

The
FELZKOWSKI FLYER



WISCONSIN'S 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE TUESDAY UPDATE

On Tuesday, the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) held an executive session to vote on budget provisions, closing out the following agencies:

- Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- Department of Administration (DOA)
- Building Commission
- Department of Transportation (DOT)

Key Takeaways:

- \$100 million for local roads (DOT)
- All projects remain on schedule with no tax or fee increases (DOT)
- Investments in the State Highway Program (DOT)
- Lowest Bonding Levels in decades (DOT)
- \$629 million for the UW System, including two buildings at UW Madison, and one at UW Green Bay, UW Stevens Point, and UW Oshkosh
- Funding the initial steps of the WISCOM Upgrade (DMA)
- Full funding of the ESInet system for NextGen911 (DMA)
- Providing grants to counties to upgrade all equipment (DMA)

JUNE 11TH, 2021

**1 - JFC TUESDAY BUDGET
UPDATE**

**2 - JFC THURSDAY
BUDGET UPDATE**

**3 - WI DELEGATION
HEADING TO ARIZONA**

**4 - LAW ENFORCEMENT
CAPITOL VISIT**

**5 - VILLAGE EMPLOYEE
BILL PASSES SENATE**

**6 - COME TESTIFY IN
MADISON!**

**Senator Mary Felzkowski
State Capitol - 415 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707**

**Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov
(608)266-2509**

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE THURSDAY UPDATE

On Thursday, the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) held an executive session to vote on budget provisions, closing out the following agencies:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Circuit Court
- Supreme Court
- District Attorneys
- Public Defender (SPD)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Legislature
- Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Key Takeaways:

- Windows to Workforce program expansion (DOC)
- Investment in equipment for workforce and technical training (DOC)
- Make counties whole for the 4 new circuit court branches in 2021 and 4 new branches in 2022 (Circuit Court)
- Increased funding for Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD) - \$2.5 million more (DOJ)
- Increase in Law Enforcement Training Grants - \$2 million more annually (DOJ)
- Set \$2 million aside for legislation that would allow law enforcement agencies to purchase body worn cameras if they would like (DOJ)
- Increased funding for Producer-led watershed grants - \$250,000 more annually (DATCP)
- Fully fund a 2nd county conservation staff for every county (DATCP)
- Reauthorize the Stewardship Program for 4 years at \$32 million annually (DNR)
- \$6 million for Dam Safety Grants - increasing the cap to \$1 million per project (DNR)
- \$125,000 for a water control structure at Dead Pike Lake in Manitowish Waters (DNR)
- \$2 million annually for Well Compensation Grants (DNR)
- \$1 million for the Clean Sweep Program to collect PFAS-Containing Firefighter Foam around the state (DNR)
- \$1.5 million for park improvements (DNR)

Next Tuesday, the committee will take up: Department of Health Services, Office of Commissioner of Insurance, Department of Children and Families, Board on Aging and Long Term Care, and Public Service Commission.

WI DELEGATION HEADING TO ARIZONA

Six members of the Wisconsin Legislature got approval to travel to Arizona "to observe a large-scale recounting process using volunteers and contracted vendors to determine ballot integrity and possible reconstruction of the Dominion machine programming."

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPITOL VISIT FROM THE 12TH

Yesterday, I met with law enforcement members from the Wisconsin Sheriffs Association and the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.

This year, the two organizations teamed up for their advocacy day to discuss the needs and concerns in the law enforcement community.

Langlade County Sheriff Mark Weston was here to discuss what their seeing at the county level.

Former Neenah Chief of Police, Ray Appel, who now resides in Townsend was also here on behalf of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.

Pictured below: Sen. Felzkowski (Left), Ray Appel (Center), and Sheriff Mark Weston (Right)



VILLAGE EMPLOYEE BILL PASSES IN THE SENATE

I am happy to say that Senate Bill 187, which I co-authored with Representative Mursau, successfully passed on the senate floor on Wednesday.

There are times when villages may find it difficult to find employees for positions that are vacated due to resignations, retirements, or any number of other reasons, and sometimes these positions remain unfilled for months.

Senate Bill 187 will allow village trustees, who are currently ineligible to serve as community employees, to be hired to fill necessary positions that keep our communities operating at their best.

In a village within the 12 Senate District a crossing guard position opened up, and the only person who wanted to apply for the position was a retired individual who served as a village board member.

This bill would put villages on the same level as towns when it comes to the hiring of board members, as a statutory provision already exists which allows town board members to receive a similar hourly wage as a town employee.

For many small communities, both in my district and throughout Wisconsin, this will go a long way towards ensuring villages remain staffed and running smoothly.

COME TESTIFY IN MADISON NEXT WEEK

Have you ever been interested in seeing how the bill-making process works in person?

Are you in the tourism industry, having a hard time finding employees, or just a law-abiding gun owner?

Now is your time to shine!

Next Wednesday, June 16th, the Senate Committee on Labor and Regulatory Reform will be holding a public hearing to take testimony on two of my bills - SB332 and SB314.

SB332 would expand the allowable work hours for 14 and 15 year olds - which will give the summer tourism industry more options in rounding out their workforce.

SB314 would make Wisconsin a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State.

When testifying at a Senate Hearing, you have the opportunity to read prepared testimony or speak from the heart on these issues.

This hearing **starts at 12:30pm in 201 South East** and will most likely take a couple of hours.

If this is something that interests you, please reach out to my office for more details!

Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov
(608) 266-2509

