



Representative **JOHN NYGREN** 2014 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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# REPRESENTATIVE JOHN NYGREN

WORKING FOR WISCONSIN

Transforming Education Investing in Infrastructure Growing our Economy Developing Workforce Reforming Government



## Wisconsin

### PROUDLY SERVING THE 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

#### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH JOHN!

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**LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE!**  
[www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm89/news](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm89/news)

Follow me on **Twitter @Rep89** and 'Like' me on **Facebook at Rep. John Nygren**

#### 2013-14 Awards

American Conservative Union Foundation's  
**2013 Defender of Liberty Award**

Association of State Prosecutors'  
**Legislator of the Year**

Green Bay Chamber of Commerce's  
**Henry S. Baird Legislator of the Year**

Wisconsin Medical Society's  
**Legislator of the Year**

WI Builders Association's  
**Friend of Housing**



*John accepting the Defender of Liberty award*

#### Helpful Phone Numbers

- Job Center of Wisconsin. . . . . (888) 258-9966
- Wisconsin Mortgage Help Line. . . . . (888) 995-4673
- WI No Call List . . . . . (866) 966-2255
- Workforce Unemployment Line . . . . . (800) 822-5246
- Dept. of Natural Resources . . . . . (888) 936-7463
- Dept. of Commerce . . . . . (608) 266-1018
- Dept. of Consumer Protection . . . . . (800) 422-7128
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs . . . . . (800) 947-8387
- Dept. of Workforce Development . . . (608) 266-3131
- Dept. of Health Services. . . . . (608) 266-1865

#### From the desk of John Nygren...

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your representative in the Wisconsin State Assembly. I find great importance in my duty to stand for your interests in Madison. Working across party lines has led to the passage of important legislation to further strengthen Wisconsin's economy and retain a surplus in the hands of the hardworking citizens who helped to create it.

This legislative session, I served as the Assembly Chairman of the Joint Finance Committee. In this role, I worked hard with fellow legislators and Gov. Walker to bring about the passage of a fiscally responsible state budget, and worked to turn a \$3.6 billion deficit into a \$760 million surplus. This surplus came about through prudent spending and the tough decisions we had to make in the last budget. A direct result of this surplus was a property tax reduction, income tax cuts for middle class families, increased funding for education, and additional resources for local municipalities.

While the current growth in our state has been strong, we still have work to do in order to build on our successes and ensure Wisconsin remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Best Regards,

**John Nygren**  
State Representative  
89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



*John speaking to the Boys and Girls Club*

**Plan a capitol visit or invite John to a local event by contacting his capitol office.**

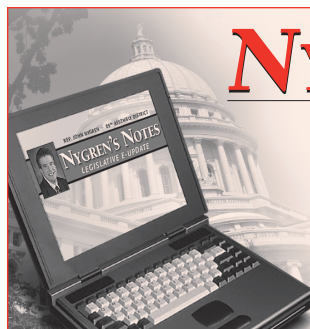


*John with students from Peshtigo Elementary*

## NYGREN'S NOTES ...from the Capitol to You!

Nygren's Notes is my free weekly e-newsletter designed to keep constituents of the 89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District informed on current state legislative issues and activities.

If you would like to receive my e-newsletter, please send an email to [Rep.Nygren@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Nygren@legis.wi.gov) or call my office toll-free at **888-534-0089** and sign-up to receive the next edition of Nygren's Notes.



#### 2014 County Fairs

More details and information can be viewed at this link:  
[www.wifairs.com](http://www.wifairs.com)

**AUGUST 13 - 17**  
**Brown County Fair,**  
DePere

**AUGUST 14 - 17**  
**Oconto County Fair,**  
Gillett

**AUGUST 21 - 24**  
**Marinette County Fair,**  
Wausaukee



# State Representative JOHN NYGREN

PROUDLY SERVING  
WISCONSIN'S 89<sup>TH</sup>  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## Bringing Local Issues to Madison

### Addressing the Propane Shortage

Since the propane shortage began, I've been contacted by many constituents who weren't eligible for existing heating assistance programs but still couldn't afford to heat their homes and businesses. It is for this reason that I authored a bill to help middle class Wisconsinites obtain low interest loans to pay for propane and other heating sources.

Recently, the price of propane per gallon rose considerably due to lack of supply. While the Governor has made great strides to address the propane crisis, including expanding eligibility for low income energy assistance, few options existed for middle class

families and seniors whose propane bills quadrupled. My bill creates a loan guarantee program through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) for emergency heating assistance.

In addition to helping constituents during the current propane shortage, this legislation puts a program in place that can be used to help Wisconsin residents if and when emergency heating crises take place in the future.

I am proud that my propane bill has passed both the Assembly and the Senate, and has been signed into law by Governor Walker.



### Keeping Wisconsin's Finances in Check

#### Positive Economic News:

- Department of Financial Institutions new business formation: up 5 percent through November compared to the same period in 2012.
- Wisconsin's unemployment rate is 6.1 percent, below the national rate, and the state's lowest since November 2008.
- Wisconsin's exports set a record in calendar year 2012.
- The state's Chamber of Commerce reports 95 percent of job creators in Wisconsin say state is headed in right direction.
- George Mason University study on state fiscal condition ranked Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> for budget solvency, and 17<sup>th</sup> for fiscal condition in FY12.

#### Fiscal Achievements:

- One of the largest tax cuts in Wisconsin history.
- Cut income taxes by \$650 million and reformed tax code; cut credits and reduced taxes for everyone who pays taxes.
- Cut property taxes: taxes on median-valued homes will drop an average \$131.
- Total tax cuts in past two years: \$1.5 billion
- Largest rainy day fund in history: current balance is \$279 million, compared to \$1.7 million in 2010.

### Preserving Jobs at Marinette Marine



John at the launch of LCS USS Milwaukee

Last year, we worked hard to secure \$5,000,000 in the budget for a new Maritime Center of Excellence in Marinette. The Center will support the continued development of the region's shipbuilding industry, will help keep currently employed workers competitive in their fields, and provide training for new employees.

## HOPE Agenda: Heroin, Opiate Prevention & Education

This session, I introduced legislation that will help combat heroin abuse and its tragic effects on Wisconsin families.

Citizens all over Wisconsin are alarmed by the rising use of heroin that has struck their communities. They are concerned with the crime and hardship that comes with this powerful drug and realize there is a need for action.

For many prescription opioid users, the shift to illegal and highly addictive heroin use is quick and of growing concern to this state. Heroin is much cheaper and more readily available when prescription supplies run out.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a sample of

Wisconsin data shows that over 160,000 Wisconsin adults reported using heroin or another opiate this past year. As reported by the Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation, the city and county of Marinette has had a significant heroin problem for the past 5 years. Countless business owners around Wisconsin are frustrated because they are unable to find employees to fill positions because of failed drug tests.

In recent years, it is estimated the total cost of illegal drug use totals more than \$193 billion in the United States. The direct and indirect costs attributed to illegal drug use are estimated in four areas: crime, health, medical care, and

productivity. Wisconsin's share of this cost is estimated to be at least \$2 billion.



John speaking at the HOPE Agenda press conference

### Here's a summary of each of my HOPE bills:

**Assembly Bill 445:** This bill requires individuals to show proper identification when picking up Schedule II or III narcotic/opiate prescription medication. This would not disallow individuals from picking up these kinds of prescriptions for others; it only proposes tracking who is doing so. In doing this, pharmacies have the ability to help law enforcement resolve drug crimes by keeping a record of dispensed opiates with the name of the person picking them up. Law enforcement would not have access to this list unless they went through the proper legal channels.

Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, a state identification card, a US uniformed service card, or a US passport.

**Assembly Bill 446:** Narcan, otherwise known as Naloxone, is an opioid antagonist, or a drug used to counter the effects of opiate overdoses, such as a heroin overdose. This legislation will allow all levels of EMTs and first responders to be trained in order to administer

Naloxone. This legislation will also allow police and fire to administer, but leaves the decision up to the individual community to decide whether to allow other public safety officers the ability to administer the drug.

This bill also states that any person who administers Naloxone to another person believed to be suffering from a drug overdose is immune from civil or criminal liability providing that it is consistent with Wisconsin's Good Samaritan law.

**Assembly Bill 447:** This bill will provide limited immunity from certain criminal prosecutions for a person (aider) who brings another person to an emergency room or who calls 911 for a person who is having adverse reaction (overdose) from a controlled substance. Heroin is a very "social" drug in that it's often used in groups. However, sadly, we see many instances where one person in the group overdoses and all their friends flee fearing prosecution. Under this bill, the aider, or person who called 911, may not be

prosecuted for simple possession of a controlled substance or possession of drug paraphernalia under the circumstances that led him or her to call 911.

**Assembly Bill 448:** This legislation encourages communities to set up drug disposal programs and regulates these programs so unwanted prescription drugs do not fall into the wrong hands.

**Assembly Bill 701:** This bill will create regional opiate stabilization centers to provide a continuum of services based on an individual's treatment needs - inpatient residential detoxification, medication-assisted treatment and counseling, and post medication counseling and peer support. These centers will be based in high-need areas of our state, including Marinette County.

**Assembly Bill 702:** I've been referring to this bill as "Rapid Response Supervision." Its purpose is to swiftly impose sanctions utilizing evidence-based principles and consider the risk to the community and/or the victim as a primary consideration.