



### COMMUNITY ALERT

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 5th  
Lincoln Park Pavilion

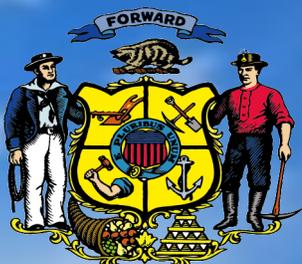
1301 W. Hampton Ave.

Games, food, resources,  
music, and more!

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!



## HANDFUL OF DISAPPOINTING DECISIONS

On Thursday, the Supreme Court issued rulings upholding decisions on 2011 Act 10, voter ID laws. We expect the courts to do what is right, but that is becoming less common, as the institution becomes more politically motivated. In a show of support for Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Act 10 in *Madison Teachers Inc. v. Scott Walker*. In 2011, the news of its Act 10's passage caused huge protests at the Wisconsin State Capital due to provisions drastically limiting the collective bargaining rights of public workers. Thursday's decision is a low blow to union workers who have consistently voiced their disapproval of the law and now no longer enjoy the right to collective bargain to negotiate wages, benefits, and



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working conditions. The Wisconsin Supreme Court also ruled in favor of Voter ID laws stating the law does not create additional burdens for voters. While the court attempted to remedy the situation in *Milwaukee Branch of the NAACP v. Scott Walker* by waiving some of the fees encountered when obtaining a photo ID, the decisions carry heavy implications for an already highly divided electorate. The court's decision validates Republicans' attempts to unfairly alienate and disenfranchise poor and minority voters. Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson hit the nail on the head i, stating: "Today the court follows not James Madison—for whom Wisconsin's capital city is named—but rather Jim Crow—the name typically used to refer to repressive laws used to restrict rights, including the right to vote, of African-Americans." However, the fight for equal voting rights has not been lost. In April, a federal court ruled Wisconsin's Voter ID laws unconstitutional. Because of this, Thursday's decision will not have an immediate effect on upcoming primary. What these decisions really are is a manipulation of the electorate and change how people view the democratic and justice process—it is not a fair system. I pray that the appeals court currently reviewing the decision will side in favor of an open and transparent electoral system.



## Coffee With the Senator!

Thursday, August 7th  
9:30 AM—12:30 PM

At  
Coffee Makes You  
Black

2803 N Teutonia Ave

### Senator Taylor's Office

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## WORKING FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act. The VRA's goal was to prohibit racial discrimination in voting practices. Despite this legislation, there are still those who seek to manipulate the electorate through various methods. Currently, people in prison, parole and on probation cannot vote in Wisconsin. Even those deemed "rehabilitated" cannot exercise their most fundamental right. Even more troubling, a disproportionate percentage of those affected are African American. A University of Milwaukee Study found that one in eight working age African American man is currently incarcerated in Wisconsin. If we seek to claim equal voting rights, we must join the thirteen states who grant former inmates the right to vote. We cannot let them be marred by the stigma of "former criminal," which dehumanizes those who have had troubled pasts. This is one of the 20 "Justice for All" bills I plan to introduce next session, and bring to the forefront of the legislature to put an end to the disenfranchisement of our citizens.



## SUMMER STUDY COMMITTEES



<http://fba.net>

For the interim session this summer, I have been appointed to serve on the Study Committee for the Transfer of Structured Settlement. Wisconsin is one of only two states without a proper law governing the transfer of structured settlement payments, right now we depend on other states laws—which can lead to inconsistencies or large taxation.

Structured settlements are payments from a lawsuit doled out in small amounts instead of one lump sum. Sometimes, a plaintiff may see the need to transfer a structured settlement to a third party for a variety of reasons; a company may agree to become the beneficiary to a structured settlement in return for a one-time lump sum to the original plaintiff. Our committee had a productive first meeting on July 31, in which all members were united in our desire to create a stronger and long-lasting solution that will protect structured settlement transfers for every citizen in Wisconsin.

## Wise Words of the Week!

Contact Us!  
We Enjoy  
Hearing  
From You!

"If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity"

- John F. Kennedy

