

*The*  
**FELZKOWSKI FLYER**



**WISCONSIN'S 12TH SENATE DISTRICT**

## **JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING YESTERDAY**

Yesterday, the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) held our first executive session regarding the 2021-23 biennial budget.

Every two years, the Governor of Wisconsin proposes a budget and sends it to the Legislature. The Legislature then has the ability to work off of the Governor's proposed budget or start from scratch, and this time around, we've chosen to start from scratch.

Back in February, the Joint Committee on Finance sent a letter to the Governor asking him to please resist putting non-fiscal and divisive policy in his budget. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Instead, we received a budget that included the repeal of Act 10, Right to Work, and Prevailing Wage; hiked taxes on businesses, homeowners, and consumers by \$2 billion; and would have left Wisconsinites with a \$1 billion structural deficit.

For the remainder of the budget, we will be working off of base - meaning what it cost for this past year.

**The following agencies were wrapped up yesterday:**

Appropriation Obligation Bonds, Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, Court of Appeals, Fox River Navigational System Authority, Governor, Investment Board, Judicial Commission, Kickapoo Reserve Management Board, Labor and Industry Review Commission, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board, Medical College of Wisconsin, Secretary of State, State Fair Park, State Treasurer, and Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

MAY 7TH, 2021

**1 - JOINT FINANCE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
YESTERDAY**

**2 - MJTC FACILITY AND  
DOJ SETTLEMENT**

**3 - DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**4 - CAPITOL OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC AGAIN**

**Senator Mary Felzkowski  
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(608)266-2509**

## MJTC FACILITY AND DOJ SETTLEMENT

Another duty of the Joint Committee on Finance is to approve certain requests within the Department of Administration (DOA).

Yesterday, we took up the Department of Health Services (DHS)'s request to DOA for bonding authority to expand the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center by 50 beds - 30 for males and 20 for females.

This request was passed unanimously by the Joint Committee on Finance.

I championed this proposal because it is a crucial step in getting juvenile mental health needs addressed and one step closer to the closing, and ultimately, repurposing of the troubled Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake facilities in Irma.

The final task that the Joint Committee on Finance took action on yesterday was the approval of a DOJ settlement out of Oconto County.

A citizen of Oconto County was caught dredging a tributary and filling the adjacent wetlands on multiple occasions.

This person and DOJ settled on a \$10,000 fine and the requirement that the wetlands must be remediated.

The settlement was approved by JFC members unanimously.

## DISTRICT COMMUNITY CALENDAR

If you would like to see your event here, please send them to [Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov).

- May 8th:** Merrill Gun Show - Merrill
- MAY 9th:** MOTHER'S DAY
- May 9th:** Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast - Florence
- May 17th-21st:** Hodag Heritage Days - Rhinelander
- May 21st-22nd:** SXS Sports Spring National UTV Race - Lena
- May 29th:** 5th Annual Manitowish Waters Boat & Car Show - Manitowish Waters
- May 30th:** Main Street Memories Car Show - Tomahawk
- June 25th:** Minocqua Antique and Classic Boat Show - Minocqua

## CAPITOL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AGAIN

On Monday, the State Capitol was finally reopened to the public. The building will be open from 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday.

If you're planning to visit, stop by our office - we love seeing folks from the district.



**COMMUNITY EVENTS  
IN MY WEEKLY  
NEWSLETTER, SEND  
THEM TO:**

**[SEN.FELZKOWSKI@LEGIS.WI.GOV](mailto:SEN.FELZKOWSKI@LEGIS.WI.GOV)**