



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

March 12, 2021



Dear friend,

This weekend is when we “spring forward”. Daylight Saving Time is here. In most of the U.S., on the second Sunday in March, we set our clocks ahead one hour to give us an extra hour of sunlight in the evenings during the spring and summer months. There are pros and cons to the practice, and people have strong feelings both for and against. It definitely requires some adjustment each year, as some people’s sleep cycles are disrupted; feeding and napping times for small children are tinkered with; and pets have their schedules messed with, too. On the other hand, it means warmer weather is on the way. This is also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

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

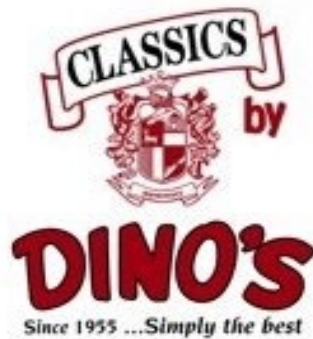
Printed on Recycled Paper

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Classics by Dino's Brings Family Pizza Recipe to Your Freezer



In 1955, Italian immigrants Dino and Grace Dominici opened Dino's Restaurant just off of 16th St. in Racine. The eatery specialized in family-style Italian food and always left guests wanting more for 58 years. In 1996, their son Peter began a new venture, modifying their signature pizza recipe so that it can be frozen, stored in your freezer and baked and your convenience. The result is Classics by Dino's frozen pizzas. Made locally, they offer both traditional style pizzas and specialty toppings, all on a thin, crispy crust. You can find Classics by Dino's at a number of local supermarkets; click [here](#) to find the closest to you. You can't go wrong with a traditional pepperoni or a "Big 3" cheese, or try a veggie garlic, Mexican style, or another specialty.

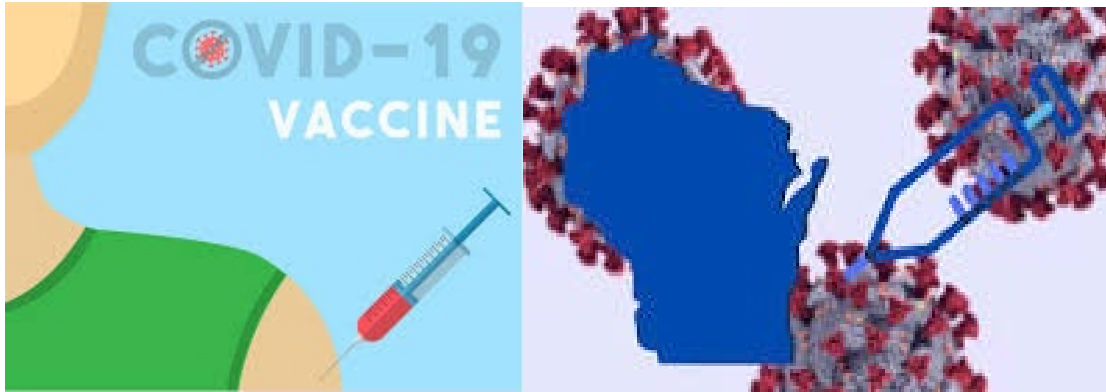
<https://www.facebook.com/classicsbydinos/>

<https://classicsbydinos.com/>



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



State Announces Vaccine Eligibility for Those with Serious Medical Conditions

Beginning March 29, Covid-19 vaccinations will be available to individuals 16 and older with certain serious medical conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to the effects of Covid. These medical conditions include: moderate to severe asthma; cancer; COPD; heart conditions; obesity; diabetes; and more. In all, it is believed that about 2 million Wisconsinites will be in this next group. Additionally, the Department of Health Services has said that they believe eligibility will be expanded to all Wisconsinites 16 and older sometime in May. Click [here](#) for a full list of medical conditions included in the next group.

Kenosha County operates a Covid-19 Vaccine Call Center. The call center is open to people who don't have access to schedule a vaccination appointment online. These people can call (262)605-6799 to speak with someone who will walk them through the appointment process, if they are eligible. The online list of Kenosha County Covid vaccine providers is still available, at <http://bit.ly/KCCCOVIDHub>, as well. The new Kenosha County Covid Vaccination Clinic site, located inside the former Shopko at 5300 52nd St., is now operational. You can use the above link to find appointment times.

People in Racine can sign up for email updates on vaccination progress at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine>. A list of Racine area vaccination providers is available at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine#Locations>. Festival Hall has been opened up as a vaccination clinic site. Use the first link to receive information on vaccination appointment availability.

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



Congressional Democrats Pass Historic “American Rescue Plan”, Biden Signs it into Law

In what is being hailed as one of the most significant poverty-fighting measures in American history, the American Rescue Plan has passed both houses of Congress, and President Biden signed it into law. While poll after poll show that the plan is tremendously popular with the American people, not a single Republican cast a vote in favor, including Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson. Johnson tried every trick in the book, including forcing Senate staff to read every word of the 628-page bill on the Senate floor, to slow the plan down, but in the end, the American people won. In addition to the extension of federal emergency unemployment benefits and \$1,400 direct cash assistance, the new law contains: an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income working families; an expansion of the child tax credit; a new round of funds for small businesses; \$128 billion toward education, largely to help school safely reopen; increased low-income energy assistance and food assistance funds; an additional \$7.5 billion to track, administer and distribute Covid-19 vaccines; \$25 billion in rental assistance; and aid to hard-hit industries like restaurants, airports and airlines, Amtrak, and entertainment venues. Studies say that the American Rescue Plan could cut child poverty in half.



Local Covid Testing Options

There are a 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.

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: A drive-through testing site at the former Chase Bank, 5506 Seventh Ave., is open to patients who complete a quick registration process at <https://www.kenoshachc.org/covid-19-resource-center/>. Testing is conducted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm.

Old Kenosha Fire Station No. 3: Free, drive-through testing will be offered during the following hours at the former No. 3 Fire Station, 2121 Roosevelt Rd., Kenosha: Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Thursdays, 2-6 pm; Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. This testing is being offered in a partnership between locally-owned Modern Apothecary, the Wisconsin DHS, and the Kenosha Fire Department. An appointment and preregistration is strongly encouraged, with appointment times available at <https://modernapothecary.10to8.com> and registration available at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>. Anyone who lives or works in Wisconsin, ages 5 and over, can be tested.

UW System schools 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.cfm>



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

Nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau Finds that Refusal to Expand BadgerCare Will Cost State \$1 Billion More Than Originally Thought

A memo released by the highly-regarded, nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau has alerted state leaders that under the just-enacted American Rescue Plan, Wisconsin could receive an additional \$1 billion in federal funding if the popular BadgerCare program is expanded to cover more families and individuals. Governor Evers has proposed expanding BadgerCare as part of his budget proposal, but legislative Republicans have consistently stood in the way. Even before this most recent news, an expansion of BadgerCare made economic and moral sense. It would provide healthcare coverage for an additional 90,000 of our neighbors and family members, and before the American Rescue Plan, the cost savings for state taxpayers would have been \$635 million over the next two years. That number is now an astronomical \$1.6 ***billion***.



Public Invited to Virtual Dialogue with Racine Police Chief Finalists

The final two candidates for new Racine Police Chief will be available for public discussion via a virtual event being held Saturday, March 13, from 8:30 - 10 am. “Coffee with the Candidates: A Dialogue with the City of Racine Police Chief Finalists” will feature Alexander Ramirez of Milwaukee and Maurice Robinson of Cincinnati, Ohio, talking issues and taking questions from the public. If you’d like to be an active participant, registration is required at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Rx2JiqFoSVuLPHHkl0_jOA. Those wishing to submit questions for possible consideration must submit them ahead of time to humanresources@cityofracine.com or by calling 262-636-9175. The event will also be streamed on the City of Racine’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfRacineWI/>, for those interested in simply watching and listening.



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



Additional Rental Assistance Resources Available

With new federal funding available, and building off of the successful WRAP grant program, Governor Evers has announced a new emergency rental assistance program. The Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERA) will provide direct financial assistance for rent, utilities, home energy costs and wraparound services for qualifying individuals and families. To be eligible, you must be a Wisconsin resident who demonstrates a risk of housing instability, have seen your income reduced by the Covid-19 pandemic, and/or earn a household income [at or below 80% of the county median income](#). Approved applicants can receive up to 12 months of assistance; rental and utility payments are made directly to the landlord and utility provider on behalf of the tenant. In Kenosha and Racine Counties, the program will be administered by the [Racine-Kenosha Community Action Agency](#). More details can be found [here](#).



Budget News and Details, Including Listening Sessions

To read a detailed and in-depth analysis of Governor Evers' budget proposal, you can visit the Department of Administration's Executive Budget page, <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2021-23%20Executive%20Budget.aspx>. You can also find a nonpartisan analysis of the Governor's budget proposal by the Legislative Reference Bureau at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/010_2021_budget_bill_analysis.pdf.

Governor Evers will hold six listening sessions on different budget topics: Economic Recovery and Opportunity; Accessible and Affordable Healthcare; Transportation and Infrastructure;

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

What's Best for Our Kids; Justice Reform and Marijuana Legalization; and Climate Change & our Environment. You can find dates and times, as well as instructions for registration, [here](#).

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will be holding four public hearings on the budget; three will be held in person, in different parts of the state, and one will be virtual, allowing for participation from all parts of Wisconsin. You can find the locations, dates and times, and more [here](#).