



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

November 13, 2020



Dear friend,

Today is recognized as World Kindness Day. This has been a difficult year for everyone; I thought it was important to recognize this day during a time when we could all use a little more kindness in our lives. Covid again dominates the news, with a potential vaccine on the horizon providing hope while the numbers continue to trend in the wrong direction. With Governor Evers's options limited by the courts and Republican legislators, local officials continue seeking ways to protect their residents. The Governor has begun preparations for the 2021-2023 state budget and will soon hold virtual listening sessions to gather your input. The elections are in our rearview mirror, and the federal government found that this election the most secure in our country's history, disputing rumors of "fraud". Stay safe, stay healthy, and be kind to each other.

Sincerely,

## In Case You Missed It

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



---

### *Home and Gift Shop Lulu Birds Blends Vintage with New*



Joy Ermert, owner of Lulu Birds (720 58th St., Kenosha), thinks of her store as a home furnishings and gift shop. Offering antiques and vintage goods as well as brand new items, Lulu Birds has just what you need to make your home feel complete. Started in 2015, Lulu Birds moved into its current, larger store in March 2017. Furniture is a big draw at the store, and much of the re-purposed or refinished stock was done by Ermert herself. She also works with outside vendors to offer a variety of looks. With the holiday season upon us, Lulu Birds is a great place to browse for new home decor or gifts or to get inspiration for your own home from their beautiful staging. Check out their Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/LuluBirdskenosha/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/LuluBirdskenosha/?ref=page_internal).



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

### Wisconsin's Weatherization Program



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION



homeenergy+

## *Programs Available to Help Homeowners Winter-Proof Their Homes, Save on Energy Costs*

We are currently experiencing mild, comfortable temperatures, but cold weather will be here soon enough. That means more energy to heat your homes and higher energy bills. Well, there are a couple of programs to help families make home improvements that will better keep in heat, keep out cold and lower energy use and heating bills. The Wisconsin Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources contracts with various agencies throughout the state, including the Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency (RKCAA) in our area, to administer the Weatherization Assistance Program. Eligible households will have an “energy auditor” look at their homes to see what can be done to make it more energy efficient. Weatherization services differ from home to home; some common weatherization services include: insulate attics, walls and floors; insulate or replace water heater; install energy efficient lighting; reduce air leakage; repair or replace furnaces; test and/or replace refrigerators; perform general health and safety inspections; and provide information about maintenance and energy conservation. In order to qualify, you must meet certain requirements: 1) You have either received benefits from Wisconsin’s Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) or your gross income for the last month is equal to or less than 60% of Wisconsin’s state median income for your family size (\$4,788.67 per month for a family of four); 2) Your dwelling/apartment has not been weatherized before; 3) Your household meets certain priorities that may include a high energy burden or use, elderly or disabled member, or a child under six. Find out more about the Weatherization

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

Assistance Program at <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/> or <https://www.rkcaa.org/housing/weatherization> or call the RKCAA at (262)898-8039.

Additionally, WE Energies offers a FREE Energy Saving Kit to customers. They will send plastic that will cover 5 to 6 windows, caulking and a few other items free of charge. If you are interested, or know anyone who can use help with their heating bills, the number to call is 1-800-242-9137, option 0 to speak to a representative and request a free kit.



### ***Increased Covid Testing Options***

While the state Department of Health Services cites “Very High Covid Activity” in **all 72 counties**, **AND 65 of 72 COUNTIES NOW AT CRITICALLY HIGH LEVELS**, 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.

**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



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

**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](http://choose.ascension.org/onlinecare)

To find other testing sites in the state, visit

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

### ***\*\*IMPORTANT: Changes to Local Testing\*\****

There are two important changes to note in local Covid-19 testing options. Advocate Aurora has halted their drive-through testing in Kenosha, as well as Milwaukee and Green Bay. They say the decision was made to redirect staff to patient care, as their inpatient counts continue to rise exponentially.

In some good news, UW System school statewide, including Parkside, have been provided with a limited number of rapid-result Covid-19 tests. These tests provide results in 15-30 minutes. The tests are free of charge and available to the public, and you don't have to have symptoms to get a test. A positive rapid test will need to be confirmed with the regular Covid-19 test but will provide you some guidance on whether or not you need to quarantine during that period. Registration at <https://www.doineedacovid19test.com> is required. The tests are administered in De Simone Gym in the SAC on the Parkside campus Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm, and Friday, 9 am - 1 pm. Testing is expected to last at least several weeks.

<https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/surge-testing-faq.cfm>

<https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/surge-testing.cfm>



### ***Governor Evers Addresses the State, Pleads for Cooperation from Citizens and GOP Legislators in Fighting Covid-19***

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](mailto: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



“Critically high”; “a dire situation”; “unrelenting rise” - these are all phrases that have been used to describe Wisconsin’s Covid-19 outbreak in the last few days. New statistics released are shocking. Earlier this year, New York City was the epicenter of the Covid pandemic, with sirens being heard around the city twenty-four hours a day and refrigerated trucks used to store the accumulating deceased. Well, with 2.5 million fewer people than New York City, Wisconsin’s current 7-day average for new Covid cases, just over 6,200 per day, is more than 1,000 more than NYC’s at its peak, 5,200. Sixty-five of the state’s seventy-two counties have such rampant Covid spread that the Department of Health Services had to create a new category - critically high - to describe it. In an address to the state earlier this week, Governor Evers advised - in the strongest terms possible - state residents to take this seriously and stay at home. The state GOP and conservative-controlled state Supreme Court have taken away most of the Governor’s tools to fight the spread of Covid, so he continues to emphasize the seriousness of the situation, hoping to break through to those still not getting it. In a positive sign, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos has signaled that he is finally ready to sit down and talk with Governor Evers about what can be done legislatively to address the pandemic.



## ***Kenosha Common Council to Consider Mask Requirement***

On November 16, the Kenosha City Council will be voting on a proposed ordinance requiring people to wear masks while in public places and businesses. Governor Evers’s mask order is currently set to expire on November 21, if it is not extended, and is being challenged in court; the proposed Kenosha ordinance would be an attempt to slow the spread of Covid locally should the Governor’s order come to an end. This is certainly a hot topic, as Wisconsin has some of the highest Covid numbers in the country, and hospitals become increasingly overwhelmed with new patients. If you live in Kenosha, you can find out who your alder is at <https://myvote.wi.gov>.





## **ROBERT W. WIRCH**

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

### ***Racine Health Department Orders School Buildings Closed Until Jan. 15***

School buildings in Racine, Wind Point and Elmwood Park must close beginning November 27 and remain closed until Jan. 15. While Racine Unified schools have been using virtual learning since the beginning of the school year, but teachers and some special education students have been in the schools; the order also applies to private schools. Covid cases are at unprecedented levels in the city of Racine, Racine County and the entire state, and hospitals are running out of beds. RUSD officials are currently reviewing the order to determine their best options going forward.



### ***Governor Announces “People’s Budget” Virtual Listening Sessions***

Continuing a tradition started during his campaign, but with a twist to adapt to the age of Covid, Governor Tony Evers will be holding a series of virtual listening sessions to gather input on the upcoming state budget. Participants must register ahead of time [here](#); registration is available one week before the scheduled session date. Wisconsinites are also welcome to send their thoughts on this, or any other topic, at any time [here](#).

#### **Budget Listening Session on Healthcare and Public Health**

Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6 pm

#### **Budget Listening Session on Environment, Infrastructure and the Economy**

Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6 pm

#### **Budget Listening Session on Criminal Justice Reform**

Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6 pm

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](mailto: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

**Budget Listening Session on Our Schools and Education**  
Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6 pm



ELECTION SECURITY  
**RUMOR vs. REALITY**

#PROTECT2020



***U.S. Department of Homeland Security Calls 2020 Election  
“the Most Secure in American History”***

Despite public comments from some candidates and elected officials, as well as conspiracy theories on social media, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has declared the recent nationwide elections the most secure in our history. This follows an in-depth review by the New York Times that spoke with election officials from all 50 states, of both political parties, and found no evidence of election fraud.

<https://www.axios.com/cisa-election-security-trump-a385868b-512a-4449-addd-4591829a4aef.html>