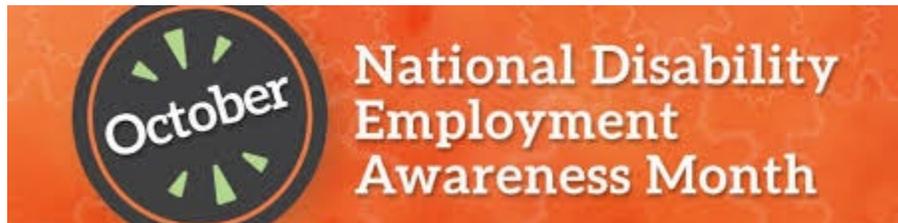




## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

October 16, 2020



Dear friend,

**October is recognized as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In a “normal” year, I enjoy taking part in the Take Your Legislator to Work Day, whereby I accompany a person with a disability to his or her place of work to see firsthand the contributions they make to our community and economy. Unfortunately, that’s not possible this year, but I still want to recognize all of the employees and employers out there helping to increase diversity in our workforce and making our community richer and more inclusive. In this week’s update, I’m featuring Kenosha’s Bellissima’s Boutique, which is coming back from a tough year with a new location; the state breaks Covid records while GOP lawmakers continue their efforts to obstruct prevention efforts; and with Election Day fast approaching, there is more information available to make sure you have everything you need to cast your vote. Please - stay home when you can; practice physical distancing; and wear a mask. It could literally save a life.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bob".

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## In Case You Missed It

# small business SPOTLIGHT

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### *Bellissima's Boutique Rebounds from Difficult Year in New Location*



To say this year has been difficult for Krista Maurer, owner of Bellissima's Boutique, would be an understatement. Originally located in Uptown Kenosha, her store was seriously damaged by fire on Aug. 12. Just weeks later, following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, Krista's store was impacted a second time. Now, thanks to grit and determination and the help of a tight knit group, Bellissima's Boutique is re-opening, now at 5821 6th Ave. in Kenosha. Bellissima's Boutique is known for its unique and stylish accessories, jackets, bags, bath products and more. A small, independent, family-owned business, the folks at Bellissima's Boutique like to get to know their customers to better meet their needs. Talk to Krista at Bellissima's Boutique if you're looking for a unique gift or need to pick something up for yourself.

<https://www.facebook.com/Bellissimasboutiqueon22nd/>

(262)551-1885



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



### *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:** 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>.

**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.

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

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To find other testing sites in the state, visit  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>.



## ***State Sets New Records for Covid Cases, Deaths and Hospitalizations; With No Plan of their Own, GOP Continues Attempts to Undermine Governor on Covid Response***

Our state passed several grim milestones and broke some records we never wanted to break this week. The state surpassed 150,000 Covid-19 infections and 1,500 Covid deaths while setting new record highs in daily case numbers, deaths and hospitalizations. An Alternative Care Facility (ACF) was opened at State Fair Park in Milwaukee to provide a place for Covid patients needing lower levels of care and ease the strain on some hospitals. What are Republican leadership, with majorities in both houses of the Legislature, doing about the out-of-control spread of the virus? Holding stunt committee hearings and going to court in support of lawsuits seeking to throw out all statewide preventative measures. While a St. Croix County judge refused to block enforcement of Governor Evers's mask order, a Sawyer County judge put the Governor's public gathering limits on hold in a lawsuit brought by the Tavern League of Wisconsin. Both in a public media briefing and in a letter, Governor Evers has practically begged Republican Leaders Vos and Fitzgerald to come to the table and work on a plan to address the Covid crisis. The GOP's response? Crickets. It's shameful. The Republican-led controlled, do-nothing Legislature hasn't passed a bill in more than 180 days. While virtually every other state legislature, under both Democratic and Republican control, have been hard at work trying to defend the health and pocket books of the people they represent, Wisconsin Republicans have done the opposite, trying to undermine any effort Governor Evers has made to keep us healthy and safe. It is an absolute disgrace.



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

**#KenoshaStrong**  
**LOCAL GIFT CARD DIRECTORY**

Support the Downtown and Uptown Kenosha businesses that were affected by civil unrest by purchasing gift cards to their stores!

SHOP NOW: [LOCALBUSINESS.KENOSHANEWS.COM](http://LOCALBUSINESS.KENOSHANEWS.COM)

**FREE** for businesses to participate! Call 262.656.6209 to learn more.

KENOSHA NEWS  
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### *Directory Makes it Easy to Support Downtown and Uptown Kenosha Businesses*

With the holiday season fast approaching, there is a great way to complete your shopping while supporting local businesses. The Kenosha News and Educators Credit Union have partnered to produce a Local Gift Card Directory. Through the directory, you can purchase gift cards to Downtown and Uptown Kenosha businesses that were impacted by the violence and destruction of late August and early September. To view the directory, visit <https://localbusiness.kenoshanews.com>. If you would like to add your business to the directory, call (262)656-6209.



### *State DOT Ready to Provide ID Cards to Those Who Need Them for Voting*

With less than three weeks to go until the November 3 election, the state Department of Transportation has expanded online services and bolstered its physical locations in order to provide state ID cards to voters who need them. For anyone who doesn't have a Wisconsin driver's license; U.S. passport; U.S.

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military ID card; or ID card issued by a federally-recognized Indian tribe, a Wisconsin state ID card can be obtained and presented as proof of identity when attempting to vote. Those who do not currently have a driver's license or ID card can obtain an ID card, free of charge, that is valid for voting, even if the documents that are required to get a regular Wisconsin ID are unavailable. To find out more, visit <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/news-rel/101220readyIDvote.aspx>.



## ***City of Racine Announces Ballot Drop Box Locations***

In a recent update, I shared the locations of absentee ballot drop boxes in Kenosha. This week, the city of Racine has published its list of drop box locations. Secure absentee ballot drop boxes became available in Racine beginning on October 13 and can be accessed 24/7 at the following locations: **Festival Hall, 5 Fifth St.; Dr. John Bryant Community Center, 601 Caron Butler Dr.; Tyler-Domer Community Center, 2301 Twelfth St.; Julian Thomas School, 930 M.L. King Drive; Roosevelt Elementary, 915 Romaine Ave.; Cesar Chavez Community Center, Douglas Ave.; Gilmore School, 2330 Northwestern Ave.; Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Community Center, 1134 M.L. King Dr.; Knapp Elementary School, 2701 17th St.; Mitchell School, 2701 Drexel Ave.; Humble Park Community Center, 2200 Blaine Ave.; Ohio St. across from Goodland School, at the intersection of Ohio and Graceland; Starbuck Middle School, 1516 Ohio St.; Jerstad-Agerholm School, 3601 La Salle St.; Gateway Technical College, 1001 Main St.; City Hall, 730 Washington Ave.**



**ROBERT W. WIRCH**

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT



**SERVE  
WISCONSIN**

### ***AmeriCorps Wisconsin Seeking Grant Program Applications***

Serve Wisconsin is now accepting grant applications for new and re-competing Wisconsin AmeriCorps programs to start in the fall of 2021. Selected organizations will receive grants to manage AmeriCorps programs in order to engage AmeriCorps members in service to meet critical needs in Wisconsin.

Non-profit organizations, state and local units of government, institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations and Indian Tribes looking to address a community need are encouraged to submit a proposal. Notification of Intent to Apply is due October 26, 2020, at midnight; proposals and additional documents are due November 9, 2020, at 4:30 pm.

To read more and to obtain a Request for Proposals (RFP) document, visit

<https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/start-a-program>.



### ***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,

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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.