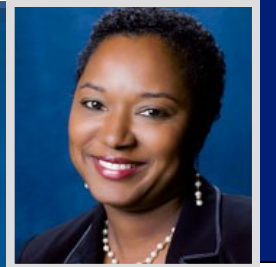


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



## COMMUNITY ALERT

### Milwaukee Budget Listening Sessions:

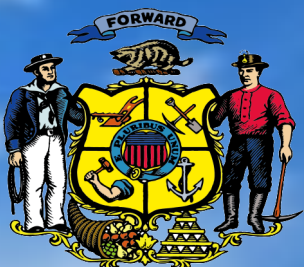
Thursday, April 9th  
Washington Park Senior Center  
4420 W. Vliet Street  
4PM-7PM

Saturday, April 11th  
Brentwood Church of Christ  
6425 N. 60th Street  
3PM - 6PM

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



## TIME FOR ACTION ON JUSTICE REFORM

Representative Rob Hutton and I welcomed Republican political activist, Grover Norquist to the State Capitol on Tuesday. Invited to speak at a legislative briefing on correction reform, Norquist has traveled the country to discuss justice reinvestment strategies. I aim to introduce bipartisan legislation this session that uses data driven strategies proven to reduce recidivism rates and corrections costs.



African-American men shoulder a disproportionate amount of arrests, charging, and sentencing outcomes. Our prisons are being used to warehouse individuals with mental health conditions. Nearly half of those incarcerated in Wisconsin will complete a prison sentence before they have completed their high school education or obtained a GED. We have taken meaningful steps to identify best practices to improve Wisconsin's justice system. The work that was done with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in 2009 and subsequent efforts with national organizations have provided us a framework for data driven strategies that have proven successful. Norquist's visit was a first step in a series of many opportunities to enlist bi-partisan interest and support for corrections reform. Ready to roll up my sleeve's and get to work!

## JFC BUDGET HEARINGS CONCLUDE



The Joint Finance Committee held their final public hearing last week on the Governor's proposed budget. Testimony came from residents concerned about proposals ranging

from: funding cuts to K-12 schools and school voucher expansion, the \$300 million cut to the UW System; changes to SeniorCare, IRIS, FamilyCare and ADRCs; changing the DNR board into an advisory-only role, eliminating science positions, freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and removing taxpayer funding for the operation of state parks. The committee also heard a loud call for justice reform and an increase to AODA services. Rather than investing in our communities and growing our state's economy, the Governor is making a conscious choice to ignore these crises. The Walker deficit is a self-inflicted wound and this budget continues a failed economic agenda that will hurt Wisconsin families, communities, and small businesses.



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or want to give back to  
the community?

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Contact Us!  
We Enjoy Hearing  
From You!

**RIGHT TO VOTE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED**

In response to continued efforts to restrict access to the polls and limit the ability of qualified citizens to vote, I am introducing legislation which would amend the state constitution to provide that every qualified elector in this state has the fundamental right to vote. In general, if the amendment became law, all government restrictions on voting would face strict scrutiny by the courts, if challenged. This means that the state limitations on voting would have to be the least restrictive limitations possible to avoid infringing on that right. Rather than allowing the erosion of voting rights by requiring identification, limiting voting hours, preventing absentee voting, and eliminating same-day voter registration, we should be empowering our citizens and working to increase voter participation and turnout. Every qualified citizen should have a fundamental right to vote.



**GET OUT AND VOTE: SPRING ELECTION**

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> is the statewide spring election! There will be two items on the ballot related to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The first item is the race between Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley and her challenger, Rock County Circuit Judge James Daley. The second item will ask voters how the Supreme Court should select its chief justice; a change that would amend the state constitution. The Wisconsin constitution currently provides that the justice with the most seniority on the state Supreme Court serves as its chief justice. The proposed constitutional amendment would instead allow for the justices to select their leader for a two-year term through an election. This would leave the selection for leadership up to the justices themselves, as opposed to

the current standard of selection through seniority. This proposal is viewed by many as a partisan attack on current Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, who could lose her position if the amendment passes. Make sure to visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/> for more information! Be sure to exercise your right to vote on April 7<sup>th</sup>!



**Wise Words of the Week!**

*“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.”*

*~ Maya Angelou*