



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

October 23, 2020



Dear friend,

On Saturday, October 24, the state Department of Justice, in coordination with the Department of Health Services, will hold a Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative throughout the state. The goal of the program is to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposal of prescription medications, while also educating the general public on the risk of abuse of these medications. Find out more, including local drop-off spots, at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/prescription-drug-take-back-day>. In other news, two funding opportunities for small businesses are seeking applicants; early voting has begun in Wisconsin; and those unemployed due to Covid will be getting an extra lifeline. Finally, of course, Covid continues to overshadow everything. Wear a mask, practice physical distancing, and stay home as much as possible. Stay safe, healthy and well.

Sincerely,

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Studio Moonfall Has Been Meeting Downtown Kenosha's Creative Needs for Over a Year



Writer, graphic designer, illustrator, game designer, artist, publisher and bookmaker Donovan Scherer is the creator of the “Fear & Sunshine” series of illustrated novels. He is well-known locally in the creative arts community. In 2010 he became a HarborMarket vendor, selling his illustrated novels and original art, gifts and art-related items. He continued this “pop up” business, selling at mobile stores, comic conventions and art fairs, until September 2019, when he opened Studio Moonfall’s storefront location at 5031 7th Avenue in downtown Kenosha. The store sells not only Donovan’s original creations but supports the works of other independent artists, as well. When the Covid-19 pandemic began to take a toll on local businesses, Scherer created a coloring book, “The Color of Kenosha”, featuring Kenosha businesses and landmarks, to both serve as a marketing tool and raise money to help struggling businesses. It became a hit and took on new life after the shooting of Jacob Blake and ensuing protests, violence and destruction. Visit <http://www.ColorOfKenosha.com> for more on the coloring book.



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

Befitting a store owned by creator of a series called “Fear & Sunshine”, every day is Halloween at Studio Moonfall, mixing themes from fantasy, horror and science fiction. Stop in to browse their inventory, or read more at <https://www.studiomoonfall.com/>.



Increased Covid Testing Options

While the state Department of Health Services cites “High Covid Activity” in **all 72 counties**, there are currently an increased number of options locally for anyone looking to get tested. Your primary health care provider is always an option, but there are many community testing sites available, as well.

National Guard Drive-through testing in Kenosha: The Wisconsin National Guard will be conducting free, drive-through testing from 10 am to 6 pm each Monday from October 12 - Dec. 7 at both the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha, and the Kenosha County Center at Highways 45 and 50 in Bristol (no testing at Bristol site on Nov. 27). No appointments are necessary, and symptoms are not required in order to get tested. Testing is open to any person who lives or works in Wisconsin and is age 5 or above. Online pre-registration is recommended at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

National Guard Drive-through testing in Racine: Each Tuesday and Wednesday from now until December 9 (excluding November 11), from 10 am - 6 pm at the Central Racine County Health Department, 10005 Northwestern Ave., Franksville, and on Thursdays from November 4 through Dec. 10 (excluding Nov. 26), at the Cesar Chavez Community Center, 2221 Douglas Ave., Racine. No appointments necessary, and symptoms are not required. Testing is open to any person who lives or works in Wisconsin and is age 5 or above. Online pre-registration is recommended at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

Modern Apothecary: Each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through at least Nov. 15, the locally-owned independent pharmacy will host drive-through testing in the parking lot south of the Simmons Island Beach House, 5001 Fourth Ave., in Kenosha. Hours are from 2-6 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 am - 1 pm on Saturdays. Testing is free of charge; [pre-registration](#) and an [appointment](#) are strongly encouraged.

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

Advocate Aurora: Drive-thru testing at both the Kenosha and Burlington locations for community members exhibiting at least one symptom of Covid-19; advance registration is required at aah.org/testing or by phone at 877-819-5034

CVS Pharmacy: Drive-through testing available at CVS in Kenosha (3710 57th Ave.) and Racine (3915 Durand Ave.); advance registration required at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Froedert South: Drive-through testing is available to those who qualify after completing an initial phone evaluation at (262)671-7777 between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Kenosha Community Medical Center/Gateway Kenosha Campus: A drive-through testing site is open to those who complete a quick registration process at (262)925-1325

Ascension: Offering testing by appointment, (833)981-0711 or choose.ascension.org/onlinecare
To find other testing sites in the state, visit

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>.



“Folks, Please Stay Home,” Governor Implores the Public to Take Covid Surge Seriously as Spread Continues Unchecked

At an event earlier this week, Donald Trump told a crowd of supporters that people are tired of hearing and talking about Covid-19. While the intent behind his statement - trying to convince the American people that the worst is behind is - is wrong and dangerous, there is truth in the statement itself. For a lot of people, “Covid fatigue” has set in. They are tired of wearing a mask, of physical distancing, of not being able to see the people they care about. They want things to be “normal” again. Well, we all want that, but we aren’t there yet. The number of daily reported new cases, hospitalizations and deaths continues to rise. Health care workers are stretched thin and stressed out. With cold weather, and the holidays, ahead of us, it’s likely to get worse before it gets better, but we must take steps now to slow the spread. We all need to do our part by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and staying at home as much as we can.



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



WEDC, KABA Disaster Loan Program for Kenosha Businesses Opening Application Period

Businesses in Kenosha that suffered damage during the civil unrest in August will be able to apply for interest-free loans from the state of Wisconsin beginning October 26.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has put \$4 million toward these loans, for business owners who suffered measurable physical damage to their business or buildings. The Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) will work with WEDC to administer the loans. Eligible businesses can receive up to \$50,000 each to use toward clean-up costs, repairs, obtaining temporary work space, restoration services or other costs. The application period will end at 8 am on November 6. Those looking to apply should supply: a police report; insurance claim information; repair estimates; photos of damage; 2018 and 2019 financials and/or tax returns; and plans to reopen/relocate, if applicable. Additional information is available at <http://www.kaba.org/Kenosha>. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact KABA at grants@kaba.org with questions.



Round 2 of “We’re All In” Small Grants Now Taking Applications from Small Businesses Hurt by Pandemic

The application period is now open for a second round of “We’re All In” small business grants to help small businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic stay afloat. Earlier this month, Governor Evers announced that he was putting an additional \$50 million into the grant program, meaning that 10,000 additional small businesses will receive the \$5,000 grant to be used for any purpose.

The application period runs until 11:59 pm, Monday, November 2. Awards are not made on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to qualify, a business must: be Wisconsin-based and for-profit; in 2019 have had 75% or more of company labor costs in Wisconsin and 75% of their assets in Wisconsin; earn more than \$0 and less than \$1 million in annual revenue; have started operating prior to Jan. 1, 2020; and have filed their 2019 taxes. Businesses that received a grant award during the first round are still eligible this round. Priority will be given to businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, such as restaurants and bars; hair and nail salons and barber shops; and other services.

For this round, applicants will be required to obtain a letter of support from a local business group and will not have to submit tax information. This round of grants will be administered by the state Department of Revenue in partnership with WEDC. More information, along with the application, can be found at www.revenue.wi.gov. Those who cannot apply online are encouraged to call the Wisconsin Department of Revenue at (608)266-2772.



State of Wisconsin Partners with Google for Faster Processing of Unemployment Claims; Federal Lost Wage Assistance Payments Now Being Made

With the state Department of Workforce Development (DWD) still facing a backlog of unemployment claims brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, DWD has announced it is partnering with Google to help

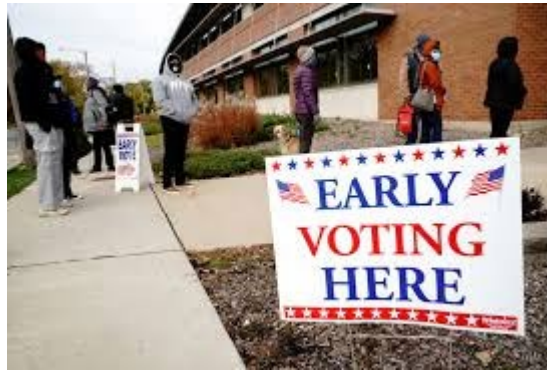


ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

process claims more quickly. Google Cloud will be working with DWD to provide an “expedited” review of unemployment insurance and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims. The Google service uses predictive analytics to shorten adjudication decision-making, meaning the department should be able to release payments to eligible claimants faster.

In another bit of DWD news, the department has begun dispensing \$300 per week payments from the federal Lost Wages Assistance program. Payments will be made retroactively to eligible claimants for up to six weeks: the weeks ending August 1, August 8, August 15, August 22, August 29 and September 5. DWD estimates that up to 220,000 claimants may be eligible, with total payments to Wisconsin residents expected to top \$200 million.



Early, In-Person Voting Opens with Big Numbers

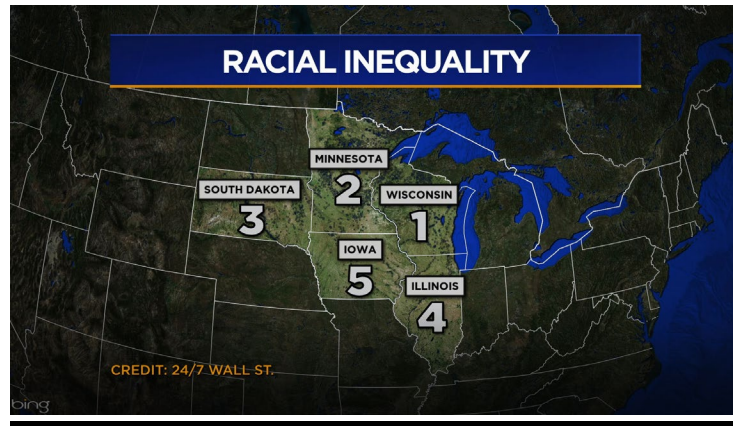
You can now cast your vote in person for the November 3 election. Early voting, or in-person absentee voting, opened statewide on October 20 and is available for two weeks; exact days and hours of operation vary by municipality. Find information on early voting, requesting an absentee ballot, and other election details at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper



Kenosha's Veronica King Appointed to Task Force on Racial Disparities

Activist and community leader Veronica King has been chosen for a spot on the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities. Made up of legislators, community leaders; and representatives of non-profit organizations, law enforcement, public health and faith-based groups, the task force will "focus on ways to address racial disparities, educational opportunities, public safety and law enforcement policies and standards", according to a news release announcing the appointments. Congratulations to Veronica, and thank you for stepping up to serve.



Racine Family YMCA President/CEO Launches New Podcast Series

Ahmad Qawi, President and CEO of the Racine Family YMCA, has begun a new bi-weekly podcast series, Kickin' It with Mr. Q, in which he discusses happenings at the Y; current events; and diversity, inclusion and social justice issues in Racine, the region, the state and country. The podcast is free and can be found at <https://anchor.fm/racine-family-ymca/episodes/Introduction-ekpqnv/a-a3fvkp8> and most major podcast platforms.