



The [statewide COVID-19 website](#) is a one stop shop that consolidates information from state agencies, and provides up-to-date information and guidance regarding COVID-19.

If you're not busy, please make a call, send a card, or write a letter to someone you know who lives alone of may need assistance.

Please, let them and your family know that you are thinking of them, and that we are here for each other.

Bless each of you during this difficult time of uncertainty and suffering. Take good care!

Contents

- [Increased Testing at Local Health Centers](#)
- [Senior Resources](#)
- [State Parks and Forests Reopening](#)
- [Small Business Loans](#)
- [Session Records Withheld](#)

Turning the Dial



Governor Evers announced yesterday that through a collaboration between the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services, several services have been identified which can be made available with a minimal impact on our state's ability to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Curb-side drop-off of goods and services; Outdoor recreational rentals such as boats, kayaks, and golfcarts; and automated and self-service car washes can go back online tomorrow. For details, please see [Emergency Order #34](#)

Local Health Centers Increase Testing Capacity

In order to get a handle on the spread of COVID-19, five local community health centers are offering testing for those who do not have a regular doctor.

Testing is an integral component of all of the proposed reopening plans for our state. In order to understand where outbreaks are occurring, we will need robust and responsive diagnostics.

2 of the 5 community health centers are located within the 3rd Senate district, they are [Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers](#) (414)-672-1353 and the [Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center](#) (414)-383-9526

Please call to receive guidance and information on testing before coming into any clinic. [Read more](#)

Resources Available for Seniors

Aging Resource Center Open to Serve You!

If you have any questions about services, supports, meals, transportation, counseling, or almost any other question relating to older adults, call your [Milwaukee County Aging Resource Center](#) at: Phone: (414) 289-6874

Toll Free: (866) 229-9695

TRS: 711

SeniorLAW will provide legal representation to seniors claiming Unemployment Insurance benefits

Legal Action of Wisconsin's [SeniorLAW](#) will expand the scope of its representation to seniors to include unemployment insurance benefits, which were recently expanded through the CARES Act. For more information on coronavirus/COVID-19 and Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance visit: [DWD Unemployment COVID-19 Public Information](#)

Energy Assistance Expands Eligibility

In response to COVID19, the State of Wisconsin has approved new income guidelines for Energy Assistance benefits. Instead of considering an applicant's last 3 months of income only the past 1 month of income will be considered effective 3/30/2020.

Residents can call to schedule an appointment at **414-270-4MKE**. Note: All sites are temporarily closed to the public. All appointments are by phone. Visit [Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services website](#) for more information.

DNR Reopens 34 State Parks and Forests under Special Conditions

Starting May 1st, 34 state parks and forests will be open to the public once again with safety precautions in place.

The parks will be operating under modified opening hours and with conditions to minimize crowding.

An annual park sticker and/or trail pass will be required to visit state parks and trails. Stickers will be available for purchase with credit card by phone 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. seven

days a week by calling toll free: 1-888-305-0398

See DNR.wi.gov for more details



Paycheck Protection Program is back online

After the \$349 billion in funding for the Paycheck Protection Program ran out in only 10 days, Congress passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act with an additional \$310 billion designated for small businesses to keep employees on the payroll. Applications are being accepted now!

Due to the frustrations with the first round of funding often going to larger businesses, this act has set guidelines to help funnel funding to smaller businesses. With the difficult current economic conditions, funds are expected to run out again. [More info](#)

Request for Records Showing Censorship of Senators during Session was Denied

[See story from Fox6Now](#)

When information was first delivered to State Senators about the possibility of convening the State Senate virtually in order to take up COVID-19 relief legislation, I made my preference to participate in person very clear to all of the parties involved in the planning of that virtual meeting.

Despite telling the Senate President multiple times throughout the preceding month that it was my intention, and that I considered it my duty to attend in person, I received no response to my messages. I had misgivings about handling such important policy over a virtual medium, but it turns out that I should have been even more concerned.

On the day of session, I went up to the committee room where the session would be broadcast from in order to participate. This is normally provided for under the Senate Rules—Senators are supposed to have access to Senate spaces such as the Senate Chambers and committee rooms in order to fulfill their duties as Senators—but I was locked out and told by the Senate Sergeant at arms, who was standing in front of the door, that I would not be allowed entry.

The Senate Rules had been changed two days earlier to allow Senate President Roger Roth to be able to determine who would be allowed to enter the room. This rule change was not considered by the full State Senate, but rather by the Senate Committee on Organization, a 5-person committee composed of the leaders of each caucus. That committee did not unanimously approve of these rule changes, in fact it was only the 3 Republicans serving on that committee, Senators Fitzgerald, Roth, and Feyen, who determined that it would be appropriate to deny entry to Senators, even while certain members of Senate staff and the media were allowed inside.

What happened next should have come as no surprise, but honestly I was quite shocked. When I went to my office to participate virtually and raise a point of order related to being obstructed from the chamber, I was not only refused the opportunity to speak at that point, but my requests to speak and raise an inquiry were ignored by the Senate President for the entire duration of the session. Denying the constituents of the 3rd Senate District full representation during an imperative debate concerning our State's strategy to handle COVID-19.

By putting total control of the proceedings of the Senate Session in Senator Roth's hands, the three Senators on the Senate Committee on Organization also gave him license to censure the members of the State Senate without the consideration of the full body which is required. Senator Roth would not have been able to protect himself from the Coronavirus any less if he had allowed me and other Senators to take some of the

places in that room rather than staff, but he was able to thoroughly shield himself from scrutiny.

These actions have set a truly disgusting precedent. Despite the fact that Republicans do not believe that the social distancing requirements are necessary in all circumstances, they are willing to abuse those recommendations to silence their opposition in our halls of representation. The decision to censure a Senator should not be made so lightly and not by any less than the full Senate.

In order to demonstrate my presence during session, and to get to the bottom of the way requests to speak and raise an inquiry were handled, I submitted a request for records of the proceedings to the Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB), who facilitated the virtual session and created the system for making these requests under the direction of the Legislative Leadership.

I believe that LTSB is capable of demonstrating this information, but has been directed by their bosses, the Legislative Leadership, to deny my request in order to protect themselves. I believe that it is in the public's interest to be able to see how Senator's participated during the Senate session, because the actions taken during debate and voting are the fundamental responsibility of an elected legislator.

It is my intention to never be denied entry again to a Session of the State Senate. I believe that our duties to provide representation on behalf of our constituents, and participate in decision-making affecting the entire state is too important to be handled through a technology that can have delays or fail. But especially after seeing the willingness of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to abuse that technology to deny debate and oversight, there must always be an option for members of our government to attend these meetings in person.

| Office Phone 608-266-8535 |

Sen.Carpenter@legis.wi.gov [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)