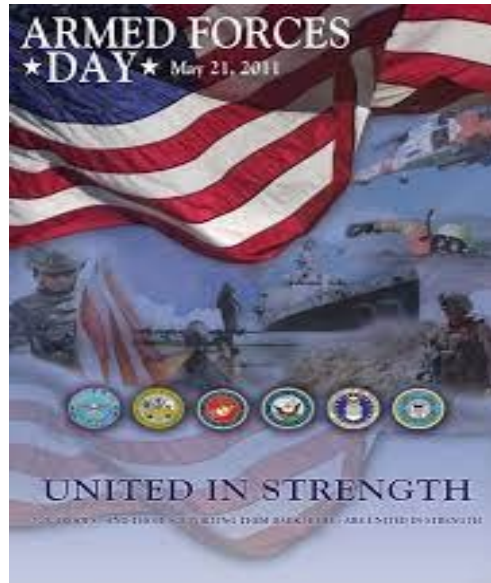




● **ROBERT W. WIRCH**

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

May 14, 2021



Dear friend,

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman created National Armed Forces Day as a day to recognize and celebrate members of all branches of the U.S. military. Originally, there had been single day celebrations for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The idea for one joint celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. The first official National Armed Forces Day took place in May 1950 and was themed “Team for Defense”; a march was held in Washington, D.C., with over 10,000 troops, and more than 33,000 people participated in a parade in New York. On this Armed Forces Day, take the time to thank a service member in one of our six branches - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force. Their service is appreciated more than we can say. As always, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

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

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In Case You Missed It



State, Federal Resources Aim to Get Small Businesses, Particularly Restaurants, Back on Track



In 2011, Erin Manders was looking for natural, vegan bath products and was frustrated when she came up empty. Manders turned her exasperation into opportunity and started her own business, Racine's Perennial Soaps. The store sells natural, vegan bath and body products. Using just the essentials, such as olive and coconut oils, shea butter and high quality fragrances and adding fresh botanicals like locally grown lavender and calendula, Erin produces a number of delightful combinations. The soaps are cut into 5 ounce bars; free of parabens, detergents and unnecessary chemicals; and all bars are labeled with ingredients, with most having fewer than nine. Her products are certified cruelty-free by PETA and Leaping Bunny. The brick and mortar store is operating on limited hours, but their online store is up and running. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/perennialsoaps/> or www.perennialsoaps.com.



● **ROBERT W. WIRCH**

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



GOP Voter Suppression Efforts Sweeping the Nation Make Their Way to Wisconsin

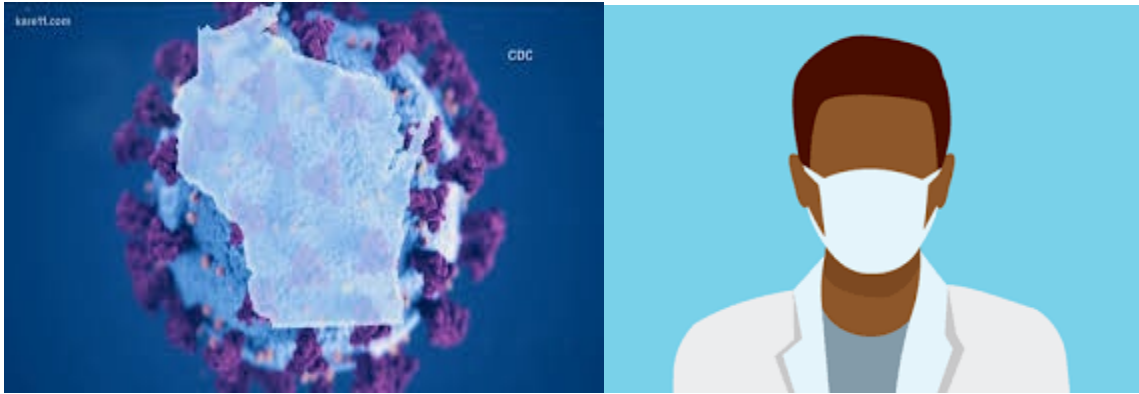
Using the Big Lie, that the Presidential election was somehow stolen from Donald Trump, as fuel, Republicans in 47 states have introduced legislation that would have the effect of making it more difficult for people - usually people of color, students, people with disabilities, low-income families - to cast their ballots. Draconian voter suppression bills have been signed into law in Georgia and Florida, and Texas appears to be next. Well, add Wisconsin to the list, as Republicans in our State Legislature have introduced around a dozen bills that they say will restore confidence and integrity to our elections but many of which will simply make it harder to vote. Two such bills were passed by the State Senate on a party-line vote on Tuesday, May 11. SB203, authored by Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Rep. Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva), among other provisions, prohibits events such as “Democracy in the Park”, which was held in Madison leading up to the 2020 election, where municipal clerk staff set up in a city park on a Saturday, allowing people to request, fill out and return their absentee ballots all at once. SB212, authored by Sen. Ducey Stroebel (R-Saukville) and Rep. August, prohibits municipal clerk staff from correcting minor technical errors on returned absentee ballot envelopes, such as a missing apartment number or zip code. Other bills in the package, which have not yet been voted on, would limit the number of absentee ballot drop boxes and require that they be located directly outside a city clerk’s office; prohibit the mass mailing of absentee ballot request forms, such as was done by the Wisconsin Elections Commission in 2020; eliminate the permanent absentee ballot list; and require seniors and people with disabilities to get verification from medical professionals that they are “indefinitely confined” to receive absentee ballots. You can read more [here](#) and [here](#). You can follow the progression of this and other legislation at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>.

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CDC Announces Revised Covid Guidelines on Masking for Fully Vaccinated People

With Covid numbers leveling off or even falling and more people becoming fully vaccinated everyday, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have revised their precautionary guidelines and recommendations. New recommendations say that fully vaccinated people don't necessarily need to wear masks or practice social distancing indoors, in most instances. You can read more about the new guidelines [here](#).



Pfizer Covid Vaccine Approved for 12-15 Year Olds

In news that will get us one step closer to achieving “herd immunity”, Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine has been approved for use in 12- to 15-year-olds. The first doses in the age group were expected to be given out this week.

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->

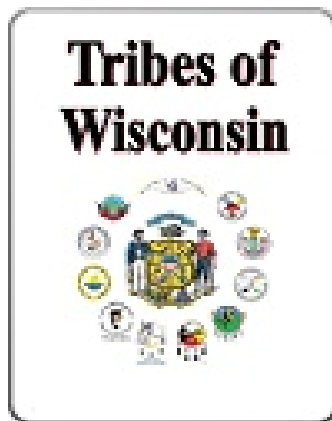


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[vaccine#Locations](#). Festival Hall has been opened up as a vaccination clinic site. Use the first link to receive information on vaccination appointment availability.

You can also get vaccinated this Friday and Saturday at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Racine through a partnership between the City of Racine, state Department of Health Services and WI National Guard. First doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be available between 11 am and 7 pm each day; residents will then have to come back for second doses on Friday, June 4, and Saturday, June 5, between 11 am and 7 pm. No appointments are necessary; vaccinations are free, and ID is not required. Racine bus routes 1 and 3 stop in front of the center.



***President Jack Johnson, Sr. of Lac du Flambeau
Chippewa Delivers 17th Annual State of the Tribes Address***

Before a joint convention of the Wisconsin State Legislature, Governor Evers, Lieutenant Gov. Barnes, and a host of other state leaders, Jack Johnson, Sr., President of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa stood and delivered the 17th annual State of the Tribes Address on Tuesday, May 11. Each year since 2005, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council has selected a member to give this unique and informative address, meant to increase public awareness around the issues the states 11 federally-recognized tribes face. This year's speech covered topics including mental health, racist mascots, mining, harvesting and hunting rights,

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and environmental protections. You can view the full speech at <https://wiseye.org/2021/05/11/2021-state-of-the-tribes-address-and-wisconsin-state-assembly-floor-session/>.

BADGER BOUNCEBACK

LIVE SESSIONS

Budget News and Details

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 and follow Joint Finance Committee action on the budget at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/joint/2293>.



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

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.



● ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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>