



SCOTT FITZGERALD

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Senate Passes 2015-17 Biennial Budget

[Madison, WI] Late Tuesday night, the Wisconsin Senate passed the 2015-17 Biennial Budget. Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald released the following statement:

“Today the Wisconsin Senate advanced a bill that I believe our members can be proud of. While there is no doubt that this was a difficult budget, it was also a responsible one; by making some tough financial decisions, we ensured that the interests of Wisconsin’s hardworking taxpayers were protected. We refused to raise sales, income or property taxes. We undertook long awaited, meaningful reforms to Wisconsin’s antiquated prevailing wage law which artificially inflated the cost of taxpayer-funded projects to the tune of hundreds of millions annually.

We looked towards the future by refusing to allow our state’s borrowing to swell to unmanageable levels, and made difficult decisions to ensure that we will continue to foster the development of infrastructure—but not at the expense of maxing out the state’s credit card.

Equally importantly, we ensured that we continued to invest in our priorities, fully funding K-12 education in the first year of the biennium and allocating an additional \$100 per pupil to our schools in the second year. We reduced the proposed cut to the University of Wisconsin System and created new flexibilities to allow one of our state’s greatest institutions to be reactive to this and future financial challenges.

Throughout this process, we have listened to and implemented the valuable feedback we received from our constituents. We protected the programs that Wisconsin’s most vulnerable populations rely on, including SeniorCare, FamilyCare, and the Wisconsin Retirement System. The extensive public input we received played a significant role in shaping the document we approved today.

I thank and commend all of my Senate colleagues for their hard work and dedication in completing this enormous task.”

The Biennial Budget Bill now heads to the State Assembly for passage.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) represent the 13th Senate District, which covers portions of Dodge, Jefferson, Waukesha, Washington, Dane, and Columbia counties.

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