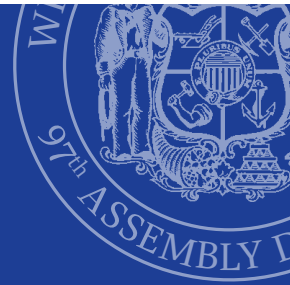




Wisconsin State Representative

SCOTT ALLEN



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SPRING 2024

It has been my honor to serve the people of the 97th Assembly District. Thank you for trusting me to be your representative in Madison.

– Rep. Scott Allen

It's Your Money

A budget surplus means that the people of Wisconsin have been overtaxed. That is why one of my priorities this session has been tax cuts. Republicans passed a budget that would have lowered income taxes for individuals making \$27,000 or more and joint filers making \$37,000 or more from 5.3% to 4.4%.



Rep Allen visited KDV Labels in Waukesha on Oct 31st during manufacturing month.

Sadly, Gov. Evers vetoed that part of the budget claiming that it only helped the rich. Assembly Republicans returned with AB 386 that would have reduced income taxes and expanded tax-free retirement income. Those ideas were merged into a Senate bill that paired the tax cuts with childcare tax credits.

Yet again, the governor vetoed.

Bipartisan Public Safety Win



Reps Allen and Neylon honored Waukesha City Fire Chief Steve Howard with the First Responder of the Year.

Frequently, people tell me that our government needs to work across party lines to do what's best for Wisconsin. Our work on the shared revenue bill was a prime example of working together for the common good.

We used our state surplus to meet the increasing needs of counties and municipalities due to inflation. Milwaukee was not bailed out, but they were given a flexible option to dig themselves out of their own hole in exchange for addressing public safety. While the shared revenue bill does not help Waukesha County as much as I had advocated for, the reality is that a healthier Milwaukee will benefit us.

On the final Assembly vote, I voted “yes” to honor the spirit of compromise and encourage further cooperation in the future.

CONTACT ME

Please sign up for my E-Updates on my website!
You can also call, email, and follow me at the following:

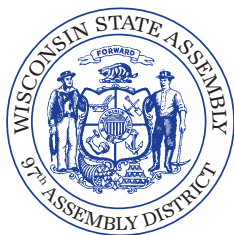
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Slowing Down the Revolving Door

One of the chief roles of government is to ensure public safety. Without public safety, our sacred rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are undermined. This was brought home clearly in the Nov 2021 Waukesha Christmas Parade Tragedy, where an individual was out on the streets due to a failure in the justice system. With soft-on-crime judges, we have the problem of revolving-door criminals.

Addressing bail reform was a high priority for me in this session. **SJR 2** was a resolution that called for a change to Wisconsin Constitution's criterion for bail to allow for a judge to consider public safety as a factor in setting bail. Previously, this was not allowed. After being passed by the Legislature, the proposed amendment went to the people of Wisconsin and was passed with a resounding 67% "yes" vote in April 2023.

Another public safety issue is the current fentanyl crisis. **Fentanyl is the leading killer of young adults in Wisconsin.** It is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and as much as 100 times more potent than morphine. It is extremely addictive and a very small amount can cause death.

A college friend's son perished at the age of 17, resulting from a fentanyl overdose after taking a pill he thought was something else. After looking into the issue, I discovered that drug dealers who dealt out death could avoid prison as it was only a Class C felony.

SB 101 raised the penalty for causing death by drug dealing to a Class B felony with mandatory jail time. No longer can soft-on-crime judges simply release death-dealing drug dealers with a simple fine. This legislation received bipartisan support and was signed into law as 2023 Wisconsin Act 29 by Governor Evers in August.

Without public safety, commerce grinds to a halt, our kids' educational success suffers, and we all experience higher stress levels due to living in fear. Increasing public safety improves our quality of life.

Protecting Our Democracy

The Legislature passed several constitutional amendments that will go to the voters to decide. **AJR 77** would ban outside funding in election administration: **AJR 76** would make it clear that only US Citizens could vote in elections. **AJR 78**, which still needs to pass in the 25-26 legislative session, would constitutionally require a photo ID for voting.

Unfortunately, Governor Evers vetoed some good bills including: **SB 98** would have required driver's licenses be marked "not valid for voting purposes" for non-citizens. **AB 494** would remove someone from the indefinitely confined list if they vote in person and clarify that a pandemic does not make one indefinitely confined. Also, I've authored **AB 749**, which would require a regular, random, post-election audit to be performed by the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau after every general election.



Rep Allen honored Waukesha resident Officer Herbert Davis III with the Hometown Hero Award.

Education Victories



Rep Allen with Waukesha West student Jenna Lawrence and Principal Ryan Patt.

Reading is the foundation for educational success, and yet two-thirds of Wisconsin students cannot read at a proficient level. Nationwide we have the largest discrepancy in reading scores between black and white students.

That is why I supported **AB 321**, the Right to Read Act, which would require all Wisconsin schools to teach phonics and the science of reading. This bill received bi-partisan support and was enacted into law as 2023 Wisconsin Act 20.

Another key to educational success is giving students the choice to attend a school that helps them thrive as not every student learns the same. This session we increased the funding per pupil for choice students to better support their success.

In the same bill, we also increased education funding for public schools. Specifically, we increased the floor for revenue ceiling limits from \$10,000 to \$11,000 per pupil. This will greatly help our local school districts.

Protecting Our Kids

We have long known that children do not have the maturity to make certain decisions or engage with certain content. That is why we restrict minors in many ways. This session, I authored two bills to address recent issues that are harming our children.

AB 465 - Help Not Harm - Research shows that medical gender transition does not help and actually can cause serious permanent harm to minors. We need to give minors the time to develop physically, emotionally, and mentally before they make irreversible decisions to medically transition. Sadly, the Help Not Harm Act was vetoed by Governor Evers, who allowed politics to get in the way of helping kids.

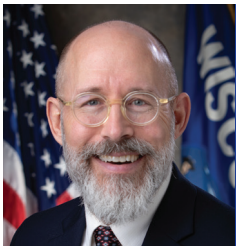
AB 308 - Protect Childhood Innocence - Many parents from the 97th have raised concerns about obscene materials in our schools. They have shared specific examples that clearly meet the statutory definition of obscene material. If you or I shared that material with a minor, we could face felony charges. Educators are surprisingly immune. Why? If we care about protecting our kids, then we should hold educators to the same standards as the rest of us.



Rep Allen testifying in favor of the Help Not Harm bill (AB 465).



Rep Allen with a child from St. Luke's Child Care in Waukesha. This visit allowed Rep Allen to learn more about child care needs in our state.



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Legislative Report

- ▶ Responded to 1,353 constituent contacts
- ▶ Assisted 186 constituents with various licensing, tax, healthcare, and other government-related issues
- ▶ Authored 56 pieces of legislation*
- ▶ Co-authored 111 pieces of legislation
- ▶ Sent 24 e-updates
- ▶ Published 38 press releases
- ▶ Attended 31 committee meetings
- ▶ Hosted 4 constituent listening sessions

** Authors are listed as either the first or second legislator*



Rep Allen enjoying a neighborhood beer garden with his wife Angila.



Rep Allen with veterans and Ho-Chunk Nation members Sandra Winneshiek and Donald Greengrass Sr.