



STATE SENATOR  
**Eric Wimberger**  
DISTRICT 2

January 15, 2025  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Senator Eric Wimberger – (608) 266-5670

## **New Data Shows Officer Vacancies at Green Bay Correctional Down Nearly 75%** *Vacancy Rates Plummet After Pay Raises Championed by Senator Wimberger*

MADISON – Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto) released the following statement after the most recent Department of Corrections figures showed a nearly 75% decrease in the number of unfilled positions at Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI) from their peak in 2024:

*“One of my priorities in the 2023-2024 State Budget was securing major pay raises for Wisconsin’s prison guards. Wisconsin has seen too many unfilled corrections officer positions, putting the safety of both officers and inmates at greater risk. I was proud to help negotiate a \$33 per hour starting wage for prison guards that is already bringing down the number of vacant correctional positions statewide.*

*Thankfully, the impact of these raises is also being felt locally. Officer vacancies at GBCI are down nearly 75% from their peak in August 2023. I look forward to continuing my work to fix the problems in our corrections systems and invest in public safety, both in Northeast Wisconsin and throughout the state.”*

Adult prison facilities across the Department of Corrections have seen major staffing shortages in recent years, reaching 35% systemwide at their peak in August 2023. The 2023-2024 State Budget included a series of pay raises for these positions, incentivizing current guards to remain in their roles and encouraging new applicants to apply for these more competitive salaries. Since the pay raises took effect in the fall of 2023, [data published by the Department of Corrections](#) has shown major declines in unfilled correctional guard positions with the hiring of new officers.

###

*State Senator Eric Wimberger is a former Marine Captain, attorney, and small business owner. He serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. He represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District, including parts of Brown, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Waupaca Counties.*

A media kit for Senator Wimberger can be found [here](#).