

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



## COMMUNITY ALERT

**Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration:**

Free Event  
Sunday, January 18th,  
1:00p.m.

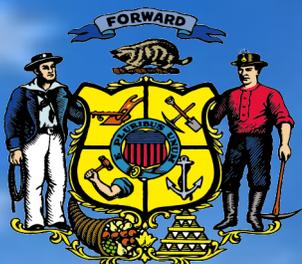
Marcus Center for the  
Performing Arts, Uihlein  
Hall

929 N Water Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always, I'm  
Here to Serve!



## STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

On Tuesday January 15, 2015 Governor Scott Walker made his state of the state address in Madison. In this address he exclaimed that the Wisconsin Comeback was working, putting Wisconsin on track for gains in employment and education. The Governor's "Wisconsin Comeback", has left many behind in Milwaukee. It is unacceptable to have disparities in employment, education, and incarceration that are facing communities of color in our city". African –American male unemployment and graduation rates are around 56% and 58% respectively. This information has not effected administrative policies surrounding the issues that create a "school to prison pipeline". Under Walkers tenure as Governor public education has been reduced by nearly \$2.6 billion. State government needs to be accountable across the board for all schools across the state, public safety and the \$2.2 billion dollar budget shortfall. This phenomena is leading to an increased correction cost and not acknowledging that we have the worst racial achievement gap in the nation. We need to recognize the work that needs to be done to ensure equal opportunities for all Wisconsinites.

## Unnecessary Rush to Amend State Constitution



In an effort to rush a constitutional amendment to ballot by the spring election, Republican legislators on the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety demonstrated a complete disregard for the legislative process. Yesterday, I witnessed a complete overreach in the effort to gain control of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Senate Joint Resolution 2, a measure which would change a nearly 125 year practice of selecting the state's Chief Justice, received a hearing in the committee. Initially expected to be heard next week, the public hearing and executive committee meeting were hastily moved to today. After the Republicans learned that this resolution needed to be passed prior to January 27 in order to appear on the ballot in the spring election, GOP leadership began to bulldoze this proposal though. In providing the public and my colleagues with less than 25 hours' notice, the committee chair sought to minimize the democratic process and showed indifference for legislative precedent. In protest of the actions of the committee, Senator Risser and I left the hearing. Ultimately we returned to the committee room about five minutes later and voted against the proposal in protest. Out of respect for our state's constitution and Chief Constitutional Officer, I expected a more balanced approach to such an historical and impactful proposal. The Committee has the votes to pass the amendment; there was not need to ram it down our throats.



**Our Greatest Generation Youth Conference**

**Saturday, January 17th,  
1pm—5pm**

**Mary Ryan Boys & girls Club  
3000 N Sherman Blvd  
Milwaukee, WI 53210**

**Topics of Discussion:**  
Power of Hip Hop  
Social Justice  
Keeping the Peace

Free Admission and Lunch

**Senator Taylor's Office**

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**MIKE TATE STEPS DOWN**



State Democratic chair, Mike Tate confirmed that he will not be seeking re-election at this June's state convention. Tate, 35 years old, was first elected chair in 2009 and at the time, the youngest state party leader in the country. Democratic party fundraising coupled with mixed success at the polls has been the hallmarks of his term. Tate reported he won't be endorsing anyone of the candidates ; DNC member, Jason Rae, former state representative Jeff Smith and former state Chair Joe Wineke have all expressed interest in the position.

**MASSACRE IN NIGERIA**



On January 3, 2015 the town of Baga in Nigeria was attacked by the extremist group, Boko Haram. The name means "western education is forbidden". There goal is to replace Christianity. The radical group is linked to Al-Qaeda and is the accused in the abduction of 276 Nigerian girls from boarding school in April of 2014 to sell them as wives and sex slaves . The town of Baga was bombarded with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles. Most of the thousands of people killed were women, children and the elderly. Boko Haram also used suicide bombers as young as ten years old. Amnesty International declares this "possibly the deadliest massacre in the history of violent groups". The US is actively helping and has been asked to train Nigerian soldiers. Human rights should be granted to all people regardless of nationality or locality. This tragedy I has been over-shadowed in the media by the events in Paris. While the loss of life to senseless violence is always a tragedy, it is concerning when the death of over 2,00 innocent people barely gets any recognition. My prayers are with the people of Nigeria and especially those who lost loved ones in these heinous attacks.

**Wise Words of the Week!**

**Contact Us!**  
**We Enjoy Hearing From You!**

Opportunity does not knock, it presents itself when you beat down the door.—Kyle Chandler

