**The state’s budget is a reflection of the state’s priorities**

By: Senator Melissa Agard, Senate Democratic Leader

We want Wisconsin to be a place where everyone is safe, can reach for their dreams, and where we invest in a better tomorrow. I come to the Capitol everyday ready to roll up my sleeves and work to build a more equitable Wisconsin. It is reassuring to have a Governor whose goals mirror ours and who is committed to creating a Wisconsin that truly works for everyone.

Governor Evers biennial budget proposal will be released soon. I know that the budget he puts forth will reflect the values of the people of our state because Governor Evers has led Wisconsin following the motto, ‘the will of the people is the law of the land.’ With a projected $6.6 billion surplus, we have an opportunity during the upcoming biennium to support the services provided by our local governments, invest in programs that prioritize the public’s well-being and safety, as well as provide a substantial tax return to Wisconsinites.

Rather than local governments and schools across Wisconsin going to referendum year after year, asking residents to increase their own property taxes, to ensure their communities and educators have the necessary resources, we must make meaningful and sustainable investments at the state level. In my conversations with constituents of the 16th Senate District and people throughout the state, I hear the same resounding support to reinvest in our public safety departments and our public schools, to ensure that retired folks are not being priced out of their homes, and to restore and preserve Wisconsin waterways.

I encourage you to contact my office to express your vision for the upcoming budget. Please know that I will continue to be a strong voice for you, working hard to enact a budget that reflects the shared values of our great state.