



State Senator
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District 18

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State Senate Votes on the Budget

Sen. Gudex Continues to Fight for Wisconsin Taxpayers

Madison—Today, the Wisconsin State Senate voted to pass the 2015-17 Biennial Budget, and it will move along to the State Assembly for a final vote. The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) had worked tirelessly to make significant changes to the Governor’s initial budget proposal. The Legislature listened to their constituents, and have brought forward a budget that invests in Wisconsin’s priorities and values.

One of the marquee aspects of this budget is that the Legislature cut bonding from the Governor’s proposed \$1.5 billion mark to \$652 million. “Both the Senate and Assembly understood that piling on unnecessary bond debt to feed Wisconsin’s transportation fund was not the answer that our hardworking citizens were looking for,” said Sen. Gudex (R-Fond du Lac). “We need to make prudent decisions that will keep our transportation fund solvent and find a funding model that is sustainable for the long term. This is the lowest amount our state has authorized for bonding in the last decade, which is a sign of good faith to the taxpayers that we are not going to take the easy road on transportation funding.”

Another positive this budget offers is that the Historic Tax Credit (HTC) will remain place after Sen. Gudex fought to keep the program unscathed. Through April 2015, \$50 million in tax credits have leveraged over \$259 million in private investment expenditures in 42 historic tax credit projects from Ashland to Kenosha. Senator Gudex made the following comments regarding the program, “The new projections on jobs and revenue prove that this program provides a phenomenal return on investment for us without compromising our standards, and I am excited to see investment dollars staying in our state to help revitalize our local communities.”

Despite the ability to continue to hold the line on taxes, the budget will maintain the high standards of education the state provides to its youth. With this budget the Legislature not only restored the Governor’s proposed cuts to our public schools, but is increasing both aid and per pupil funding for our students. “I have always fought hard for our local public schools, and I am satisfied with the level of funding they will receive for the biennium. That hard work paid off because the majority of school districts in my area, including the Oshkosh Area School District, will see additional revenue this coming year with more resources going toward our students,” said Gudex.

“There are some excellent initiatives in this budget that will keep Wisconsin moving towards a brighter future. We will continue to invest in our state, encourage businesses to grow, and educate our students, which I believe is a great reflection of our values here in Wisconsin,” said Sen. Gudex.

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