated from the last budget. Since the previous session ended, he has not worked with the Legislature to find a compromise and release these funds. If the Governor is truly serious about cleaning up PFAS, he needs to work with the Legislature on a solution that will benefit all Wisconsinites.

Additionally, I am grateful that the Governor has finally mentioned a reform plan for state prisons and the Department of Corrections, as this issue has loomed over the State for some time without a clear solution. If the Legislature and Governor settle on an agreement to close Green Bay Correctional Institution, we will need to determine where to house the current inmates, and find a solution that does not include early release of these violent offenders.

I look forward to working with my legislative colleagues and the Joint Committee on Finance to put forth a budget that improves the lives of all Wisconsinites.”

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Rep. Duchow represents the 97th Assembly District, which includes the villages of Dousman, Eagle, North Prairie, Oconomowoc, Palmyra, Sullivan, Summit, and Wales; the towns of Concord, Delafield, Eagle, Genesee, Hebron, Mukwonago, Ottawa, Palmyra, and Sullivan; and the City of Delafield.