

**February 25, 2022**



**Dear friends,**

**International Stand Up to Bullying Day encourages people to wear a pink shirt and take a public stance against bullying. Held on the last Friday in February, the day also shares how to recognize signs of bullying and find ways to prevent it. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and, while it can occur at any age, it is especially common among school-aged children. Bullying can take many different forms, from calling names and spreading rumors to more physical actions like pushing, spitting or threatening physical harm. Schools across the world hold events to spread awareness about bullying and how to stand up to it. Learn more <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>.**

**Stay safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



## *Hometown Meats is a Go-to for Lunch or a Special Event*

Hometown Meats Deli & Catering, 4924 60<sup>th</sup> St. in Kenosha, offers a full service meat department and deli, carrying a variety of the best meats and delicious side salads for your backyard barbecue or neighborhood picnic. They also boast an assortment of sandwiches to satisfy your lunchtime cravings. They feature a catering menu for larger events, and perhaps most impressive is their famous “Pig Roast with all the trimmings”. Check them out at <https://hometownmeatsdeli.com/> or give them a call at (262)652-9840.

## **In Case You Missed It**



## ***Wisconsin GOP Join National Effort, Pass Series of Voter Suppression Bills***

### **Gov. Evers Veto Pen Will Prevent Them from Becoming Law**

During marathon sessions earlier this week, the Republican-controlled State Senate and Assembly passed a slew of anti-democratic bills meant to make it harder for eligible voters to cast their ballots. The scope of the bills ranged from restricting who can return absentee ballots to taking powers and decision-making authority away from the nonpartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission and putting it in the hands of the Legislature (dominated, thanks to

gerrymandering, by Republicans). Fortunately, unlike Florida, Texas, Arizona and Georgia, Wisconsin has a Governor in Tony Evers who believes voting is a right that must be protected, and he will veto these bills, preventing them from becoming law.

The bills come after more than a year of state and national Republicans alleging widespread voter fraud and calling into question the results of the 2020 Presidential Election. Oddly enough, while Wisconsin Republicans may claim that fraud “stole” Wisconsin from Donald Trump or at least refuse to say that the election was fair, not a single one of them has questioned the down ballot elections held on the same day that put them into office and solidified their legislative majorities. You can read more about these bills [here](#) and [here](#).



## ***Natural Resources Board Punts on PFAS, Groundwater Protection***

This week, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) voted on rules to protect our groundwater, surface water and drinking water from PFAS, a toxic type of chemical known as “forever chemicals” increasingly linked to poor health outcomes like certain cancers and low birth weights. The NRB rejected rules for groundwater protection, passed a surface water rule, and passed a significantly weakened drinking water standard. The vote was another example of the need to remove Fred Prehn from the Board. Prehn was appointed by former Governor Scott

Walker; his term expired on May 1, 2021. Governor Evers has nominated his replacement, Sandra Naas, but the Republican-controlled State Senate has refused to vote on her confirmation. In the meantime, Prehn has refused to step down and allow Naas to fill the seat pending confirmation, as had been precedent. Prehn was one of the loudest voices in the room, questioning the scientific community and attempting to discredit experts at the Department of Health Services, who recommended much stricter standards.



Wisconsin Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## ***Governor Evers Creates “Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunities”***

Wisconsin is home to more than 300,000 veterans. Each of them has sacrificed in some way for the good of our country and deserves our gratitude. More than that, they deserve an opportunity to succeed when their service is completed. To that end, Governor Tony Evers has signed an Executive Order creating the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity. The commission is tasked with identifying gaps in existing services and reducing the number of obstacles veterans face in attempting to receive those services. The commission’s recommendations could then be included in the Governor’s next biennial budget. The Executive Order also ensures that there is ongoing funding toward the state’s Veterans Trust Fund. You can read the Governor’s order [here](#).



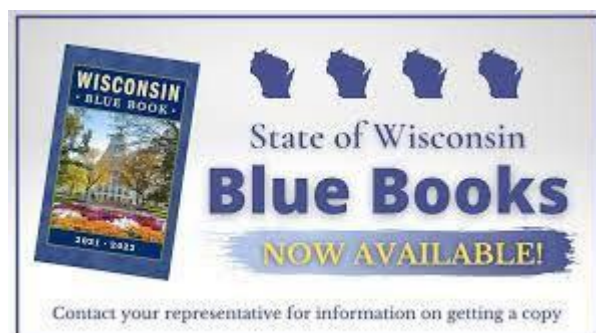
## ***State Waits on New Maps from Wisconsin Supreme Court***

With a date to begin circulating nomination papers for the fall elections fast approaching, people around the state continue to wait for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to release the new legislative and congressional district maps that they have drawn. Every ten years, each state uses Census data to redraw its electoral district boundaries, from municipal boards and councils all the way up to the U.S. House of Representatives. State government – the Legislature and Governor – are tasked with drawing new legislative and congressional districts. The Republican-controlled Legislature passed a set of maps nearly identical to the current version, widely considered the worst gerrymander in the country. Governor Evers vetoed those maps, sending the matter to the courts. The conservative Justices who form a majority on the court have indicated that they plan to take a “least change” approach to map drawing, indicating that radically different districts are unlikely.



## ***Free Covid Tests Available***

You can now sign up to receive four free Covid-19 tests per household, thanks to an order from the Biden administration. With just your name and address, you can order the tests for your household at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>; you can also use this site to find nearby testing locations. Additionally, as a result of actions taken by both President Biden and Governor Evers, your insurance may be required to cover up to eight at-home rapid tests per month. If someone you know either doesn't have or doesn't use a computer, please call my office at (608)267-8979 for assistance ordering your household's tests.



## ***Reserve Your Copy of the 2021-2023 State of Wisconsin Blue Book***

The latest edition of the State of Wisconsin Blue Book has arrived. If you would like to have a copy sent to you, contact my office at (608)267-8979 or [sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov). These books are free and contain interesting and valuable information about our state's culture, history and government.