

Democrats Leading the Way in 2017

"Wisconsin Way Forward" agenda paints clear picture of Democratic values

It was a privilege to stand with my Democratic colleagues in the State Senate and State Assembly last week as we introduced our "Wisconsin Way Forward" agenda for the 2017-18 legislative session. An agenda based on the values of fairness, opportunity and community, the Wisconsin Way Forward agenda will be backed by bold, forward-thinking proposals that will prioritize Wisconsin families, workers, students, and senior citizens.

While other states are accelerating out of the Great Recession, Wisconsin continues to languish under the proposals pushed by Scott Walker and legislative Republicans. Our roadways have crumbled to some of the worst in the nation, we have had 20 straight quarters of below average economic growth, and our public schools have endured over a billion dollars in lost state aid over the last six years. Additionally, far too many of our college graduates continue to be burdened by student loan payments with no practical path out of debt available to them. Democrats have solutions to these problems that will resonate with Wisconsin families and that's why we're so excited to introduce this agenda. We want to work for you by prioritizing targeted tax relief for working families, safeguarding affordable healthcare, and upholding Wisconsin's tradition of quality public education with high standards. We are working to build an economy, and state, that works for everyone – not just those at the very top.

Through traveling the state, hosting listening sessions, and engaging with Wisconsin voters on digital platforms, Democrats will continue to listen to Wisconsin's residents. We remain devoted to things like securing equal pay protections for equal work while also creating greater workplace flexibilities for new parents. We will work to embrace innovation through public-private partnerships and foster start-ups as we work to improve Wisconsin's start-up business climate. With so many in our state working hard but feeling like the system is rigged against them, we will fight to restore tax fairness in our state by ending giveaways to corporations that are outsourcing Wisconsin jobs while also working to block foreign land grabs. Our agenda will work to create opportunity for residents from the shores of Lake Michigan to the banks of the Mississippi.

Finally, Democrats in Wisconsin will continue to safeguard affordable healthcare options for working families, especially those who have a family member living with a disability or preexisting condition. People who have found coverage in recent years shouldn't be kicked off of their plan due to Republicans meddling with their care. For more information on our Democratic agenda, I invite you to check out <u>www.WisconsinDems.com</u> where you will find our entire agenda, updates on legislative proposals being introduced by Democrats, and continually updated information about Democratic outreach efforts across the state. Wisconsin families



deserve a fair shake from their representatives in state government. The divide and conquer approach the Republicans have taken in governing over the last six years is leaving too many behind. Now is the time for bold, new ideas for all Wisconsin families.

State Representative Dianne Hesselbein is the State Representative for the 79th Assembly District, encompassing Middleton, Waunakee, and parts of western Dane County. She also serves as the Assistant Democratic Leader in the Wisconsin State Assembly.