



ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

April 2, 2021



Dear friend,

For followers of the Judeo-Christian faiths, this is one of the most special times of the year. For Christians, Easter is a time of renewal and rebirth. For members of the Jewish faith, Passover is a weeklong celebration of the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the sparing, or "passing over", of the firstborn of the Israelites. Even for nonbelievers, this time of year brings a new joy and energy, as we receive more daylight, flowers begin to bloom, birds return, and grass and trees begin to green. Whatever your belief system, I hope that you are able to enjoy this beautiful season, while staying safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

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In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Four Local Businesses Sponsor Habitat for Humanity Virtual 5K



Four Kenosha businesses, Shorewest Realtors, Country Financial, SCL CPA, and Skyprint are sponsoring a “virtual 5K” to benefit the Kenosha chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Between April 15 and April 30, participants, either individually or in small groups, can complete a 5k run anywhere/anytime. All funds raised will help Habitat for Humanity build more affordable housing in Kenosha County. All participants will receive a custom Habitat for Humanity shirt, race medal and race bib. To learn more or register, visit habitatkenosha.org/virtual5k. If you are unable to participate but would still like to make a donation, go to secure.givelively.org/.../home-run-virtual-5k-2021. A huge “Thank you” to the local businesses sponsoring this great event.



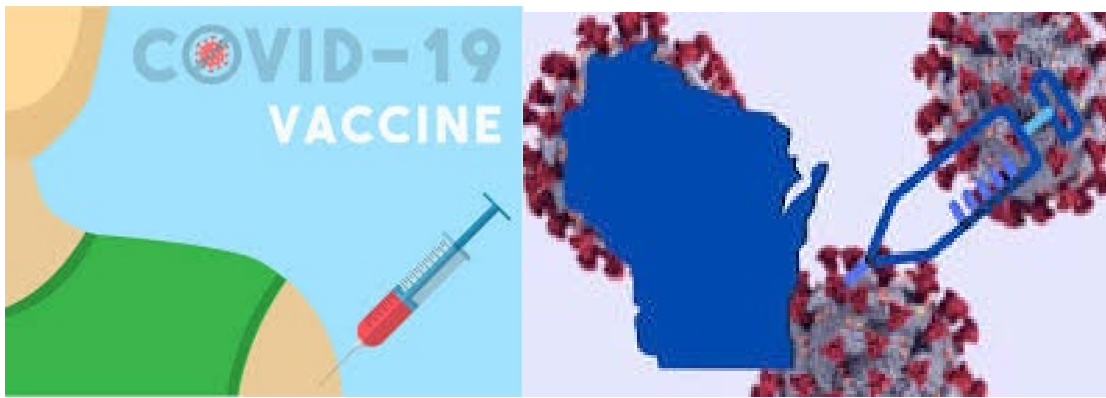


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Don't Forget to Vote in Spring Election

If you haven't already cast an absentee ballot, you can still vote in person on Election Day, Tuesday, April 6. To find out what's on your ballot or to locate your polling place, visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.



All Wisconsinites 16 and Older to be Eligible for Vaccine

Governor Tony Evers and the state Department of Health Services have announced that, beginning Monday, April 5, every Wisconsin resident age 16 and older will be eligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccination, nearly a month ahead of schedule. This is tremendous news in the fight against Covid and the attempt to return to a sense of normal.

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.

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Partisan State Supreme Court Strikes Down Statewide Mask Order, as Public Health Experts Nationwide Warn of Covid Surge if We Ease Up

In a highly partisan, politicized decision, the Wisconsin Supreme Court voted along ideological lines, 4-3, that the statewide mask requirement put in place by Governor Evers to slow the spread of Covid-19 cannot be enforced. The lawsuit challenging the order was brought by big-time Republican donor Jere Fabick, who has given \$20,000 to the campaign of conservative justice Rebecca Bradley; Fabick has donated nearly \$350,000 directly to Republican and conservative candidates in the state since 1994. Bradley also cast the deciding vote in striking down the Governor's Safer at Home order last year in a suit that was also brought by Fabick. The state's Republican Party apparatus supported the lawsuit. Meanwhile, with Covid numbers in the state and nationwide once again on the rise, health experts are urging citizens to continue wearing masks, even if they have been vaccinated, and take other preventative measures, as well. Wisconsin's 7-day average of new cases is once again on the rise after declining for several months, and our neighboring states have seen major upticks in new infections. All three major Covid variants, which have proven to be more infectious and more dangerous, have now been detected in the state, as well. The Supreme Court decision does not affect local masking requirements, which remain in place. Also of note, because the Supreme Court's decision actually struck down Governor Evers' entire emergency order dealing with Covid, that state's low-income families are once again at risk of losing millions in federal food benefits. The Hunger Task Force says that \$50 million is at risk, as the federal government has authorized increased Food Share benefits for states with Covid emergency orders in place.



Governor Evers Will Use State's Federal Stimulus Funds to Help Small Businesses, Boost State Economy



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The State of Wisconsin is set to receive \$3.2 billion in federal funds as a result of the American Rescue Plan. In an announcement earlier this week, Governor Tony Evers announced his plans for a large chunk of those funds. The plan commits \$600 million to helping small businesses; \$500 million for continued pandemic response; \$200 million for infrastructure upgrades and improvements; and \$50 million in aid to the state's struggling tourism industry. Evers said his administration is working to get the funds distributed as quickly as possible. The infrastructure investment will be used in part for a significant broadband expansion, and the new round of funding for small businesses will build on the existing loan programs that have assisted more than 53,000 Wisconsin businesses.



Biden's American Jobs Plan Would be a Major Investment in National, State Infrastructure, a Boon for Job Seekers

With infrastructure like roads, bridges and airports both in the state and nationally in desperate need of upgrades, President Biden has proposed a new, sweeping \$2 billion plan that would also invest in job training programs; pay increases for caregivers and healthcare workers; green jobs; manufacturing; small business; housing; research and development, particularly at majority-minority institutions; clean water; schools; and broadband. The plan is paid for by, among other things, returning corporate tax levels back to what they were pre-Trump administration. In its most recent report cards, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave American infrastructure a "C-" and Wisconsin's infrastructure a "C", with the state's roadways getting a "D+". To find more about the American Jobs Plan, go to <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>. To read the ASCE report cards, visit <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/>.

BADGER BOUNCEBACK

LIVE SESSIONS

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 still has three listening sessions remaining: 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](#).



Questions About Your Federal Stimulus Payments?

If you have questions about the latest round of federal stimulus or have reason to believe that your check was misdirected or lost in the mail, contact Congressman Bryan Steil. His staff is best positioned to offer assistance. Congressman Steil's Kenosha office can be reached at (262)654-1901, and his Racine office number is (262)637-0510.



Local Covid Testing Options



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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

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>