

**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 5:13 PM  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services  
**Subject:** THU PM Update: Supreme Court race spending likely to top \$9M once final figures reported



**THU PM Update -- 9 April 2020**

*Exclusively for WisPolitics Subscribers - DO NOT FORWARD*

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***From WisPolitics.com ...***

**-- The candidates and outside groups have already combined to spend nearly \$8 million on this spring's state Supreme Court race, according to a WisPolitics.com review.**

And that total is likely to zoom past \$9 million if Dane County Judge Jill Karofsky and Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly spent all of the cash they'd banked at the end of the last reporting period along with the donations that kept rolling in over the final days of the race. The review also found when all is said and done, total spending by and on behalf of the candidates will be about equal.

That \$9 million figure would top last year's race, which saw \$8 million in spending between what candidate Brian Hagedorn and Lisa Neubauer reported to the state and the \$4.3 million the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign tallied from outside groups.

The WisPolitics.com review has tracked just over \$5 million in outside spending on TV, digital ads, mailers, GOTV and other efforts to back Karofsky and Kelly between Jan. 1 and Tuesday's election.

The WisPolitics.com review found Kaorfsky and her allies had combined to spend nearly \$4.2 million, according to a check of her campaign finance reports and independent expenditure reports filed with the state Ethics Commission.

Karofsky finished the pre-election reporting period with \$643,806 in the bank, and she reported \$193,750 in contributions of \$1,000 or more after the final reporting period. That gives here at least an additional \$837,556 she could've spent over the final two weeks of the campaign.

That could push the total effort on her behalf past \$5 million.

Meanwhile, Kelly and his allies had spent a combined \$2.6 million between what he reported in his finance reports and what groups submitted to the Ethics Commission.

He also had \$396,310 cash on hand to end the reporting period and raised another \$273,228 in large donations reported to the Ethics Commission. That's another \$669,538 to spend.

Those engaged in issue advocacy don't have to report their spending to the state, but a source provided TV buy information to WisPolitics.com showing the WMC Issues Mobilization Council putting about \$1.2 million behind its ads on broadcast and cable TV knocking Karofsky.

That raises the pro-Kelly effort to about \$3.8 million. Add in what Kelly had left to spend, and the overall effort on his behalf would hit just under \$4.5 million.

What's more, the Wisconsin Alliance for Reform ran issues ads on digital platforms in the race knocking Karofsky. That likely helped even out the overall spending.

**-- The more than \$1.7 million Karofsky had spent on the race through late March was eclipsed by what A Better Wisconsin Together Political Fund reported on independent expenditures.**

The new group's filings with the Ethics Commission totaled nearly \$1.9 million between Jan. 1 and the general election.

The next biggest spender on Karofsky's behalf was the combined effort of the SEIU WI State Council and Service Employees International Union Committee on Political Education. The two groups dropped \$406,505.

Meanwhile, the \$1.2 million WMC ad buy was the largest expenditure helping Kelly, who also spent nearly \$1.2 million through the last reporting period. The next largest was the \$897,488 that the Republican State Leadership Committee spent through its Judicial Fairness Initiative.

**-- The Evers administration clarified today that churches and religious entities may still conduct services under his stay-at-home order, though those conducted inside must be limited to 10 people at a time.**

Amid demands to make sure churches and synagogues can host services this week, the administration also said services can, for example, be offered in parking lots with congregants staying in their vehicles to avoid person-to-person contact.

The gov's statement also came after complaints that local law enforcement was trying to discourage services.

"To be clear, we are not asking law enforcement to supervise or take enforcement steps against religious gatherings," Evers wrote on Twitter. "Rather, law enforcement has been working hard to help congregations understand the order and take precautions to keep themselves and their members safe."

This week, Leg Council produced a memo in response to state Sen. Dave Craig, R-Big Bend, stating religious gatherings held in unconfined outdoor spaces will not be limited in the number of people allowed under the gov's order.

The memo says that the limit of 10 people or fewer applies only to gatherings held in a room or

confined space, even if it's outside. As long as the outdoor space is not confined or considered a room, the limit doesn't apply.

Still, religious service attendees are being encouraged to follow standard social distancing guidelines as much as possible.

According to the memo, these rules apply for drive-up church services.

"The people of WI have no clear guidance from day-to-day on how to live their lives, run their biz, or worship God," Craig tweeted today. "We can't sit & refresh our Twitter feeds waiting for the latest vague edict from @GovEvers telling us how to live our lives. The Legislature must stop this madness!"

Before Evers' statement, the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty called on him to "clarify, correct and restrain" local government officials who have reportedly banned such services planned for this weekend. In response to the gov confirming churches can hold outdoor and open gatherings, WILL President and General Counsel Rick Esenberg said he hopes local officials take notice and "immediately cease" attempts to prohibit these services.

WILL argues these local bans conflict with the order and with religious protections provided by the state constitution.

See the memo:

<https://bit.ly/2y7akkk>

**-- Gov. Tony Evers will close a total of 40 state parks, forests and recreation areas to prevent damage and ensure social distancing, but one GOP lawmaker protested.**

Evers cited unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and an abundance of caution as reasons for the closures, which start tomorrow and will remain in place until further notice.

Some of the closing locations include: Devil's Lake State Park; Big Foot Beach State Park; Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak; Blue Mound State Park; Mirror Lake State Park; Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area; Richard Bong State Recreational Area; and Aztalan State Park.

"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," Evers said in a statement. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

The gov warned more parks could close if the large crowds and vandalism continue.

DNR Spokeswoman Sarah Hoyer told WisPolitics.com multiple state parks have seen record-breaking attendance since the pandemic, all while still in the off-season.

Parks have reported tens of thousands of visitors on April 4-5 weekend alone. Harrington Beach State Park took in at least 5,600 visitors so far in April, while it on average receives only 9,695 for the whole month.

"Some of these areas there's trails that are narrow and people are not necessarily six feet apart and sometimes even shoulder-to-shoulder," Hoyer said. "We just can't have that. We have to protect public health and safety."

DNR Secretary Preston Cole called Evers' park closures "a necessary step."

"We know the benefits to getting outdoors, but not doing this would put people's lives at risk," he said in a statement. "With the weather warming, we are seeing increases in visitors and a myriad of challenges surrounding social distancing."

Hoyer said the parks have seen vandalism and littering "all over the place." She said there have been reports of people stealing hand sanitizer canisters from bathroom walls, as well as graffiti on walls and signs in multiple parks.

All fees are waived for the state parks still open, plus all offices, visitor centers and non-essential buildings remain closed.

DNR urged people to "do their part" in the still-open parks by taking garbage and recyclables with them when they leave. Most parks and day-use areas don't have garbage or recycling bins, according to DNR.

Hoyer said wardens will continue to patrol the parks to protect the wildlife and enforce the closures.

**-- Rep. Scott Allen, R-Waukesha, said Evers had "gone too far" with today's announcement. He said Evers should have anticipated the increased popularity of the parks, because "what else is there for people to do?"**

He recommended in a statement DNR reallocate its resources to accommodate the visitors instead of closing the parks.

Allen later told WisPolitics.com Wisconsinites have been "doing a really good job" with social distancing recommendations, and that they should be allowed some respite from staying at home now that "the evidence is clear" the infection curve is lowering in some areas.

"We're getting to the point where we need to start easing restrictions, not adding more," he said. "Give us a break. We don't need patronizing government afraid we'll get too close. This is the wrong time to punish us."

Meanwhile, the organization Hunter Nation quickly demanded Evers immediately reopen state public land, calling the move a violation of constitutional hunting rights just before the start of the spring turkey season.

"This is purely a political decision that is being made in a vacuum inside the walls of bureaucracy in Madison to pander to the fear mongers and elitists who don't support our outdoor lifestyle anyway," CEO Luke Hilgemann said. "Rather than rushing to close the parks due to increased activity, Governor Evers should work with local groups including hunt clubs, conservation groups and others who I'm sure would be willing and able to help maintain these vital public resources during this time."

Hoyer said there are still areas in the state open for hiking, and turkey season is continuing "as planned." But she reiterated the gov's list is not "definitive" and things could change as DNR monitors

the situation.

"People have got to be smart about this, regardless of the complaints," she said. "Public health and safety is not a joke. COVID-19 is real. And we found, to stop it from spreading, you have to social distance."

See more:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/dept-of-natural-resources-gov-evers-directs-dnr-to-close-40-state-parks-forests-and-recreational-areas/>

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/gov-evers-directs-dept-of-natural-resources-to-close-40-state-parks-forests-and-recreational-areas/>

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/hunter-nation-calls-on-gov-evers-to-reopen-public-lands/>

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/rep-allen-statement-on-closure-of-state-parks/>

**-- In a separate order, Evers eased Department of Safety and Professional Services regulations on a wide range of industries and service groups, including construction, fire departments and certified public accountants, among others**

The gov also announced the Army Corps of Engineers is working with his administration to develop an alternative care facility at State Fair Park. So-called ACFs are designed to support existing medical facilities.

The corps has been partnering with states around the country to build the facilities in response to the spread of COVID-19.

The corps signed a contract with Milwaukee's Gilbane and other local companies to construct the facility.

See the DSPS order:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/04/09/file\\_attachments/1423920/Final%20EmO22.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/04/09/file_attachments/1423920/Final%20EmO22.pdf)

See more on the alternative care facility:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/gov-evers-announces-construction-of-alternative-care-facility-at-wisconsin-state-fair-park/>

See COVID-19 resources and information:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/coronavirus-resources/>

**-- The state's district attorneys are asking the state Elections Commission to consider possible alternatives to requiring candidates to circulate nomination papers.**

In a letter to the commission this week, the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association noted the process of circulating nomination papers, which begins Wednesday, "is contrary to the health emergency orders and science of how the virus spreads." The letter notes there are no options to circulate and certify the papers electronically and circulators currently are required to witness each signature in person.

WDAA President Louis Molepske, the Portage County DA and a former Dem lawmaker, told

WisPolitics.com there are also questions for prosecutors on whether circulating papers are considered an essential function under the gov's stay-at-home order, not to mention the health risks to circulators and signers of being in close proximity during the process.

"It's basically a process that is a petri dish of problems," Molepske said.

Dean Knudson, Elections Commission chair and a former GOP lawmaker, said the agency plans to discuss the issue at tomorrow's meeting. Still, he said the commission lacks the power to issue emergency rules to make accommodations for candidates faced with circulating nomination papers amid the pandemic. He noted candidates still have the option to mail nomination papers to supporters, who could fill them out at home and mail them back.

Knudson said he wondered if lawmakers, who also must collect signatures, will be "highly motivated" to address the requirement in an upcoming legislative package to deal with the virus.

Still, Knudson also said he believes circulating nomination papers can't be hindered by the gov's order.

"That's a very different question than whether it's a smart thing to do right now. I'm not sure too many people want to do business as usual," Knudson said.

Current law requires signatures to be turned into the Elections Commission by June 1. Assembly candidates need a minimum of 200 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot, while those seeking a seat in the Senate need at least 400.

The WDAA request comes as lawmakers elsewhere are also grappling with the issue. A bipartisan group of candidates in Massachusetts asked the state's highest court to grant them relief from requirements they gather signatures during the pandemic to get on the fall ballot.

Read the WDAA letter:  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/wdaa-letter/>

**-- A new update from the state Elections Commission shows an uptick in absentee ballot requests for the spring election, even though the deadline to seek them passed nearly a week ago.**

Still, the agency said that is because local clerks are still catching up on data entry.

That's also the reason the agency cited for the update showing about 70 municipalities that haven't reported sending or receiving any absentee ballots.

Today's notice says clerks in many smaller communities don't have direct access to the system to enter updates on absentee ballots, meaning they are relying on county clerks to do it for them.

"At this point, no one should assume that the clerks have not fulfilled requests based on the data (or lack of data) in the spreadsheet," the commission said.

Statewide, just over 99 percent of absentee ballots requested were mailed, according to the update. That left 12,064 ballots that hadn't been logged as mailed.

Florence County, in northern Wisconsin, reported 82.6 percent of the ballots requested had been mailed. Two communities were listed as not mailing any ballots even though a combined 33 had been requested from their residents.

See more:

<https://elections.wi.gov/node/6839>

**-- The three remaining elections scheduled this year would be conducted almost entirely by mail-in ballot, under a proposal released today by Assembly Dems.**

The proposal backed by the chamber's top Dems seeks to send every registered voter in the state an absentee ballot and remove the requirement for a witness signature. Polling locations would be closed to all except the disabled and those who struggle to read, write or understand English.

It would also suspend voter ID requirements for voting in 2020 elections and move the voter registration deadline back to five days before an election, matching the deadline in current law for registered voters to request an absentee ballot.

Calling the April 7 election "an avoidable tragedy" that forced voters "to make the impossible choice between risking their health and exercising their right to vote," Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz said the move was urgently needed to "maximize voter accessibility."

"Moving to a Vote by Mail system will protect our democracy and keep Wisconsinites safe," the Oshkosh Dem said.

Republican legislative leaders were not immediately available to comment, but were opposed to implementing a wide-scale mail-in election in the days ahead of the April 7 election.

Three elections are still scheduled for the remainder of the year, including: a May 12 special election for the 7th CD between Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Minocqua, and Wausau school board member Tricia Zunker; a partisan primary on August 11; and the general election on Nov. 3.

The Dem legislation would provide a sum sufficient to cover additional postage and printing costs, \$1 million to update the voter registration system to account for the extended deadline and \$3 million in the next fiscal year for a public information campaign to promote the mail-in voting system this year.

See the release:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/rep-hintz-vote-by-mail-legislation-introduced/>

See the bill:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200409VoteByMailBill.pdf>

**-- Marquette University will furlough approximately 250 employees to make up for a \$15 million budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

In a memo yesterday to staff, the Catholic private university in Milwaukee said an increase in costs due to COVID-19 and the refund of half a semester's worth of housing fees caused "financial strain" and forced its hand on the matter.

"Our future financial health depends on the demand for online Summer Studies, our ability to virtually recruit next year's incoming class, and how Marquette and other private universities will benefit from a government stimulus package," the memo read. "Sadly, the entire world is suffering from the devastating human and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic -- Marquette is not immune to these challenges."

Additionally, Marquette said it has suspended all university travel, reduced discretionary spending and suspended all nonessential hiring and merit increases.

The furlough begins after April 17, according to the memo. While those furloughed won't receive pay, they will retain benefits like medical, dental and vision insurance, as well as tuition remissions. Marquette said it would pay both employer and employee portions of insurance premiums throughout the pandemic.

Marquette said there may be "other significant decisions" down the road to mitigate the financial strain, if the virus' onslaught continues.

University spokeswoman Lynn Griffith told WisPolitics.com the memo would "serve as our statement on the matter."

Read the memo:

<https://www.marquette.edu/email/today/coronavirus-staff-4-08-20.php>

### **-- One of U.S. Rep. Ron Kind's 3rd CD challengers is "stranded overseas" during the coronavirus pandemic.**

Eau Claire businessman John Garske said his wife, Galina, had been teaching U.S. service members in Vilseck, Germany, and that a U.S. Department of Defense stop order blocked her and their son from returning to Wisconsin. So, he said he flew out to them instead.

"After communicating our specific situation, (DoD) are now telling me that I and my family are exempt from the stop movement order and we are scheduled to return to Wisconsin by the end of April, but this is a unique time," he said in a statement. "Even with the necessary cancelling of two fundraisers, our campaign continues to connect with residents in Western Wisconsin and that shows in our positive fundraising numbers this year."

He said his campaign, Garske for Congress, raised over \$120,000 in contributions in the first quarter of 2020.

Garske is one of five Republicans who have launched a bid to challenge the longstanding western Wisconsin congressman.

Others include: Derrick Van Orden, a former Navy SEAL who grew up in southeastern Wisconsin and then moved back to the state after his military career; Brandon Cook, who wrote on his Facebook page he's running as a "common sense Conservative Republican;" Jessi Ebben, a public relations professional in Eau Claire; and Kevin Ruscher, who bills himself on his Facebook page as "an anti-Trump Republican" who has "never liked the guy."

See more:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200408GARSKE.pdf>



**-- Jeff Weber, president of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, says Tuesday's in-person voting will "undoubtedly" lead to a spike in the COVID-19 infection rate.**

"We have nurses and other health care workers who will die because of the work they do," Weber said during a webinar hosted by U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee. "Everyday, we are on the front lines, and this pandemic is about to get far, far worse because of what we witnessed Tuesday."

Moore said holding in-person voting during the viral outbreak was "absolutely unnecessary," ripping the move as "one of the most cruel tricks pulled out of the Republican playbook in their very full quiver of tricks to suppress the vote."

She also thanked front-line health care workers for putting themselves in harm's way to keep people safe.

"The damage this will cause, we are not ready for it," Weber said. "We have barebones staffing, insufficient infrastructure and equipment, and a lack of care for the health care workers themselves."

Moore also touched on some of the factors leading to African-Americans in Wisconsin and elsewhere dying from the virus at higher rates than other groups.

"If you live in the inner city, you have housing conditions that don't necessarily allow you to social distance as well as other places," she said. "When you consider the dearth of health care, the lack of health insurance, the underlying health problems -- asthma, diabetes."

Despite these challenges, Moore sees an opportunity for positive change amid the current uncertainty. As more information is gathered about the disproportionate impacts of the virus, she said "it opens the door to a larger discussion about really addressing health care disparities."

She also bashed the Trump administration's handling of the pandemic, noting the federal government sent a large amount of personal protective equipment and ventilators to China early on in the outbreak.

"That was a very humanitarian thing, but it left us bereft of equipment while we were in denial," she said.

**-- Wisconsin hospitals are currently treating 446 patients for COVID-19 with less than half of those in ICU, according to a new update from the Wisconsin Hospital Association.**

The update includes stats such as the number of intensive care beds available -- about one-third of the 1,311 the state has -- and other information that Republican lawmakers have been clamoring for amid the pandemic.

For example, state hospitals also have 1,233 general use bedside ventilators with 330 ventilated patients.

A WHA spokesman said the summary is a collaboration with the state Department of Health Services to make the information more widely available.

See the update:  
<https://www.wha.org/COVID19Update>

**-- Foxconn is reporting to the state that it employed enough workers last year to qualify for state tax credits under the agreement established under then-Gov. Scott Walker.**

A letter sent from Foxconn to WEDC chief Missy Hughes says the company directly employed more than 550 full-time employees at the end of the 2019 reporting year. Plus the letter points to the company's economic impact on southeast Wisconsin, adding more than 100 different companies are involved with developing the Wisconsin Valley Science and Technology Park.

The contract with the state shows Foxconn had to have a minimum of 520 full-time jobs in the state by the end of 2019 to qualify for job creation tax credits. WEDC expects to have an auditor's report on Foxconn's latest annual project summary in mid-May.

But the Evers administration has raised concerns about whether the project meets the terms of the contract. Since many details of the project have changed, the Evers administration has questioned if Foxconn can still earn tax credits under the agreement, regardless of how many jobs are created.

"Our conversations with Foxconn about aligning the contract with the project continue," Hughes said in a statement. "It is WEDC's objective to do so in order to support the project."

Once the independent audit is completed, WEDC will review that report along with the company's latest project overview. The process is expected to take several months.

See Foxconn's letter to Hughes: <http://www.wisbusiness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Foxconn-letter-to-WEDC.pdf>

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#### **April 16: WisPolitics.com/Milwaukee Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon with State Party Chairs**

*WisPolitics.com and the Milwaukee Press Club are holding a virtual event on the spring election during the lunch hour on Thursday with state GOP Chair Andrew Hitt and state Democratic Party Chair Ben Wikler.*

*They will answer questions from a panel of three journalists starting at noon and going until 1 p.m. Adrienne Pedersen, host of WISN-TV's "UpFront" program, WTMJ-TV anchor Charles Benson, and Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief Craig Gilbert will ask questions of the party chairs.*

*You must register in advance using the form below. Then you will be sent a link on Thursday morning to view the event live.*

*The Milwaukee Press Club's Newsmaker Luncheon Series is underwritten by presenting sponsor Spectrum News 1 and sustaining sponsor Mueller QAAS, LLC.*

*WisPolitics.com partners with the press club for this luncheon as part of its ongoing event series in Milwaukee, sponsored by UW-Milwaukee, Wisconsin Academy of Global Education and Training, ELEVEN25 at Pabst, Milwaukee Police Association, The Firm Consulting, Medical College of*

Wisconsin and Spectrum.

Register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNzWjDy8uPJlytd9HBt0wAbdsRh9EIKK1LJQPxNTqVZeiRMA/viewform>

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## TOP HEADLINES

WPR: Coronavirus Continues To Hit Hard In Milwaukee  
<https://www.wpr.org/coronavirus-continues-hit-hard-milwaukee>

Journal Sentinel: UW senior athletes in spring sports cut short by coronavirus won't get another season  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/2020/04/09/university-wisconsin-wont-grant-seniors-another-season/5125502002/>

Channel 3000: Alternative care facility to be built at Wisconsin State Fair Park  
<https://www.channel3000.com/alternative-care-facility-to-be-built-at-wisconsin-state-fair-park/>

Politico: Senate fails to approve new coronavirus relief after partisan stalemate  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/09/senate-coronavirus-relief-deal-176804>

NYT: The virus is sickening and killing low-wage workers in meat plants.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/us/coronavirus-live-updates.html>

Roll Call: 'Put a doctor in the House': Campaigning on pandemic's front lines  
<https://rollcall.com/2020/04/09/put-a-doctor-in-the-house-campaigning-on-pandemics-front-lines/>

## FRIDAY'S CALENDAR

<https://www.wispolitics.com/category/events/>

- No events listed.

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## Hope, Sam

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**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:45 PM  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services  
**Subject:** WED PM Update: Coronavirus concerns prompt cancellations, some campuses to move to online instruction



### WED PM Update -- 11 March 2020

*Exclusively for WisPolitics Subscribers - DO NOT FORWARD*

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*From WisPolitics.com ...*

**-- The Evers administration today urged state employees to stay home if they feel ill to help contain the possible spread of the coronavirus.**

The virus prompted a cascade of response across the country, including at UW-Madison, which suspended in-person classes after spring break ends March 23 and will instead begin teaching online until at least April 10.

Meanwhile, three more cases were announced in Wisconsin. The positive tests in Waukesha and Fond du Lac counties bring the state's total to six, and all three new ones were exposed while traveling, the Department of Health Services said.

State employees today received three documents, including a fact sheet on the coronavirus and frequently asked questions. One communication noted all state operations are currently functioning normally and there are no travel or training restrictions for employees at this time, though that may change.

It also noted employees are able to use sick leave or other balances as needed.

"If you develop symptoms, stay at home-please do not come to work if you are ill," the letter read in bold.

Read the documents sent to state employees:  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200311Letter.pdf>  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200311Information.pdf>  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200311Questions.pdf>

**-- Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald today said he has not yet changed the session schedule for March 24 but is approaching the decision "on a day-by-day basis."**

"If necessary, the Senate can amend its calendar to meet at a later date either via resolution or extraordinary session," the Juneau Republican said in a statement. "I plan to continue to consult with Speaker Vos and the Assembly."

Both Fitzgerald and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, were on a briefing call today with senior White House officials.

Vos said the call covered topics from a supplemental appropriation bill to the country's testing supplies.

"This briefing call was an impressive display of coordination and communication by the federal agencies that are working around-the-clock on the 'All-America' response to the coronavirus," he said.

**-- Along with moving to online classes, UW-Madison said it's canceled nearly all campus events attracting over 50 people. Plus, most university-sponsored travel is canceled until at least April 10.**

In a statement, the university also said it is asking all students living on campus to leave and not return for at least several weeks. Students who would have difficulty returning home, due to financial reasons or other coronavirus outbreaks, may remain on campus.

"Our first priority is the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff," Chancellor Rebecca Blank told reporters today at a press conference. "We aren't suspending classes. We're moving to an alternative delivery of classes, and we expect students to continue learning."

The campus itself will remain open, and research labs will continue to operate, according to Blank. But students who stay in residence halls "should be prepared for a reduced campus experience with limited opportunities for interaction and reduced campus services."

Blank said at the moment there are no confirmed cases of the virus among students, adding she didn't know whether any faculty or staff are currently being tested.

The move comes after UW-Milwaukee yesterday announced a similar measure to begin teaching classes online for the remainder of the spring semester. UWM also announced a staff member became ill and is awaiting test results for COVID-19 after coming in contact with someone who traveled to an area with a Level 3 travel ban.

For college athletics, Blank said she expects the school will follow guidelines by the National Collegiate Athletic Association to host sporting events without fans present.

Ahead of April 10, the university will reevaluate the situation based on "what's happening in the community and the nation" to determine whether normal classes should return or remain closed.

"I know of no example where we've taken this type of a step," Blank said. "And I might say that up until about 10 years ago I don't think it would've been possible."

See more:

**-- The outbreak is also impacting political and government events.**

U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Town of Vermont, announced this afternoon he's canceling his four town hall meetings that were scheduled for next week due to concerns about the outbreak. Instead, he will do a Facebook Live Town Hall on Tuesday.

The Dane County Dems also sent members an email today canceling tonight's meeting out of an abundance of caution.

Meanwhile, the gov canceled a planned appearance at a Milwaukee Press Club/WisPolitics.com Newsmaker Luncheon tomorrow.

And the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service announced that ticket sales will be suspended for John Bolton's April 6 event. Due to risks of the coronavirus, the UW-Stevens Point chancellor has canceled events with more than 50 people from any campus facility between March 15 and April 15. WIPPS is now working on a contingency plan for the event.

**-- The conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty asked the Wisconsin Supreme Court today to fast track its appeal to ensure the registrations of some 200,000 voters who may have moved are deactivated before the state's Aug. 11 primary.**

In today's filing seeking to overturn a ruling by the 4th District Court of Appeals, the group argued there was not enough time for the court to act before the April 7 election. But WILL told the court a decision by June 19 would mean there'd be enough time to deactivate the registrations of those who moved and failed to respond to a state mailing, ensuring they wouldn't be able to get absentee ballots while listing their old addresses.

Today's filing had been expected after WILL previously indicated it would appeal a decision by the 4th District Court of Appeals that found a state law requiring deactivation of those registrations doesn't apply to the state Elections Commission. Along with overturning an Ozaukee County judge's decision, the ruling also vacated his contempt order against the commission and three Dem members for not immediately complying with Paul Malloy's order.

In that Feb. 28 ruling, the 4th District noted the Legislature had laid out in statute that the term "board of election commissioners" referred to a panel in either a municipality or county that cleared a population threshold. The city and county of Milwaukee are the only two jurisdictions in the state that meet the threshold.

In today's filing, WILL argued the appeals court was wrong.

It seeks a finding that the registrations should be deactivated and the contempt order reinstated.

The filing is the latest in a legal fight that stretches back to the fall, when WILL sued after the Elections Commission originally decided to give voters up to 24 months to respond to the mailing checking on their addresses rather than 30 days before their registrations would be deactivated.

See the filing:

**-- Chief Justice Pat Roggensack and fellow conservative Annette Ziegler today denounced what they said are attacks "on the integrity of the court" and urged those "seeking judicial office to be mindful and act with the decorum appropriate to the office."**

The statement, released by the two personally and not through the court, didn't specifically mention Dane County Judge Jill Karofsky. The liberal court candidate has regularly knocked conservative Justice Daniel Kelly for what she says is a sense of "corruption" on the court, because the public sees justices who made decisions before anyone steps into the chamber.

Roggensack said in a follow-up interview she has raised concerns over the last several years about what she sees as attacks on the court in judicial campaigns. But it was Karofsky's use of the word "corrupt" that prompted her and Ziegler, the deputy chief justice, to release the statement.

"Her target is the court," Roggensack said. "The court is corrupt, and that's what got me to say that statement. It wasn't aimed at one justice. It was leveled at everybody."

Roggensack said she isn't endorsing anyone in the spring race, and Ziegler isn't listed on Kelly's endorsement page. But all three are considered part of the court's 5-2 conservative majority.

Karofsky fired back that the state deserves a justice that can be trusted to uphold the law.

"Dan Kelly has an indisputable record of siding with right-wing special interests every step of the way," she said. "I will be a fair, tough, and independent justice and we are building a people-powered campaign to win. I respect the justices who have chosen to weigh in and I look forward to working with them to restore public confidence in the judiciary."

During last year's Supreme Court race, then-Appeals Court Judge Brian Hagedorn regularly knocked outgoing Justice Shirley Abrahamson, a longtime liberal member. In various forums, he accused her of having "her thumb on the scale," being a "political judge" and a "super legislator." The conservative, who went on to win the race, also said at one debate that "I could tell you how that justice was going to vote on every single case that I (had)," referencing cases he had argued while chief legal counsel for former Gov. Scott Walker.

Roggensack didn't issue any statements in last year's race chastising Hagedorn.

She said in the interview Hagedorn's use of the phrase "thumb on the scale might not have been a very good choice of words." But she differentiated his comments from Karofsky's.

"He never used the word corrupt, which is what is being used today, which I find really has quite a different tone," she said.

See the statement:  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/justices-roggensack-and-ziegler-statement/>

**-- Hagedorn and fellow conservative Justice Rebecca Bradley also issued a statement through Kelly's campaign knocking Karofsky.**



The pair, who have endorsed Kelly's bid for a full 10-year term on the bench, said Karofsky's "slanderous statements" are "evidence of her lack of fitness for this bench."

See the release:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/kelly-campaign-statement-from-justices-rebecca-bradley-and-brian-hagedorn/>

**-- Vice President Pence will join 7th CD GOP candidate Tom Tiffany in Rothschild on March 19 for a GOTV event.**

The visit comes the same day President Trump will be in Milwaukee to unveil his "Catholics for Trump" organization.

Pence last week canceled a planned campaign stop in Onalaska with his wife Karen Pence as part of a "Women for Trump" event. He instead traveled to Washington state as part of the administration's response to the coronavirus.

The event with Tiffany will be at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center.

Dem Party spokesman Philip Shulman knocked the president and vice president for scheduling political events in Wisconsin amid the coronavirus outbreak, saying they're ignoring the health concerns of Americans and focusing on their campaign.

"What they should be doing is sticking to his word that we should not be engaging in partisan politics on this and should be doing what's best for the American people," Shulman said.

See details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gotv-event-with-special-guest-vice-president-mike-pence-and-tom-tiffany-tickets-97813062503>

**-- A federal commission led by U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher today unveiled a sweeping set of proposals to overhaul the way the federal government manages cybersecurity.**

In its final report, the US Cyberspace Solarium Commission rolled out more than 75 recommendations. They range from upping the number of military personnel trained for cyber operations to using government resources to protect "systemically important" critical infrastructure owned by the private sector to promoting the use of paper-based voting systems as widely as possible.

But while the 122-page report is broad in scope, the conclusions drawn by Gallagher, R-Green Bay, and Co-Chair U.S. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, are narrow: the United States is ill-prepared to deter cyberattacks from the likes of Russia, China, North Korea or Iran.

"This is like the 9/11 commission, but hopefully without 9/11," Gallagher said on a conference call with reporters. "We want to, if nothing else, convince our colleagues that we have an urgent problem here. And we can't afford to wait until we're on the wrong side of a catastrophic cyber incident to modernize and reform the federal government."

To address the issue, the commission is proposing a framework of "layered deterrence" that

incorporates recommendations to promote "responsible" nation-state behavior in cyberspace, harden the country's cyber defenses and retaliate against attackers.

While a bulk of the recommendations fall within those three categories, the commission is also recommending a restructuring of the federal government to increase focus on cybersecurity. The report calls for new House and Senate cyber committees, cyber-specific positions at the White House and State Department, strengthening and elevating the importance of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and boosting the recruitment and retention of cyber talent.

"We need CISA to become, for lack of a better term, cool," Gallagher said. "We want it to be able to compete not only with the FBI and the NSA for top-level talent but also with Google and Microsoft, and for it to win."

Gallagher acknowledged a number of hurdles standing in the way of moving the recommendations from the pages of the commission's report into law. Those included a stark partisan divide in Congress, lawmakers' focus on dealing with the coronavirus and an election right around the corner.

Still, the Green Bay Republican said he saw opportunities to outdo "by a lot" the 10 percent to 20 percent rate at which commission recommendations are historically enacted.

"We want this to be a blueprint for action, not just a report that collects dust on a shelf somewhere," he said.

For one, the recommendations that call for congressional action include pre-drafted legislative language in an online appendix that lawmakers can "almost copy and paste."

Gallagher also noted that many of the recommendations "will fall neatly" into this year's National Defense Authorization Act, the critical package that sets policy and budget for the Department of Defense, among other things.

Both Gallagher and fellow commission member U.S. Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I., sit on the House Armed Services Committee, which helps draft the NDAA. Langevin also serves as chair of the Armed Services subcommittee with jurisdiction over cyber policy.

As for the recommendations that fall outside of the Armed Services Committee's purview, Gallagher said he and King have begun the process of lobbying influential committee chairs. The Green Bay Republican said Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chair Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, has been "very supportive" and "wants to move as quickly as possible."

While some of the recommendations called for in the report can be enacted legislatively, others will require executive action.

Gallagher said personal conversations with Deputy National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger -- with whom he served in the Marine Corps -- had been productive. But he acknowledged there would likely be pushback from the White House on aspects of the plan, including creating a National Cyber Director who would be confirmed by the Senate.

Still, he said the commission strongly backed having a single focal point for coordinating cyber activity across a variety of different agencies.

"That's going to be something where we're going to have to convince our colleagues in the executive

branch that we're right," he said.

See the report:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ryMCIL\\_dZ30QyjFqFkkf10MxIXJGT4yv/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ryMCIL_dZ30QyjFqFkkf10MxIXJGT4yv/view)

**-- A bill that would extend bar hours during the Democratic National Convention unanimously passed out of a Senate committee today and is eligible to be taken up for a floor vote.**

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce and Trade Chair Sen. Dan Feyen, R-Fond du Lac, told WisPolitics.com after the hearing that "we'll see where we're at" on support for the bill among his GOP colleagues now that it's out of committee.

"We wanted to get this hearing done and then we'll bring it up again and see where we're at," Feyen said. "We think we're in a pretty decent place, but we have to talk to some members yet."

AB 869 passed the Assembly last month 84-13. The original bill would've allowed municipalities across the state the chance to expand bar hours to 4 a.m. between July 13 and July 17. It also would've established a permit process for so-called "wedding barn" private event venues and would've closed a loophole where breweries could stay open beyond bar time, among other things.

But two amendments, both introduced by bill author Rep. Rob Swearingen, R-Rhineland, removed those provisions and limited the DNC bar hours section to 14 counties in southern Wisconsin. Municipalities would be able to opt-in to the bar hours extension or remain at current state laws.

The amended bill would also allow alcohol sales at the Road America racetrack grounds, clarify liquor license issuing authority to vendors at State Fair Park and increase the state's ride program surcharge on people convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated to \$75 from \$50.

Last month, Senate Dems attempted to attach the bill as an amendment to another bill. But the move was rejected by voice vote, with Republicans questioning the importance of the issue and expressing concerns over drunken driving.

During today's hearing, Drunk Driving Education Foundation founder Marla Hall recounted how her son, his fiancée and their coworker were all killed by a head-on collision with a repeat drunk driver while returning to Milwaukee from a work trip. Hall asked the committee members if they would be the ones to give people too drunk to drive a ride home at 4 a.m.

"If you had to add a \$25 surcharge, you're already saying you know there will be more OWIs and there will likely be a death," she said. "Where is the money for police enforcement, for the state patrol, for sheriffs? Nobody cares. It's all about money."

The Assembly session already ended, and GOP leadership said there aren't any plans to come back, other than for some possible veto override attempts in April.

AB 869 would have to pass the Senate in its current form for it to go to Gov. Tony Evers' desk. Feyen previously said his committee will not look at attaching any other amendments for this reason.

See more:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/ab869-engrossed>

*From WisBusiness.com ...*

**-- Renewable energy advocacy groups in the state are applauding today's appointment of Renew Wisconsin Executive Director Tyler Huebner to the Public Service Commission.**

Huebner replaces former GOP lawmaker and DOA Secretary Mike Huebsch, who resigned last month, a year before his term was up. The appointment gives Gov. Tony Evers a majority on the three-member commission, which oversees electric, gas, water and telecom industries in the state.

Huebner has worked for Renew Wisconsin, a nonprofit that promotes renewable energy in the state, since 2013. Prior to that, he worked at the Wisconsin Division of Energy Services, according to his LinkedIn page.

In a statement, Clean Wisconsin President and CEO Mark Redsten commended Huebner's "knowledge, experience, and expertise in the energy field."

"He understands where our state's energy future is headed," Redsten said. "He undoubtedly brings a unique perspective that will keep economic and environmental impacts of commission decisions in mind."

Ryan Billingham, communications director for the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, highlighted Huebner's track record with supporting clean energy. He also noted the appointment comes a day after the Sierra Club, Renew Wisconsin and the League released their "clean energy toolkit," a guide for energy policy efforts aimed at moving toward renewables.

"As more and more communities across Wisconsin are becoming concerned about climate change and prioritizing clean energy, it's definitely important for the PSC to recognize clean energy opportunities," Billingham told WisBusiness.com.

He also applauded Evers for showing "his commitment to addressing climate change" with the new appointment.

Meanwhile, Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter Director Elizabeth Ward says the group looks forward to "working with Tyler and the rest of the Commission as Wisconsin continues to navigate the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy."

See the announcement:

<http://www.wispolitics.com/2020/gov-evers-appoints-tyler-huebner-to-the-public-service-commission/>

**-- The White House has time to appeal the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that denied three small refinery exemptions approved by the EPA, and farmers say they will remember President Trump's decision come election time.**

"President Trump vowed to protect the Renewable Fuel Standard," said Dave Walton, a soybean farmer in Iowa, in a press conference. "If this comes down to farmers versus oil companies, farmers will remember that in November."

Last week, the court granted the administration an extension to file an appeal by March 24 and soon

after, over 20 farm and biofuel groups, including the Wisconsin Biofuels Association, sent a letter asking Trump to reject an appeal of the court decision.

"This delay is prolonging uncertainty in the market," said Erik Huschitt, CEO of Badger State Ethanol in Monroe. "This court ruling is a chance to clean the state, to start clean with EPA and the administration."

He said that the court ruling confirmed what farm communities have been saying for years, that the EPA was "illegally abusing" small refinery exemptions given to oil companies.

"It's clear that the president needs to change course on this decision," said Mitch Miller, CEO of Carbon Green BioEnergy in Michigan. He added that if Trump directs the EPA to follow the law, the end result will be American-made fuel at a lower cost and a lower carbon footprint.

Huschitt echoed Miller's points and noted that this is also a consumer issue.

"This is not just wronging the ag sector or the American farmer, this is the entire country that's using liquid fuels to run all their businesses and all their vehicles that are getting wrongly treated by this law not being followed," he said.

But even if the White House decides to appeal the court ruling, Huschitt says that the "right outcome will happen."

"Even if they appeal, it won't change what the law has said and the court has ruled," he said. "What I take credence in is that the law is on our side."

See a previous story at WisBusiness.com:  
<https://www.wisbusiness.com/2020/corn-growers-ethanol-producers-urging-epa-to-follow-the-law-on-small-refinery-exemptions/>

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### **March 17: WisPolitics Luncheon with Congressman Bryan Steil**

*Join WisPolitics.com for lunch at The Madison Club, 5 East Wilson St., Madison, on Tuesday, March 17, with Congressman Bryan Steil, R-Janesville, talking about his first two years in the House grappling with issues such as impeachment, tariffs and trade, and the economy.*

*Steil won election in 2018 to the U.S. House in Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District, succeeding Paul Ryan.*

*Check-in and lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., with the program going from noon to 1 p.m. WisPolitics.com subscribers and members as well as Madison Club members and their guests receive discounted pricing for WisPolitics luncheons of \$19 per person. Price for general public is \$25 per person.*

*This luncheon is sponsored by: Husch Blackwell, American Family Insurance, Xcel Energy, Walmart, AARP Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.*

*Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wispolitics-luncheon-with-congressman-bryan-steil-tickets-90221203047>*

See more WisPolitics.com events here: <https://www.wispolitics.com/category/featured-events/>

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## TOP HEADLINES

WPR: Wisconsin Quarantine Laws Include Potential For Steep Penalties, Jail Time  
<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-quarantine-laws-include-potential-steep-penalties-jail-time>

WPR: Cuts In Wisconsin Hospitals Push Nurses To The Limit  
<https://www.wpr.org/cuts-wisconsin-hospitals-push-nurses-limit>

Journal Sentinel: Five-county Miller Park stadium sales tax will go away on March 31 after 23 years  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/03/10/miller-park-board-end-sales-tax-helped-fund-brewers-stadium/5002966002/>

Cap Times: Justice Daniel Kelly says he would reconsider participating in voter purge case after April 7 election  
[https://madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/justice-daniel-kelly-says-he-would-reconsider-participating-in-voter/article\\_6b395c09-33fe-5cd6-9fcd-ce1b7e0707ba.html](https://madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/justice-daniel-kelly-says-he-would-reconsider-participating-in-voter/article_6b395c09-33fe-5cd6-9fcd-ce1b7e0707ba.html)

Politico: Michigan Romp Shows Biden Could Rebuild Democrats' 'Blue Wall' vs. Trump  
<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/03/11/michigan-romp-shows-biden-could-rebuild-democrats-blue-wall-vs-trump-125489>

Washington Post: WHO declares coronavirus a pandemic; White House considers moving all of Europe to restrictive travel advisory  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/03/11/coronavirus-live-updates/#link-Y6YHWE6HRJEJBIHME3PREUVOX4>

Roll Call: Campaigns grapple with uncertainty amid new coronavirus concerns  
<https://rollcall.com/2020/03/10/campaigns-grapple-with-uncertainty-amid-new-coronavirus-concerns/>

WSJ: Dow Jones Industrial Average's 11-Year Bull Run Comes to an End  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/global-markets-calmer-after-two-hectic-days-11583899913>

## THURSDAY'S CALENDAR

<https://www.wispolitics.com/category/events/>

- 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.: BizTimes Media M&A Forum. Keynote speaker is Paul Stillmank, founder and CEO, 7Summits.  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/2020-m-a-forum/event-summary-63e9b9337764421da3177d5cd2f0d3ee.aspx?RefID=ALP301>

- 10 a.m.: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy public hearing. Members are to take testimony on seven appointments.  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1545114>

- 10 a.m.: Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce

Development executive session  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1545557>

- CANCELED: Milwaukee Press Club/WisPolitics.com Newsmaker Luncheon with Gov. Tony Evers.

- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: WI Veterans Chamber of Commerce: DNC Supplier & Vendor Briefing.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dnc-supplier-vendor-briefing-tickets-96711076433>

- 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.: Milwaukee Bar Association forum with Daniel Kelly and Jill Karofsky.  
[https://www.mkebar.org/index.php?option=com\\_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=47](https://www.mkebar.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=47)

- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: MMAC: DNC matchmaking & networking session.  
<https://web.mmac.org/events/DNC-Matchmaking-Networking-Session-Round-II-2535/details>

- 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Rep. Dittrich fundraiser.  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/rep-dittrich-fundraiser/>

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**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2020 5:02 PM  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services  
**Subject:** MON PM Update: Judge finds Dem Elections Commission members in contempt in voter list case



**MON PM Update -- 13 Jan. 2020**

*Exclusively for WisPolitics Subscribers - DO NOT FORWARD*

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***From WisPolitics.com ...***

**-- An Ozaukee County judge today found the three Dem members of the Elections Commission in contempt for failing to strike the registrations of as many as 209,000 voters who may have moved.**

The state Department of Justice had urged Judge Paul Malloy to hold off issuing any sanction while an appeal of his order works its way through the courts.

But Malloy fined Commissioners Mark Thompsen, Ann Jacobs and Julie Glancey each \$250 per day until the Wisconsin Elections Commission complies with his December order; the order mandated the deactivation of voters who may have moved but did not respond to an October mailing enquiring about their status.

Malloy also issued a \$50 per day fine to the Elections Commission until it is in compliance with his order.

"I can't be any clearer than this: they need to follow my order," he said.

Thompsen, Jacobs and Glancey blocked a motion during WEC's December meeting to comply with Malloy's order. At the time, the trio noted that Malloy had ruled but not yet issued a formal order. They also cited a potential appeal by the state Department of Justice that could result in a stay of the deactivation order.

Assistant Attorney General Karla Keckhaver today argued commissioners were right to not deactivate voters, because a pending appeal of the case to the state Supreme Court, as well as a federal suit alleging deactivation would violate due process rights, could result in a stay of that order.

That appeal, as well as a request to stay the order, was originally filed in a Madison-based appellate



court. But the request for a stay was declined after the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty petitioned the state Supreme Court to directly take the appeal. The justices have yet to act on the bypass petition or the request for a stay.

WILL President Rick Esenberg urged Malloy to act while the appeal is pending.

"What's happened here is the defendants are trying to help themselves to the relief that this court denied and that the court of appeals and Wisconsin Supreme Court have not granted them," he said.

Malloy sided with Esenberg, noting an appeal by itself "does not stay the enforcement of an order unless it's expressly provided somewhere by law."

Malloy also knocked "condescending" comments made by an unnamed commissioner in a radio interview. He alleged the official said Malloy's order was "one guy's interpretation of the statute."

"Sure, it's one guy's interpretation, but he's a judge, that's what he's paid to do," he said. "What happens to our justice system if people say that's just one guy's interpretation? What happens when people no longer come to court when they are subpoenaed? Our justice system will cease to work."

**-- Keckhaver indicated DOJ would "immediately" appeal once Malloy's ruling from the bench is drafted into a formal order.**

She also asked for a stay pending the appeal, but Malloy denied the request.

A DOJ spokeswoman said the agency believed the fine would be effective starting today, but couldn't say for certain until Malloy signs the order.

In issuing his verdict, Malloy opted for punitive measures that were far less harsh than the \$12,000 per day fine WILL sought.

A WEC spokesman told WisPolitics.com he believed the trio were sued in their official capacity and would not be personally responsible for paying the fine.

Commissioner Bob Spindell, a recent appointee of Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald who has lobbied for deactivating registrations, attended the hearing today. Speaking with reporters afterward, he indicated action can be taken "within a couple of days" of the commission's scheduled meeting tomorrow.

But he was noncommittal when asked if he believed the contempt finding would motivate the commission to act.

"I believe that our Democratic colleagues should follow the court's order, but we'll see," he said.

Despite today's order, Jacobs said she continues to believe the commission was correct not to comply with Malloy's ruling until the appeals process plays out. She also expressed concern about how reliable the information is from the database being used to identify possible movers.

"I remain profoundly concerned that we are taking people off the voter rolls who don't belong off the voter rolls, and we're doing it through the use of unreliable data, unapplicable statutes and doing it at a time when we have ballots out there, we have voters out there and we have elections coming up,"

she said.

Thomsen and Glancey didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

**-- State schools Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor said she talked now about her decision to not seek a full term as state superintendent in 2021 to give those interested in the office time to get organized.**

Her decision not to run creates the first open DPI race since 2009. Then-Deputy Superintendent Tony Evers won the race that year to succeed two-term incumbent Libby Burmaster, who opted not to seek reelection.

Stanford Taylor, 62, plans to retire after her term is up in 2021, an agency spokesman said.

"Every child in this state deserves the chance, the opportunity, and the supports to become a success," Stanford Taylor said. "This will only happen if we -- educators, the governor, legislators, parents, and community members -- work together to make sure every student has what they need to learn when they need it."

In her announcement, Stanford Taylor said she promised Evers she would complete the final 2.5 years of his term as state superintendent when he appointed her to replace him a year ago.

Prior to her appointment, she had served as assistant state superintendent for the Division of Learning Support. Stanford Taylor, who first joined DPI in 2001, was the first female African American to serve as an assistant state superintendent.

Evers praised Stanford Taylor as "a dedicated and thoughtful leader committed to ensuring that every kid has the opportunity to succeed." He added she will be "an invaluable partner in helping to guide our next steps with an eye towards equity and inclusion" through the remainder of her term.

See the release:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200113DPI.pdf>

**-- Mike Huebsch, tapped for the Public Service Commission by Scott Walker after stints as DOA secretary and as Republican Assembly speaker, is retiring more than a year before his term is up.**

Huebsch's departure will be effective Feb. 3 after 25 years of public service. His six-year term was set to expire March 1, 2021, and his departure means appointees of Gov. Tony Evers will now control the commission.

An agency spokesman said Huebsch will be fully vested in the state pension system when he leaves the PSC.

"I want to humbly thank the people of the state of Wisconsin for allowing me to serve," said Huebsch, 55. "I have been truly blessed for the opportunities and trust afforded to me by the people of this great state. I thank you."

An Evers appointee to replace Huebsch would be subject to Senate confirmation. His pick to lead the

three-member PSC -- Chair Cameron Valcq -- was confirmed by the Senate last year.

Huebsch was elected to the state Assembly in 1994 and became DOA secretary upon Walker's inauguration in January 2011. He served in that role until Walker appointed him to the PSC in 2015.

See the release:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/psc-commissioner-huebsch-announces-retirement/>

**-- Progressives today announced a new effort dubbed A Better Wisconsin Together to serve as a hub for message development, testing and communications ahead of the 2020 elections.**

The group also will be the new home for the liberal advocacy group One Wisconsin Now, which will merge as a project of A Better Wisconsin Together.

The overall effort, organized as 501(c)(4), will include rapid response and earned media as well as digital, TV and radio ads. The group will have an affiliated 527 organization that will focus on elections and independent political activities.

The board overseeing the new group is chaired by Michelle McGrorty, a veteran operative. She most recently worked for EMILY's List before leaving this year to consult domestically and internationally. Her past work in the state includes leading Greater Wisconsin.

"With so much at stake in Wisconsin in 2020, A Better Wisconsin Together is bringing together what's worked for progressives in the past along with new ideas and tactics using the best research and communications tools available," McGrorty said.

Garrick Delzell, a national consultant for progressive organizations and campaigns, will serve as the group's interim director and issue campaign senior adviser.

One Wisconsin Now Deputy Director Mike Browne and Digital Director Cody Oliphant are going to work for the new organization. OWN Director Analiese Eicher recently announced her departure from the group.

See the release:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200113ABWT.pdf>

**-- Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign has added a second staffer in Wisconsin as it prepares to open an office in Madison next week.**

Rebecca Lynch, who has been working as the political director for the Working Families Party, was hired to fill the same role with the Massachusetts senator's Wisconsin campaign.

She joins senior strategist Jake Hajdu on Warren's Wisconsin staff.

The campaign plans to open the Madison office Jan. 21 with state Rep. Greta Neubauer, D-Racine in attendance.

**-- Dem De Pere Ald. Jonathon Hansen announced today he will seek the state Senate seat**

**being vacated by his uncle, Dave Hansen.**

Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay, announced last week he won't seek reelection after serving in the state Senate since 2000.

Jonathon Hansen, who won a seat on the De Pere City Council in 2017, said in his announcement he hopes to carry on his uncle's legacy by finding "pragmatic solutions" to help the district.

"I will work to ban taxpayer dollars from going to companies that ship jobs overseas or out-of-state, oppose corporate welfare, fight to protect family farms, and reduce property taxes by closing the 'dark store' loophole," he said.

See the release:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200113Hansen.pdf>

**-- The political arm of the House Freedom Caucus has put \$74,962 behind a digital ad supporting Republican Tom Tiffany in the special election for Wisconsin's 7th CD, according to a filing with the FEC.**

House Freedom Action didn't immediately respond to a message today seeking details of the buy. The filing didn't include any details on the digital ad.

The group, which backs conservative candidates for Congress, has endorsed Tiffany, a state senator from Minocqua.

Tiffany faces Jason Church, a former aide to U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, in the Feb. 18 primary. The general election is May 12.

**-- The Assembly will attempt to override one of Gov. Tony Evers' vetoes during Wednesday's floor session.**

AB 76 would've prohibited the Department of Health Services from requiring nursing assistants to have more clinical supervised practical training than the federally required minimum. Federal law currently requires no less than 75 hours of training for nurses with at least 16 hours of supervised practical training. Current Wisconsin law requires 120 hours of training, with at least 32 hours of supervised practical training and the first 16 hours as classroom training before any direct contact with clients.

Evers vetoed the bill in November, saying he objects "to providing less training for those who care for our state's most vulnerable citizens."

"There are better ways to address the shortage of nurse aides than reducing the quality of training programs," Evers said in his veto statement.

Assembly Rules Committee members today added AB 76, along with a Senate companion bill to AB 361 and several ceremonial joint resolutions, to the floor agenda. Assembly Majority Leader Rep. Jim Steineke, R-Kaukauna, estimated there would be a little under seven hours of total floor debate time.

AB 76 passed the Assembly 66-31 with Dem Reps. Don Vruwink, of Milton, Beth Meyers, of Bayfield,

and Steve Doyle, of Onalaska, siding with Republicans. The bill passed the Senate by voice vote. All three Dems didn't immediately return calls seeking comment on the override.

The Assembly and Senate both need a two-thirds majority vote to override a gov's veto. This would be the first attempt at a veto override for the bill.

Steineke also said the Assembly's next floor session will take place Jan. 22 ahead of the gov's State of the State address that same day. He did not say how much time there will be between the floor session and Evers' address.

A spokesman for Evers didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

See the more:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Jan.-15th-Finalized-Calendar.pdf>

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/veto\\_messages/ab76.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/veto_messages/ab76.pdf)

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/enrolled/ab76>

**-- Dem lawmakers today are circulating a bill that would prohibit presidential and vice presidential candidates from receiving event permits until they pay all outstanding debts.**

The bill also would allow municipalities to charge candidates ahead of events for police and sanitation costs.

Sen. Jeff Smith, of Brunswick, and Rep. Amanda Stuck, of Appleton, introduced the Recovery of Unsettled Municipal Payments Act in response to the cities of Eau Claire and Green Bay still having outstanding debts from presidential visits in the 2016 election.

They said the Trump campaign was "the biggest offender," owing Eau Claire \$47,398 and Green Bay \$9,380.

"It's one thing to ask for our vote, it's another to ask us to pick up your tab," Smith said in a statement. "Pay up or don't come back!"

See more:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200113PRESIDENT.pdf>

**-- Legislative Republicans today revealed their Tougher on Crime initiative meant to punish repeat offenders and gather more data on reducing crime in the state.**

The initiative's Assembly leader Rep. Joe Sanfelippo, of New Berlin, today said at a West Allis news conference that "this is the beginning" and "not the end" of the rollout for GOP criminal justice reform. He said this will be a major GOP priority for the remainder of the Legislative session.

"There are probably a dozen solid ideas in the works now but that could grow," Sanfelippo said. "Criminal justice reform has been a topic of the Evers administration since the beginning, but we have very different ideas on what that reform should look like."

Sanfelippo said Wisconsin's crime rate has risen by 24 percent since 2008, while the overall U.S. crime rate has dropped by 14 percent.

Gov. Tony Evers and Dem lawmakers last week revealed their own criminal justice reform bill package. Dem priorities include incarceration limits for non-criminal supervision violations and an increase of vocational and educational programs.

Today, GOP lawmakers highlighted a bill that would change witness intimidation charges from a misdemeanor to a felony and another that would implement a mandatory minimum prison sentence for individuals convicted of shoplifting at least three times.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, of Juneau, said the initiative is "here to draw a line in the sand" and point out criminal justice reform differences between GOP leadership and Evers' administration.

An Evers spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

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### **Jan. 23: WisPolitics.com Luncheon with AG Josh Kaul**

*Join WisPolitics.com for lunch at The Madison Club, 5 East Wilson St., Madison, on Thursday Jan. 23 with Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul to discuss his work fighting drug addiction, gun violence, water pollution and more.*

*Kaul, a Democrat, won election to a four-year term in November 2018 and started his job leading the Wisconsin Department of Justice in January 2019. See more on Kaul: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/exec-profile/josh-kaul>*

*Check-in and lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., with the program going from noon to 1 p.m. WisPolitics.com subscribers and members as well as Madison Club members and their guests receive discounted pricing for WisPolitics luncheons of \$19 per person. Price for general public is \$25 per person.*

*This luncheon is sponsored by: Husch Blackwell, American Family Insurance, Xcel Energy, Walmart, AARP Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.*

*Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wispolitics-luncheon-with-attorney-general-josh-kaul-tickets-83015085355>*

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### **BILLS CIRCULATING**

LRB-5125 and LRB-5311: Modifying administrative rules relating to the use of wood to contain bear bait in stumps.

LRB-4711/1: Joint Resolution proclaiming February 2020 as Noonan Syndrome Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

LRB-3979/1: The deadline for a landlord to return a security deposit and providing a penalty.

LRB-5249/p2: The Recovery of Unsettled Municipal Payments Act

LRB-2596: Guardian training requirements

LRB-4822/1: Authorizing certain overseas and military voters to vote absentee by electronic transmission and granting rule-making authority.

LRB-5041/1: School expenditure transparency and creating a computerized uniform school budget and accounting system

LRB-0326: Nomination signature requirements for state treasurer and secretary of state and circulating or signing nomination papers for more than one candidate for the same office.

LRB-3811 and 5255: Recognizing and Honoring Hmong-Lao Veterans Day.

## **BILLS INTRODUCED**

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/proposaltext/2017/REG/top>

AJR 116: Proclaiming January 2020 as human trafficking awareness and prevention month. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AJR 117: Proclaiming February 2020 to be American Heart Month in Wisconsin.

*Track bills for free:*

<https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

## **TOP HEADLINES**

WPR: Milwaukee Considering Universal Basic Income Pilot Program

<https://www.wpr.org/milwaukee-considering-universal-basic-income-pilot-program>

WPR: As Rains Intensify, Sewage Surges Into Wisconsin Waters

<https://www.wpr.org/rains-intensify-sewage-surges-wisconsin-waters>

Journal Sentinel: Milwaukee County exec race thrown into disarray over nomination paper snafu

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/investigations/daniel-bice/2020/01/13/milwaukee-county-exec-candidates-could-bumped-over-nomination-snafu/4448449002/>

State Journal: Front Page podcast: Energy and environment reporter Chris Hubbuch discusses access to renewables in Minnesota and Wisconsin

[https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/front-page-podcast-energy-and-environment-reporter-chris-hubbuch-discusses/article\\_948e7bb4-6ab0-5609-bcd9-2640fd81f624.html](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/front-page-podcast-energy-and-environment-reporter-chris-hubbuch-discusses/article_948e7bb4-6ab0-5609-bcd9-2640fd81f624.html)

NYT: American history textbooks can differ across the country, in ways that are shaded by partisan politics.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/01/12/us/texas-vs-california-history-textbooks.html>

WSJ: Iran Warns Protesters as It Grapples With Unrest Over Plane Crash

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-warns-protesters-as-it-grapples-with-unrest-over-plane-crash-11578921377>

Politico: Sanders surges as progressives flock to him over Warren

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/13/sanders-progressives-flock-warren-098065>

Politico: How Schumer might get the last laugh on impeachment trial

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/13/chuck-schumer-trump-impeachment-trial-097296>

## **TUESDAY'S CALENDAR**

<https://www.wispolitics.com/category/events/>

- 9:55 a.m.: Assembly Committee on Rural Development executive session. Members are to take up bills related to health care at recreational and educational camps.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1531787>

- 10 a.m.: Assembly Committee on Mental Health public hearing on AB 639, relating to a pilot program for reimbursement of certain costs relating to hospitalization for purposes of emergency detention; and Clearinghouse Rule 19-018, relating to mental health day treatment services for children.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1533269>

- 10 a.m.: Assembly Committee on Family Law executive session on AB 672, relating to legal custody and physical placement factors for a child of a service member.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1533434>

- 10 a.m.: Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development executive session on SB 584, relating to the way town board vacancies are filled; public notice requirements for governmental meetings; appointment and removal procedures for certain town officeholders; a process for an applicant to appeal a permit denial to the governing body of a city, village, or town; wages paid to an elected town officer who also serves as a town employee; and the term of appointed town assessors; and SB 452, relating to loans and repayment assistance by a political subdivision for certain improvements to properties and collection of the debt by special charge.

<https://elections.wi.gov/about/meetings/2020/january>

- 10 a.m.: Elections Commission meeting. Members are to consider ballot access issues and challenges and certify candidates for the 2020 spring election. The commission will also discuss election security and receive a litigation update.

<https://elections.wi.gov/about/meetings/2020/january>

- 10:30 a.m.: Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities public hearing on AB 665, relating to authorizing the Wisconsin Propane Education and Research Council to levy an assessment; and AB 712, relating to making various changes to statutes administered by the Public Service Commission and requiring investor-owned energy utilities to fund a consumer advocate.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1533393>

- 10:30 a.m.: Assembly Committee on Workforce Development executive session on AB 45, relating to creating individual and corporate income and franchise tax deductions for tuition paid for apprenticeship programs; and AB 72, relating to requiring certain occupational areas to be included in the youth apprenticeship program.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1534135>



- 10:30 a.m.: Assembly Committee on Transportation public hearing on AB 696

Relating to: penalties for violations related to the motor vehicle liability insurance requirement, proof of financial responsibility, requirements for registering motor vehicles, operating a vehicle without an operator's license or after suspension or revocation of an operating privilege; AB 652, relating to regulation of all-terrain vehicles and utility terrain vehicles, and all-terrain vehicle projects.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1534112>

- 11:45 a.m.: Milwaukee Rotary Club. Guest speaker is Sara Walker, regional director of investments at BMO Wealth Management, who will discuss the current economic outlook. Rotary meetings are open to members, invited guests and media.

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/milwaukee-rotary-club-91/>

- 1 p.m.: Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection executive session on AB 132, relating to caller ID spoofing; AB 395, relating to the issuance by the Department of Revenue of retail alcohol beverage permits for motor vehicle racetrack grounds, authorizing caterers to make retail sales of alcohol beverages on racetrack grounds, and hours for retail sales by brewers; 436, relating to the distribution of the Wisconsin Blue Book and highway maps.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1533818>

- 1:05 p.m.: Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection public hearing on AB 49, relating to the authority of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands to delegate authority to invest trust fund monies, other bills.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1533819>

- 7 p.m.: President Trump Milwaukee rally.

<https://www.donaldtrump.com/events/milwaukee-wi-jan-14-2020>

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**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 09, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services  
**Subject:** THU PM Update: Evers calls on Legislature to address homelessness, drinking water contamination, other issues

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged



**THU PM Update -- 9 Jan. 2020**

*Exclusively for WisPolitics Subscribers - DO NOT FORWARD*

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**From WisPolitics.com ...**

**-- Gov. Tony Evers today assigned the GOP-controlled Legislature "homework" for the upcoming year, calling on lawmakers to address a range of topics including homelessness, contaminated drinking water and the so-called "dark store" loophole.**

Evers, a former teacher and state superintendent, in a letter to lawmakers identified a number of already-introduced bills he wants to see passed by the end of the session.

But Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald slammed the missive as "condescending" and said it "won't help him grow support for an agenda with Senate Republicans."

"The tone of this letter is ridiculous," tweeted the Juneau Republican.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, meanwhile, tweeted "#condescending is a polite term for what it is" in response to a tweet from Sen. David Craig, R-Big Bend, about the letter.

Evers opened the letter by referencing a similar communication Assembly Republicans sent him last January outlining 11 legislative goals. The gov highlighted five -- income tax reductions, enhancing high-speed internet, support for K-12 education, addressing the debt level in the transportation fund and infrastructure investments -- in which "we were able to make significant progress."

He then highlighted the already-introduced bills for the upcoming year. Those include measures to cap the price of insulin, close the so-called "dark store" loophole, create PFAS standards to address contamination of drinking water, prevent a future backlog of sexual assault kits, address homelessness and alleviate the burden on local governments caused by "unexpected" special

elections.

Evers also called for lawmakers to introduce bills to address sexual assault and harassment in the Wisconsin National Guard and surprise medical billing, update the state's election laws to comply with federal law and help the agriculture industry, among other things.

And he warned the Legislature against adjourning "without making meaningful progress on the issues Wisconsinites care about."

"Given the many opportunities we have to work together on the pressing issues facing our state, I am hopeful that the legislature (sic) will remain in session as long as is necessary to accomplish these important goals," he said.

See the letter:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/01/09/file\\_attachments/1355569/Evers Letter%20Homework.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/01/09/file_attachments/1355569/Evers_Letter%20Homework.pdf)

See Fitzgerald's tweet:

<https://twitter.com/SenFitzgerald/status/1215332342031478785>

See Vos' tweet:

<https://twitter.com/repvos/status/1215379775780343808>

**-- In announcing his plans to pass on a reelection bid this fall, Dem state Sen. Dave Hansen said he's retiring now because it's time to begin the next chapter of his life after 40 years in public office.**

Hansen was first elected to the state Senate in 2000 after serving on the Brown County Board of Supervisors. He noted in his announcement that he turned 72 last month and "as much as it has become a cliché in politics, I truly am retiring to spend more time with my family."

Republicans have regularly targeted Hansen but fell short each time, often as he outperformed the top of the ticket.

"I have no fears about my chances for reelection having survived an attempted recall in 2011 and winning handily in a district that Republicans told me they gerrymandered specifically to defeat me," Hansen said. "I believe had I chosen to run again I would win."

Still, his retirement likely improves GOP chances of winning the seat as they seek to expand their 19-14 majority. Dem Sen. Patty Schachtner, of Somerset, is a top target this fall after winning a special election in January 2018 for a Senate seat that Donald Trump won by 17 points in 2016.

The president also won Hansen's district by more than 10 points as he beat Hillary Clinton in the Green Bay-area seat with 52.1 percent of the vote.

Republican Eric Wimberger, who lost to Hansen in 2016, has already filed to seek the seat again. Republicans have also mentioned Julia Thomas, a designer who owns a glass milk bottle delivery company, as a possible candidate.

State Rep. John Nygren, who sought to run against Hansen in the 2011 recalls, but failed to qualify

for the ballot, said he'd look at a run.

Still, seeking a state Senate seat would mean giving up the Assembly co-chairmanship of the Joint Finance Committee, a post he'd held since 2013.

"It's a high bar to get me to make that leap," said Nygren, R-Marinette.

State Rep. John Macco, who unsuccessfully challenged Hansen in 2012 before winning his Assembly seat in 2014, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment on whether he's interested in a run.

See Hansen's statement:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200109-Hansen.pdf>

**-- State Rep. Bob Kulp today announced he won't seek reelection in 2020.**

The Stratford Republican won his seat in a November 2013 special election and has since represented the district containing sections of Marathon, Clark and Wood counties.

In a Facebook post, Kulp wrote it was "one of the great honors of my lifetime" to be a member of the Assembly but said it's "time to make way for someone new to bring their best to this job."

"I have nearly one year left in this current term, and I expect to finish as strong and I will continue to intercede and advocate on behalf of the people in the 69th Assembly District until January 2021!" he wrote.

President Trump won the heavily Republican seat with 60.4 percent of the vote in 2016.

Kulp and Hansen's announcements today, plus Neenah Republican Rep. Mike Rohrkaste's announcement in October, makes three legislators who have announced they won't run.

See the Facebook post:

<https://www.facebook.com/708627758/posts/10157002233617759/>

**-- The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty today slammed AG Josh Kaul's request for state Supreme Court to stay a ruling directing the Elections Commission to deactivate the registrations of voters who may have moved.**

In a filing responding to the DOJ emergency request for a stay, WILL said the request was "the latest in a number of attempts by the Defendants to do everything in their power to avoid complying with clear election law until the upcoming elections have passed."

"The Defendants' gambit this time around is to frighten this Court with a parade of horrors into temporarily exempting the Defendants from their statutory obligations until it is too late for (the plaintiffs) to obtain the relief they have been seeking since October, 2019: clean voter rolls in advance of the upcoming elections," the filing said.

WILL in its filing asked the high court to deny the motion.

Kaul yesterday asked the Supreme Court to take one of two actions: put on hold the Ozaukee County

judge's order, or direct the appeals court to rule on DOJ's request for a stay by Friday.

That came after the 4th District Court of Appeals on Monday declined to act on Kaul's request for a stay, saying it was waiting for the Supreme Court to indicate whether it planned to take over the entire case.

See the filing:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200109-WILL-Response-to-DOJ-Emergency-Motion.pdf>

**-- Data on the scope of human trafficking "is inconsistent across the state and more incomplete than previously believed," according to a Department of Justice assessment released today.**

The 2019 Law Enforcement Assessment of Sex Trafficking in Wisconsin surveyed law enforcement agencies across the state to gather information on their practices and policies when dealing with human trafficking incidents.

"As the report shows, there has been an increased recognition of the prevalence of human trafficking," Attorney General Josh Kaul said in a statement. "We must continue working to raise awareness about this terrible crime and investing in efforts to fight it."

Kaul said the report will better the state's understanding of how law enforcement agencies handle human trafficking.

The report also found:

\*Human trafficking is indeed happening in the state but any exact quantity is unknown due to differences in policy between law enforcement agencies.

\*Many officers report a need for training on the difference between prostitution and sex trafficking.

\*Over 90 percent of police chiefs and sheriffs refer suspected sex trafficking child victims to local welfare agencies.

See more:

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/ag-kaul-releases-2019-law-enforcement-assessment-sex-trafficking-wisconsin>

[https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/news-media/1.9.20\\_HT\\_Data\\_Report.pdf](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/news-media/1.9.20_HT_Data_Report.pdf)

**-- Lawmakers from both parties raised concerns in a public hearing today over a bill that would increase penalties for individuals found guilty of disorderly conduct if they wore a mask to conceal their identity.**

But the bill's author Rep. Gary Tauchen, R-Bonduel, said he wants this bill in place to help protect Milwaukee's reputation during the Democratic National Convention in July.

Tauchen recalled witnessing protests of the 1999 World Trade Organization where Seattle "looked like a warzone" while people in masks burned buildings and broke windows throughout the downtown

area.

"Their goal was destruction and anarchy and essentially they shut down a large part of the city," Tauchen said. "With the DNC coming to Milwaukee, I don't want that to be the case in Milwaukee or in Wisconsin."

Current law states that crimes of disorderly conduct are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, which could yield a fine of up to \$1,000 and a maximum 90 days in prison. The Legislative Council said a judge currently has the authority to consider wearing a mask an "aggravating factor" when determining punishment. But they may not go beyond Class B misdemeanor sentencing.

AB 617 raises the punishment to a Class A misdemeanor, up to a \$10,000 fine and six months in prison, if the individual is found to have worn a mask to conceal their identity in the act. The bill creates exceptions for masks worn for religious purposes, or those worn because of a holiday or for weather protection.

Rep. David Crowley, D-Milwaukee, raised concerns of some "unintended consequences" of innocent people swept up in the crowd still receiving these stricter punishments. He said something similar happened to him at 16 years old.

"In my own experience, just being in the vicinity could lead you to some type of charge," Crowley said.

But Tauchen said his experiences found only "the bad actors wore the masks so they wouldn't be recognized." He said he just wants the state "to look good" during the "worldwide event" that'll be the 2020 DNC.

Meanwhile, Rep. Shae Sortwell, R-Two Rivers, said he had concerns that a law punishing people for concealing their faces in protest could be abused by the government. He mentioned a recent similar action by the Chinese government to crack down on democracy protests in Hong Kong.

"We shouldn't pretend our government is so virtuous that they won't abuse their power," Sortwell said. "We've done huge atrocities at times."

Sortwell also mentioned the 1773 Boston Tea Party, during which American colonists disguised their identity and "committed disorderly conduct" by dumping 342 British East India Company tea crates in the Boston Harbor in protest.

See more:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/ab617>

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<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/exec-profile/josh-kaul>

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This luncheon is sponsored by: Husch Blackwell, American Family Insurance, Xcel Energy, Walmart, AARP Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wispolitics-luncheon-with-attorney-general-josh-kaul-tickets-83015085355>

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## **BILLS CIRCULATING**

LRB-3937 and LRB-5245: Waiver of fees for admission to state parks on Earth Day.

LRB-4208 and 5218: Constitutional Amendment to Establish Personhood.

## **BILLS INTRODUCED**

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/proposaltext/2017/REG/top>

SB 674: Traffic violations when emergency or roadside response vehicles are present and providing a penalty. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Veterans and Military Affairs.

SB 675: Standards for care and shelter of animals and providing a penalty. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions.

SB 676: Sales and use tax exemption for diapers, undergarments for incontinence, tampons, and sanitary napkins. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions.

SB 677: Ratification of the agreement negotiated between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee, for the 2018-19 fiscal year, covering employees in the building trades crafts collective bargaining unit, and authorizing an expenditure of funds. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

SB 679: Ratification of the agreement negotiated between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee, for the 2018-19 fiscal year, covering employees in the building trades crafts collective bargaining unit, and authorizing an expenditure of funds. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

SB 680: Ratification of the agreement negotiated between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee, for the 2019-20 fiscal year, covering employees in the building trades crafts collective bargaining unit, and authorizing an expenditure of funds.

SB 681: Ratification of the agreement negotiated between the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee, for the 2018-19 fiscal year, covering employees in the



building trades crafts collective bargaining unit, and authorizing an expenditure of funds. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

SB 682: Ratification of the agreement negotiated between the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Building Trades Negotiating Committee, for the 2019-20 fiscal year, covering employees in the building trades crafts collective bargaining unit, and authorizing an expenditure of funds. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

AB 724: Hearing timelines for juveniles in custody. Referred to Committee on Judiciary

AB 725: Online clearinghouse of information for small businesses in Wisconsin. Referred to Committee on small Business Development.

AB 726: Community health center grants and making an appropriation. Referred to Committee on Health.

AB 727: Per pupil payments to private schools participating in parental choice programs. Referred to Committee on Education.

AB 728: Teacher licensure in parental choice programs and in the Special Needs Scholarship Program and granting rule-making authority. Referred to Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform.

AB 729: State aid to the resident school district of a pupil attending a private school under the Racine or statewide parental choice program. Referred to Committee on Education.

AB 730: Phasing out the Special Needs Scholarship Program and limiting enrollment in parental choice programs. Referred to Committee on Education.

AB 731: Reciprocal credentials for service members, former service members, and their spouses and granting rule-making authority. Referred to Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform.

AB 732: Ranked-choice voting, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

AB 733: Housing authorities. Referred to Committee on Housing and Real Estate.

AB 734: Mail theft and providing a penalty. Referred to Committee on Consumer Protection.

AB 735: Harassment of a sports official and providing a penalty. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

AB 736: Town zoning in shorelands, the scope of county shoreland zoning ordinances, and authorizing partial county zoning. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

AJR 115: Commending the American Legion Auxiliary upon the 100th anniversary of its founding. Referred to Committee on Rules.

*Track bills for free:*  
<https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

## TOP HEADLINES

WPR: Wisconsin Follows National Decline In Cancer Death Rates  
<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-follows-national-decline-cancer-death-rates>

WPR: Southwestern Wisconsin Villages Hit By Repeated Floods Receive New Federal Mitigation Grant  
<https://www.wpr.org/southwestern-wisconsin-villages-hit-repeated-floods-receive-new-federal-mitigation-grant>

Politico: Pelosi not budging on impeachment articles  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/09/pelosi-not-budging-send-impeachment-articles-096698>

Politico: Bernie emerges as growing threat to Biden  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/09/biden-sanders-concern-2020-096520>

Reuters: UK lawmakers back EU exit deal, turning page on Brexit crisis  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-eu/uk-lawmakers-back-eu-exit-deal-turning-page-on-brexit-crisis-idUSKBN1Z81EO?il=0>

NYT: Video Shows Ukrainian Plane Being Hit Over Iran  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/09/video/iran-plane-missile.html>

## FRIDAY'S CALENDAR

<https://www.wispolitics.com/category/events/>

- No events listed.

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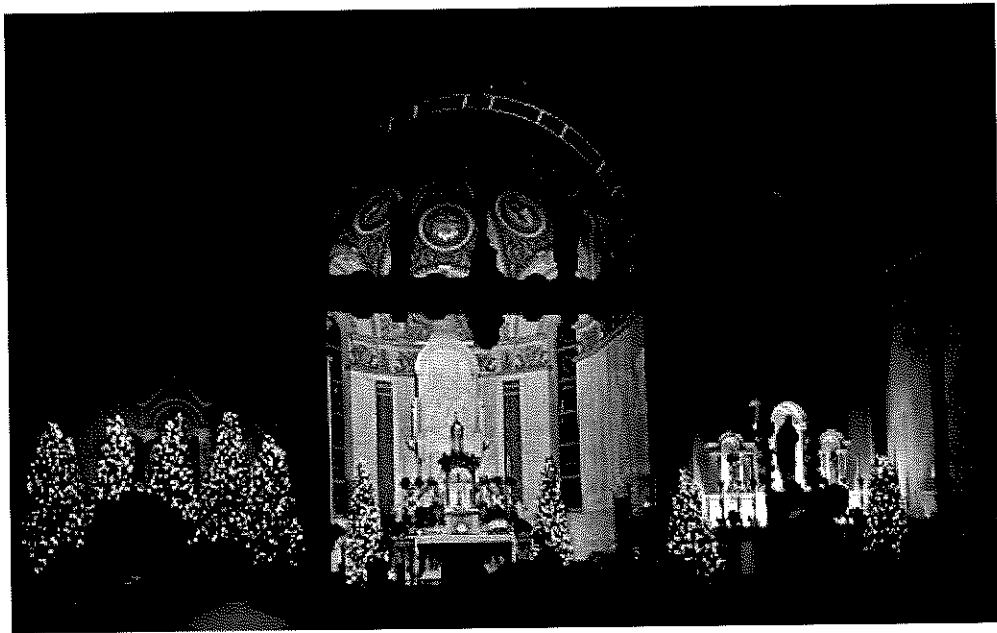
**Hope, Sam**

---

**From:** RightWisconsin <RightWisconsin@RightWisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 9:09 AM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Faith and the Coronavirus

RightWisconsin Daily Update

[View this email in your browser](#)



# RIGHTWisconsin

## Drive-Thru Easter Is Now Open

Dear Adam,

So, some good news first. After receiving a [letter from The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty \(WILL\)](#), and the [Wisconsin Family Council](#) in support of WILL's efforts, Governor Tony Evers clarified his "safer at home" order so accommodations are made for religious observances, including for Good Friday and Easter.

From Evers press release, the following is allowed:

- Parking lots with congregants staying in cars, avoiding person-to-person contact;
- Streaming online; and
- Having small gatherings (fewer than 10 people in each room) with multiple services.

Of course, that will not make everyone happy, and it shouldn't. It's very frustrating to me to see the government having the belief it has the power to shut down religious observances, regardless of the reason. We have a First Amendment right to the "free exercise" of religion, and it's been under assault by various secular authorities and institutions well before the Coronavirus outbreak.

On the other hand, we also know that if we did not ban large gatherings even in churches, the social distancing required to end the Coronavirus would not be observed. David French wrote in The Dispatch about a church that failed to protect its members:

***On March 7, a Christian school not far from my home held a fundraiser, an event full of faithful believers gathered for a virtuous purpose. One person in attendance had COVID-19. Now two dozen people at that event have tested positive, including a dear friend of mine. His wife is symptomatic. Several children are also symptomatic. The faith of these Christian believers was no shield against viral infection.***

In an ideal world, Evers would be able to exempt religious institutions entirely from the ban on gatherings while religious leaders would act responsibly and enforce the ban anyway. But as a person of faith, I understand we do not live in an ideal world.

The tension between the state's need to protect its citizens and our religious liberty is personal to me, especially at this time of year. In 1992, I converted to the Catholic faith. This still surprises my wife because of my very skeptical nature. But my faith, and my relationship with God, has been an important part of my life since then and I always look forward to Easter as a time of renewal.

It's also a family matter. Not just because of the Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunts that my children have outgrown. My wife sings in the church choir and we also look forward to attending Tenebrae on Good Friday, a favorite activity for my daughter, too. Not being able to hear my wife's choir on Easter Sunday and not being able to attend Tenebrae is extremely disappointing.

But I was also reminded recently of how my father-in-law was stuck at home at the end of his life with Parkinson's disease. Unable to attend Mass in person, he continued to watch Mass at home and received a monthly visit from a priest. His faith at the end of life was undiminished by his inability to go to church.

It's a reminder that faith is more than ceremony, more than holidays, more than just being in a church. It's about our relationship with God. His Son told us that the most important commandment is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." The second is, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

If we love our neighbors, then we'll love God even while being separate from our churches for one Easter in this time of a Coronavirus pandemic.

James Wigderson

Editor

RightWisconsin



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## **On RightWisconsin Right Now:**

### **WISCONSIN ELECTION COMMISSION WAITING ON 'MISSING' ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

by [Benjamin Yount](#)

Wisconsin's election managers hope to know in the next few days where thousands of 'missing' absentee ballots are located.

[READ MORE](#)

### **BY THE NUMBERS: CORONAVIRUS SLAMS WISCONSIN ECONOMY**

by [Cori Petersen](#)

As of April 5, 290,000 Wisconsinites have applied for unemployment benefits since Gov. Evers declared Wisconsin to be in a public health emergency March 12.

[READ MORE](#)

### **FREE MARKET COALITION: 7 WAYS TO HELP WORKERS, ECONOMY DURING COVID CRISIS**

by [RightWisconsin](#)

Here are 7 recommendations, many with no cost, to help Wisconsin's economy and workers.

[READ MORE](#)

### **ROBIN VOS GOES VIRAL (PUN INTENDED)**

by [James Wigderson](#)

The bizarre picture of Vos assuring everyone that it was safe to vote while looking like an assistant in Dr. No's laboratory went around the world.

[READ MORE](#)

## CRISIS IS NO EXCUSE FOR ABANDONING FISCAL RESTRAINT

by David Fladeboe

Just about every tax the state collects will be affected by the crisis, so now is not the time for massive new spending.

## 3 POLICIES TO HELP WISCONSIN K-12 EDUCATION DURING THE COVID CRISIS

by CJ Szafir, Libby Sobiech and Will Flanders

Wisconsin should make sure that our school districts are working to provide instruction to their students, by whatever means possible.

READ MORE

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### **Noteworthy:**

RightWisconsin Editor James Wigderson will be on the Steve Scaffidi Show on 620 WTMJ at 11:08 AM on Friday. [You can listen live at their website.](#)



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Hope, Sam

---

**From:** Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty <info@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** Sen.Craig  
**Subject:** UPDATE: Governor Evers Confirms Drive-Up Religious Services Are Legal

For more information, contact:  
Collin Roth | WILL Director of Communication  
collin@will-law.org | 414-607-2558



WISCONSIN INSTITUTE  
FOR LAW & LIBERTY

## **Governor Evers Confirms Drive-Up Religious Services Are Legal**

### ***Prompt response to WILL's letter seeking clarity***

**The News:** Following a letter from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) and attorney Michael Dean, Governor Tony Evers clarified today that drive-up religious services are, in fact, permitted under the "Safer at Home" order. WILL and Michael Dean issued the letter Thursday after numerous Wisconsin churches reported that local government officials were using the "Safer at Home" order to prohibit drive-up services.

**Governor Evers' Response:** Governor Evers promptly issued a press release making it clear that churches and religious entities are "essential" and that services may be held whether they are small gatherings of fewer than 10 people, or larger gatherings such as drive-up services "with congregants staying in cars, avoiding person-to-person contact."

**The Quote:** WILL President and General Counsel Rick Esenberg said, "We are grateful that Governor Evers issued a prompt statement to help clarify the 'Safer at Home' order does not prohibit drive-up religious services. We hope that local officials take notice of this and immediately cease all attempts to prohibit such services. Any local government that does not comply should know that WILL attorneys are ready, willing and able to take all actions necessary to defend the rights of Wisconsinites."

**Background:** Numerous churches around Wisconsin have planned drive-up religious services this weekend to be conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. But religious leaders have reported that some local

government officials have interpreted Governor Evers' "Safer at Home" order to prohibit this type of religious gathering. This interpretation conflicts with both Governor Evers' order and the Wisconsin Constitution's protection of religion under Article I, § 18. Seeking clarity, WILL and attorney Michael Dean wrote a joint letter to Governor Evers earlier today.

**Going Forward:** Churches throughout Wisconsin are able to host drive-up services for Easter Sunday and beyond. Any church engaged in such a service who is cited or otherwise has a government entity interfere with their worship should contact WILL attorneys immediately ( [info@will-law.org](mailto:info@will-law.org) ).



Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty | 330 East Kilbourn Avenue, Suite 725, Milwaukee, WI 53202

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## Hope, Sam

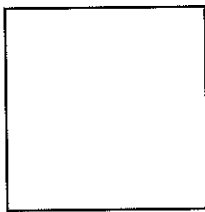
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**From:** Taylor, Chad  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 1:03 PM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Governor Evers: Demand Counties Retract Claim That Drive-Up Religious Services are Illegal

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Assuming you saw the letter from WILL?

**From:** Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty <info@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Chad <Chad.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter to Governor Evers: Demand Counties Retract Claim That Drive-Up Religious Services are Illegal



For more information, contact:  
Collin Roth | WILL Director of Communication  
collin@will-law.org | 414-607-2558

**Letter to Governor Evers: Demand Counties  
Retract Claim That Drive-Up Religious Services  
are Illegal**

***Local governments threaten churches ahead of Easter  
weekend***

**The News:** The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) and attorney Michael Dean issued a letter to Governor Tony Evers requesting that he clarify, correct, and restrain local government officials who are using

Emergency Order #12, the “Safer at Home” order, to ban drive-up religious services conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. We are requesting a response from Governor Evers by 2 PM today to ensure that drive-up Good Friday and Easter services will not be impacted.

**Background:** Numerous churches around Wisconsin have planned drive-up religious services this weekend to be conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. But religious leaders have reported that some local government officials have interpreted Governor Evers’ “Safer at Home” order to prohibit this type of religious gathering. This interpretation conflicts with both Governor Evers’ order and the Wisconsin Constitution’s protection of religion under Article I, § 18.

**Letter to Governor Evers:** Rick Esenberg, President and General Counsel of WILL, and Michael Dean, Principal of Michael Dean LLC, wrote to Governor Evers Thursday and said, in part: “We understand the Governor’s responsibility to facilitate the safety of all Wisconsinites in the midst of this pandemic. But we cannot lose our heads. And state and local actors cannot use the occasion of a public health threat to run roughshod over the right to the free exercise of religion while permitting activities that are functionally equivalent from a public health and safety perspective.”

Esenberg and Dean are requesting a response from Governor Tony Evers by 2 PM April 9, 2020 acknowledging that the “Safer at Home” order does not ban drive-up religious services conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

**Read More:**

- [Letter to Governor Tony Evers](#), April 9, 2020

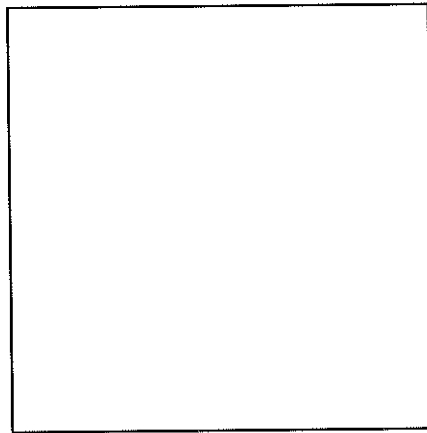


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## Hope, Sam

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**From:** Craig, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 12:14 PM  
**To:** Hope, Sam  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media Advisory  
**Attachments:** GND 1 Pager FINAL.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Daniel Turner and Kent Lassman - What the Green New Deal Could Cost a Typical Household (002).pdf; ATT00002.htm; Press Conference Run of Show 02.26.2020.docx; ATT00003.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Craig, David" <David.Craig@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Date:** February 26, 2020 at 2:10:39 AM CST  
**To:** David Craig <djcraig@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media Advisory

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hope, Sam" <Sam.Hope@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Date:** February 25, 2020 at 7:22:22 PM CST  
**To:** "Craig, David" <David.Craig@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Media Advisory

---

From: Eric Searing [eric@will-law.org]  
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:05 PM  
To: Hope, Sam; Brodhagen, Mary; Koenen, Kyle; Zimmerman, Alec  
Subject: FW: Media Advisory

Good Afternoon Everyone,

First off we are very appreciative of the fact that your bosses are able to join us on Wednesday afternoon at Allis-Roller in Franklin, WI.

I have included a media advisory below that went out today. Attached to this email is a one-pager from WILL and a copy of the full report from the Competitive Enterprise Institute and Power the Future. On page 14 you will find our section of the report as it pertains to agriculture – specifically corn and soybean crops as well as dairy. Please let me or Brian Reisinger know if you have any questions or if your boss is unable to attend.



We will be joined by Cindy Leitner from the Wisconsin Dairy Alliance and Kent Lassman the President & CEO of CEI. The President of Allis-Roller would also love to show anyone's boss around the shop floor at the end of the press conference too.

Thank you,

Eric

Eric Searing  
Director of External Relations  
Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty  
330 E. Kilbourn Ave., Suite 725  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(O) 414-727-7417  
(M) 414-688-7270  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ericsearing/>

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From: Brian Reisinger [mailto:[br@platform-communications.com](mailto:br@platform-communications.com)]  
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 3:38 PM  
To: Eric Searing <[eric@will-law.org](mailto:eric@will-law.org)>  
Subject: Media Advisory

Policymakers to discuss study showing harm to Wisconsin jobs, agriculture as Green New Deal becomes a central issue in 2020 election  
[<http://i1.cmail19.com/ei/j/E4/DFA/1D9/061252/csfinal/WILLLogoBlackLong.png>]  
<<https://platformcommunications.cmail19.com/t/j-l-cuijic-juirthiitr-r/>>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2020

Contact: Brian Reisinger

b<<mailto:info@rapidimagingtech.com>>r@platform-communications.com<<mailto:br@platform-communications.com>>

Media Advisory: Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Metro Milwaukee Legislators to Join WILL, National Experts for Press Conference on Impact of Green New Deal

Policymakers to discuss harm to Wisconsin jobs, agriculture as Green New Deal becomes a central issue in 2020

Milwaukee, Wis. - Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and metro Milwaukee-area legislators will join the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, Power the Future and local business owners in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors for a press conference to discuss the impact the Green New Deal would have on Wisconsin as it becomes a bigger issue in 2020.

Who: Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Metro Milwaukee-Area Legislators, WILL, National Experts, Area Businesses

What: Press conference on the impact of the Green New Deal on Wisconsin

When: 12:50 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020

Where:  
Allis-Roller  
5801 W Franklin Drive  
Franklin, WI 53132

RSVP: Media should RSVP to Brian Reisinger at [b<mailto:info@rapidimagingtech.com>r@platform-communications.com](mailto:info@rapidimagingtech.com)[<mailto:br@platform-communications.com>](mailto:br@platform-communications.com) or Collin Roth at [Collin@will-law.org](mailto:Collin@will-law.org)[<mailto:Collin@will-law.org>](mailto:Collin@will-law.org)

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# The Cost of the Green New Deal to Wisconsin

## What is the Green New Deal?

A proposal to address climate change by dramatically restructuring the economy to move the United States to 100% renewable energy in 10 years. Specifically, the proposal includes:

- End the use of fossil fuels
- Retrofit every existing building
- Net-zero carbon emissions from agriculture
- Overhaul transportation system
- Federal job guarantee
- Universal healthcare

### Calculating the Cost

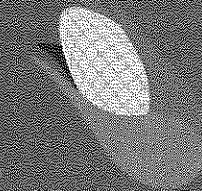
The Competitive Enterprise Institute, Power The Future, and the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty partnered to calculate the cost of the Green New Deal to Wisconsin households, businesses, and farmers by estimating the cost of:

- Additional electricity demand
- Costs associated with shipping and logistics
- New vehicles
- Building retrofits
- Decreased crop yields
- Carbon tax on farmers

### The Cost to Wisconsin



More than **\$40,000** per household every year.



**\$200 million** in losses to farmers.



**\$2.5 billion** to the dairy industry, or **\$2,000** per cow.



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flanders@will-law.org

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## What the Green New Deal Could Cost a Typical Household

A Framework to Estimate the Minimum Costs to Restructure American Society  
According to the Green New Deal for 11 States and More than a Quarter of  
Americans

By *Daniel Turner and Kent Lassman\**

In early 2019, a handful of progressive Democrats galvanized their party around a set of proposals that, even if only partially implemented, would radically restructure vast areas of the American economy and impose large and ongoing costs on every American household.

This set of proposals, called the Green New Deal (GND)—introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress as H.R. 109 and S. 59—has earned attention, depending on the source of commentary, either as an instrument of effective leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> century or as an unserious ideological signaling exercise. In either case, it is difficult to read as a set of genuine policy proposals; it is perhaps better described as a far-reaching, aspirational set of guideposts for a resurgent progressive politics.<sup>1</sup>

In July 2019, we released the results of our analysis on how the GND would affect a typical household in each of five states. We have revisited and extended the analysis to cover six additional states. In one, Wisconsin, we draw on new work to highlight industry-specific effects for agriculture. Where possible, we have updated data and calculations to account for new information such as population and autos on the road.

The Green New Deal has a long progressive pedigree. It was championed by statewide and national Green Party candidates for governor and president as early as 2006. Presidential candidate Jill Stein gave it prominence in 2012. The GND has attracted early attention from scores of Democrats, including nine presidential candidates and 12 United States Senators. In response, Republicans pushed for a vote on the GND in the Senate that failed to attract a single vote from Democrats, including the resolution's 12 cosponsors.<sup>2</sup>

At its root, the Green New Deal is a radical blueprint to decarbonize the American economy. Carbon—whether contained in wood, coal, gas, or oil—is a byproduct of burning fuel. Eliminating these energy sources would have massive ramifications for the economy.

While this paper focuses on the GND's energy components, the GND among other goals, seeks to guarantee "a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security" as well as high-quality health care, affordable and safe housing, affordable food, and access to nature. In a word, it promises a utopia.

---

\* *Daniel Turner is the executive director of Power the Future. Kent Lassman is the president and CEO of the Competitive Enterprise Institute.*

Regardless of the GND architects' intentions, this paper examines the some of the major tradeoffs associated with taking significant portions of the GND seriously. What would it mean to actually implement significant portions of the proposal? Can we understand the effects at a household level in different regions of the country?

To that end, the following analysis examines the transformation of electricity production, transportation, elements of shipping, and construction in 11 representative states that implementation of the GND would necessitate. It requires a considerable number of assumptions that we share in order to allow readers to come to their own conclusions about the merits of the GND compared to alternative uses of scarce societal resources.

The sum of our analysis is not favorable for the GND's advocates—or for the typical household budget. At best, it can be described as an overwhelmingly expensive proposal reliant on technologies that have not yet been invented. More likely, the GND would drive the American economy into a steep economic depression, while putting off-limits affordable energy necessary for basic social institutions like hospitals, schools, clean water and sanitation, cargo shipments, and the production and transport of the majority of America's food supply.

We do not include in this analysis estimates of the cost of the non-energy components of the GND. Those costs might dwarf the energy-related costs by an order of magnitude. For each of 11 states, we provide a range of estimated costs as well as a best estimate.

## Findings

At a minimum, the Green New Deal would impose large and recurring costs on American households.<sup>3</sup> We conclude that among the 11 states analyzed, the GND would cost a typical household a minimum of \$74,287 in the first year of implementation. Among 10 of the states, excluding Alaska at \$84,584, the average household burden of the GND in its first year is \$75,168. For the subsequent four years, the average annual costs per household for 10 of the 11 states is \$47,755, decreasing to \$40,706 for ever after. The expenses in Alaska are more than \$10,000 more per year per household.

### Sum of Household Costs

| State          | Year 1 Household Costs | Annual Household Costs Years 2-5 | Annual Household Costs Years 6 and Ever After |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Alaska         | \$84,584               | \$57,171                         | \$51,740                                      |
| Colorado       | \$74,287               | \$46,874                         | \$40,451                                      |
| Florida        | \$76,109               | \$48,696                         | \$40,828                                      |
| Iowa           | \$76,683               | \$49,270                         | \$41,420                                      |
| Michigan       | \$74,470               | \$47,057                         | \$40,602                                      |
| New Hampshire  | \$74,723               | \$47,310                         | \$39,821                                      |
| New Mexico     | \$74,432               | \$47,019                         | \$40,970                                      |
| North Carolina | \$74,609               | \$47,196                         | \$40,697                                      |
| Ohio           | \$75,807               | \$48,394                         | \$40,663                                      |
| Pennsylvania   | \$75,307               | \$47,894                         | \$40,983                                      |
| Wisconsin      | \$75,252               | \$47,839                         | \$40,906                                      |

## Methodology

While the Green New Deal is a wide-ranging proposal, it mainly amounts to an imposition of a significant set of constraints on energy generation. Implementation of the GND would shift energy consumption entirely to electric current from today's primary sources, including fossil fuels. At present, Americans consume energy from many different resources. In general, fossil fuels and some renewable fuels directly power most transportation and much industrial, commercial, and household equipment. The GND would likely reduce the net energy consumption by these various areas while shifting all energy demand toward either the electric grid or self-contained renewable sources like solar panel arrays designed to power particular units.

In 2019 Benjamin Zycher of the American Enterprise Institute analyzed the cost of electricity under the GND.<sup>4</sup> His study looks at current electricity generation and estimates what it would cost to replace all non-GND compliant electricity generation—such as coal, natural gas, petroleum, and nuclear—with wind and solar power. Zycher also looks at the cost of emissions, transmission, backup power, and land for replacement capacity.

Zycher's analysis is understated because it does not calculate additional demand for electricity—the dynamic effects of policy changes—that would obtain as a result of GND implementation. Zycher's low-end estimate addresses the transformation of current power generation to GND-compliant power provision. Of course, other provisions of the GND would generate significant demand increases as well. Moreover, Zycher's cost estimates extend indefinitely and would affect American households far into the future.

Energy research firm Wood Mackenzie estimates that the greening of the U.S. power sector would cost approximately \$35,000 per household and take 20 years.<sup>5</sup> Wood Mackenzie estimate a total price tag of some \$4.7 trillion, including around \$1.5 trillion to add 1,600 gigawatts of wind and solar capacity and \$2.5 trillion of investments in 900 gigawatts of storage. Another \$700 billion is estimated for new high transmission power lines to move that electricity from sun-drenched deserts and windswept plains to the urban areas where it would be used.

Most provisions of the GND are so broad and open-ended that the list of potential programs necessary to implement the program is only limited by the capacity of legislators to imagine new government programs. Therefore, it is impossible to calculate the maximum cost of the GND. However, other parts of the GND are more precise, sufficiently so that an approximate minimum cost estimate is attainable.

In addition to the GND renewable mandate, the GND calls for:

1. The elimination of "pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible;"
2. "[U]pgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings to achieve maximal energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification;"<sup>6</sup>
3. Where technologically feasible, the elimination of the use of fossil fuels and other combustible, greenhouse gas-emitting energy sources.

This study evaluates estimated cost of the GND in four specific categories across 11

representative states:

1. Additional electricity demand;
2. Costs associated with shipping and the logistics industry;
3. New vehicles; and
4. Building retrofits.

These cost estimates were made with the available data and analysis. Where possible, such as for the number of households in each state, we updated calculations from our July 2019 analysis to reflect newly available data. Taken together, we present low-end approximations given the GND's unprecedented scope. A key source, in addition to Zycher's analysis, was produced in early 2019 by Douglas Holtz-Eakin and Dan Bosch of the American Action Forum. Holtz-Eakin and Bosch estimate the costs of a "low-carbon electricity grid" (at \$5.4 trillion versus Zycher's \$8.95 trillion annual expenditures), the costs of a zero-emission transportation system, and a national "green housing" policy.<sup>7</sup> Taken together and coupled with our own analysis, these estimates develop a floor of expectations for the costs associated with the implementation of the GND in the near and intermediate term.

The states selected for analysis demonstrate diverse climates, geography, economies, and populations.

- Alaska is a remote, sparsely populated, and cold state.
- While not remote, Iowa and Wisconsin share some characteristics with Alaska but have stronger diversity of power generation. Manufacturing and agriculture production are critical and would have meaningful effects from implementation of the GND.
- Florida and North Carolina are among the largest of the states in terms of population and economy. They are economic powerhouses of the Southeast, in a temperate-to-warm climate.
- New Hampshire is a small state that is well connected with larger economies in the region in a cold climate.
- New Mexico is a small state in terms of population, but large geographically. It is generally warm and is situated between significant large states by all metrics.
- Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are large states in terms of geography, economy, and population in a mild-colder climate and are well integrated with large regional economies.

## **Previous Analysis**

Evaluating the impact of the GND in these states will provide a glimpse into the proposal's broader national impact and information similar states can use to infer their own cost estimates.

As shown in Figure 1, earlier analyses provide a range of new, annual costs expected for each household in each of our selected states from a low end of \$24,028 in Colorado to upward of \$89,000 in all our states. These estimates cover only three aspects of the GND proposal and do not include the dynamic effects of increased demand on the power grid, such as, for example, the transformation of all automobiles to zero-emission vehicles.

The cost estimates for the power grid transportation do not include the costs necessary to replace or retrofit machinery currently dependent on fossil fuels or other combustibles. Therefore, not counted in this analysis are road-building and maintenance equipment, tractors and other farm equipment, or the standard tools of heavy construction for, among other things, new buildings, windmills, solar and other alternative energy facilities. Such an estimate would require an inventory of every machine of this type in the country, from propane-powered forklifts to natural gas stoves to diesel-powered tugboats and cost estimates of all replacement technology capable of being indirectly powered by wind and solar and necessary to achieve parity in terms of their ability to perform the same work.

**Figure 1. Previous Estimates Produce Range of New Annual Household Costs – Electric Power, Transportation, Housing**

| State          | Households <sup>8</sup> | Annual Household Costs – Zycher GND Power System | Wood Mackenzie – 20 Year Annual Cost for GND Power | Holtz-Eakin and Bosch Power System <sup>9</sup> | Holtz-Eakin and Bosch Net-Zero Emission Transportation (High Speed Rail) | Holtz-Eakin and Bosch Green Housing | Range of New Household Costs from Previous Analyses |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Alaska         | 250,000                 | Not Available                                    | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$60,000 - \$89,000                                 |
| Colorado       | 2,180,000               | \$3,028  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$24,028 - \$89,000                                 |
| Florida        | 7,180,000               | \$4,273  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$25,273 - \$89,000                                 |
| Iowa           | 1,127,000               | \$4,821  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$25,821 - \$89,000                                 |
| Michigan       | 3,960,000               | \$3,665  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$24,665 - \$89,000                                 |
| New Hampshire  | 530,000                 | \$3,820  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$24,820 - \$89,000                                 |
| New Mexico     | 790,000                 | \$4,508  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$25,508 - \$89,000                                 |
| North Carolina | 4,010,000               | \$3,900  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$24,900 - \$89,000                                 |
| Ohio           | 4,680,000               | \$3,592  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$24,592 - \$89,000                                 |
| Pennsylvania   | 5,070,000               | \$4,549  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$25,549 - \$89,000                                 |
| Wisconsin      | 2,370,000               | \$3,865  | \$35,000   | \$39,000  | \$9,000 - \$20,000   | \$12,000 - \$30,000                 | \$24,865 - \$89,000                                 |

## Shipping and Logistics

The modern American economy is reliant upon international trade. Local economies (beyond a handful of experimental communities) exchange goods and services. We build, dig, grow, and ultimately ship things, all of which requires a great deal of energy to do.

An estimate for the cost of the GND proposals on shipping and logistics starts with data on



goods shipped to each of the model states by transportation methods for which we have data. However, basic economic theory suggests that due to increased costs for GND-compliant shipping, a negative elasticity of demand would reduce the use of these technologies, as higher prices drive away consumers. While this could inflate our estimates, we are confident that the costs for development and deployment of substitute shipping technologies far outweigh reduced demand for traditional shipping even after the expense of retrofitting it to the GND.

Our estimates exclude air cargo and relies exclusively on trucking, rail, and barge traffic for which data are available. While we assume that nearly all freight delivered to these states is via a combination of these modes or via air cargo, air cargo is not specified in the available data and therefore we assume no costs for bringing air cargo shipments into compliance with the GND. As a result, the cost estimates presented here are significantly lower than the likely costs.

The exclusion of air cargo would effectively eliminate the availability of off-season produce, the timely delivery of FedEx and Amazon packages, and a great deal of U.S. mail delivery. Relative comparisons are made between current costs and estimated GND's compliance costs by evaluating the energy intensity of total shipping in terms of BTUs.<sup>10</sup>

The Center for Transportation Analysis's Freight Analysis Framework database provides information on total ton-miles of freight by shipping mode and destination state.<sup>11</sup> These ton-miles also exclude any freight that is not GND-compliant, such as shipments of oil or coal.

**Figure 2. Mode-Exclusive Million Ton-Miles by Destination State and Mode, Excluding Non-GND Compliant Freight (2017)**

| State          | Trucking Ton-Miles | Rail Ton-Miles | Barge Ton-Miles |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Alaska         | 2,506.9311         | 0.2459         | 1,068.5184      |
| Colorado       | 25,051.6266        | 7,556.5294     | N/A             |
| Florida        | 7,8737.1894        | 1,6593.0234    | 660             |
| Iowa           | 33,465.5321        | 13,693.4209    | 176.3257        |
| Michigan       | 35,863.239         | 7,799.4471     | 486.0442        |
| New Hampshire  | 4,216.5778         | 276.3823       | N/A             |
| New Mexico     | 10,142.5379        | 1,974.8886     | N/A             |
| North Carolina | 37,386.0257        | 15,908.8531    | 242.0245        |
| Ohio           | 56,939.1042        | 15,374.8773    | 11,514.9623     |
| Pennsylvania   | 62,771.9956        | 20,774.6559    | 1,933.3569      |
| Wisconsin      | 44,141.3745        | 13,235.6985    | 2,753.5069      |

The British thermal unit (BTU) intensity per ton-mile for trucking, rail, and barge traffic is drawn from an analysis by the U.S. Department of Energy.<sup>12</sup> Trucking is approximately four to five times as energy intensive as rail or barge (1,390 BTU per ton-mile for trucking versus 320 and 225 for rail and barge, respectively).

The combination of ton-miles in Figure 2 with BTU intensity by mode gives us an estimate for the total annual energy consumption, in BTUs, for freight delivered to each model state for each mode of shipping. Figure 3 provides an estimate for increased shipping fuel costs due to GND implementation based on an estimate from the University of Pennsylvania for \$32.24 for the production of a million BTUs from renewable sources.<sup>13</sup> For purposes of illustration, we assume extraordinary technological innovation in the development of renewable energy and have halved the cost estimate of a million BTUs to \$16.12.

**Figure 3. Mode-Exclusive Shipping Energy Consumed in Million BTUs (2017) and Annual Household Costs**

| State          | Trucking BTUs (Millions) | Rail BTUs (Millions) | Barge BTUs (Millions) | Total BTUs (Millions) | Cost (Total BTUs x \$16.12/million) | Cost Per Household |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alaska         | 3,484,634                | 79                   | 240,417               | 3,725,130             | \$60 million                        | \$240              |
| Colorado       | 34,821,761               | 2,418,089            | 0                     | 37,239,850            | \$600.3 million                     | \$275              |
| Florida        | 109,444,693              | 5,309,767            | 148,500               | 114,902,960           | \$1.85 billion                      | \$237              |
| Iowa           | 46,517,090               | 4,381,895            | 39,673                | 50,938,658            | \$821 million                       | \$646              |
| Michigan       | 49,849,902               | 2,495,823            | 109,360               | 52,455,085            | \$846 million                       | \$214              |
| New Hampshire  | 5,861,043                | 88,442               | 0                     | 5,949,485             | \$96 million                        | \$181              |
| New Mexico     | 14,098,128               | 631,964              | 0                     | 14,730,092            | \$238 million                       | \$301              |
| North Carolina | 51,966,576               | 5,090,833            | 54,456                | 57,111,865            | \$921 million                       | \$230              |
| Ohio           | 79,145,355               | 4,919,961            | 2,590,867             | 86,656,183            | \$1.4 billion                       | \$299              |
| Pennsylvania   | 87,253,074               | 6,647,890            | 435,005               | 94,335,969            | \$1.52 billion                      | \$300              |
| Wisconsin      | 61,356,511               | 4,235,424            | 619,539               | 66,211,474            | \$1.07 billion                      | \$451              |

## New Vehicles

A key goal of the Green New Deal is to replace all existing combustible-powered vehicles with electric vehicles (EVs). Current projections are for EVs to be costlier on average than conventional vehicles. EV prices, like conventional gas vehicle prices, vary based on size and features. Perhaps the most critical differentiating feature for the near term is the type of batteries available. EVs that charge faster and have a longer range will undoubtedly fetch higher prices. However, for the purposes of our analysis, a conservative estimate for EV costs to consumers is used. The price of \$39,500 is in line with the base MSRPs of the most popular EVs sold today.<sup>14</sup> To control for existing EVs, a ratio of 2.21 EVs per 1,000 residents is used to calculate total EVs in each state.<sup>15</sup>

In Figure 4, the estimated cost of immediate replacement for each household is found by multiplying the non-EVs on the road by the estimated cost of a new car and dividing the result by the number of households in the state. We then determine the average annual cost for each household to convert to EVs using the same assumption of consumers bearing 90 percent of the purchase price, no net present value calculations, and equal payments for five years.

The difference between the annualized cost per EV and the average household cost is to demonstrate the subsidy that would flow from high-ownership households to lower-income households that do not have multiple vehicles. In the case of Alaska, the annual household expense of \$5,431 is \$2,216 below the cost of for each EV because many households have zero vehicles to convert but would nonetheless help shoulder the transition costs through increased fees, taxes, or regulatory compliance.

**Figure 4. Annual Cost of Replacing Existing Non-GND Compliant Vehicles with Electric Vehicles**

| State          | Total Cars | Estimated EVs | Total Non-GND Cars | Annualized Cost per EV For Each of Initial Five Years of Ownership <sup>16</sup> | Total Cost Per State to Immediately Replace Existing Fleet of Personal Vehicles | Average Annual Household Cost for Five Years to Convert to EVs |
|----------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Alaska         | 173,487    | 1,628         | 171,859            | \$7,647  | \$6,788,430,500   | \$5,431  |
| Colorado       | 1,785,058  | 12,540        | 1,772,518          | \$7,647  | \$70,013,750,000  | \$6,423  |
| Florida        | 7,778,493  | 46,860        | 7,731,633          | \$7,647  | \$307,250,750,000   | \$7,868  |
| Iowa           | 1,268,996  | 6,952         | 1,262,044          | \$7,647  | \$49,849,000,000  | \$7,850  |
| Michigan       | 3,257,473  | 21,978        | 3,235,495          | \$7,647  | \$127,802,250,000   | \$6,455  |
| New Hampshire  | 505,381    | 2,992         | 502,389            | \$7,647  | \$19,844,800,000  | \$7,489  |
| New Mexico     | 609,494    | 4,620         | 604,874            | \$7,647  | \$23,893,550,000  | \$6,049  |
| North Carolina | 3,317,918  | 22,836        | 3,295,082          | \$7,647  | \$130,152,500,000   | \$6,499  |
| Ohio           | 4,605,459  | 25,718        | 4,579,741          | \$7,647  | \$180,910,000,000   | \$7,731  |
| Pennsylvania   | 4,463,267  | 28,182        | 4,435,085          | \$7,647  | \$175,182,500,000   | \$6,911  |
| Wisconsin      | 2,092,584  | 12,782        | 2,079,802          | \$7,647  | \$82,152,100,000  | \$6,933  |

*Population figures for 2018 drawn from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/183497/population-in-the-federal-states-of-the-us/> and an estimate of 2.2 EVs per 1,000 residents.*

Commercial cargo trucks are a different matter. There has not been similar adoption of EV technology in trucking. Further, prices of EV trucks are largely speculative at this time. For illustrative purposes (though not included in our analysis or conclusions), the prospective list price of an electric semi-tractor from Tesla is \$180,000.<sup>17</sup> Needless to say, this price is speculative and there are more than 15.5 million commercial trucks on the road today. While the economic effects of the GND must account for commercial vehicles, our analysis does not include them, and is therefore a conservative estimate of new vehicle costs. However, we do make a partial accounting for truck freight in our shipping analysis.

These costs are just upfront purchase price seen by consumers. EVs will also impose costs through necessary infrastructure retrofits at homes, businesses, and other public places, each of which will cost many thousands of dollars.

## Building Retrofits

The GND calls for maximum building energy efficiency via a complete retrofit of the current built environment in the United States. In the construction industry, these are known as deep energy retrofits (DERs). The cost of a DER can vary considerably, given varying climates, building ages, uses, sizes, and other factors. A 2014 meta-analysis relied upon by the Department of Energy is the basis for our assumptions about residential construction. The average cost per a unit of housing for a DER is estimated at \$40,420.<sup>18</sup> We estimated the maximum average cost of a DER for commercial buildings at \$75 per square foot.<sup>19</sup>

Almost no data are readily available regarding industrial DERs. Therefore, in our 2019 analysis we relied upon assumptions in the underlying studies and used the average maximum cost for large commercial buildings, \$150, per square foot, as an estimate for industrial DERs.<sup>20</sup>

Notwithstanding difficulties of collecting state-by-state data for total building square footage or for the varying usage of energy in commercial versus industrial buildings, we relied upon Energy Information Administration (EIA) data that show that energy consumption per square foot in 2015 was 38,400 BTUs for residences and 82,000 BTUs for commercial buildings.<sup>21</sup> Industrial consumption per square foot was assumed at 100,000 BTUs, given the increase in BTU consumption per square foot from residential to commercial.

**Figure 5. Residential DER Investments under GND**

| State          | Residential Units | Total DER Cost (\$40,420/ unit) |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alaska         | 318,336           | \$12,867,141,120                |
| Colorado       | 2,424,051         | \$97,980,141,420                |
| Florida        | 9,547,305         | \$385,902,068,100               |
| Iowa           | 1,409,650         | \$56,978,053,000                |
| Michigan       | 4,614,380         | \$186,513,000,000               |
| New Hampshire  | 638,091           | \$25,791,638,220                |
| New Mexico     | 943,208           | \$38,124,467,360                |
| North Carolina | 4,684,876         | \$189,363,000,000               |
| Ohio           | 5,217,423         | \$210,888,000,000               |
| Pennsylvania   | 5,713,150         | \$230,925,523,000               |
| Wisconsin      | 2,710,723         | \$109,567,000,000               |

Combining these figures with total 2016 energy consumption in BTUs per sector—obtained from EIA’s state-by-state database<sup>22</sup>—produced estimates of total active square footage of buildings across all sectors.

We then estimated the total cost of a DER for existing structures via two methods. For residential, total DER cost is calculated by obtaining census data on total housing units in each state in 2018 and multiplying this figure by the average residential unit DER cost of \$40,420.<sup>23</sup> For commercial and industrial buildings, the average DER cost is obtained by multiplying estimated and assumed DER costs for commercial and industrial buildings, respectively, by total estimated square footage in each of the five states studied.

Critically, the discussion in this paper is about the cost of transition to GND structures. Clearly, any benefits realized from more energy efficient buildings would reduce future operating costs and emissions.

Taken together, the estimated costs for retrofitting current residential, commercial, and industrial buildings is astronomical. Of our representative states, Alaska has the fewest residential structures and other square footage by orders of magnitude. Yet, the combined investments to upgrade residential, commercial, and industrial building stock is a mind-boggling \$533.4 billion for Alaska.

Therefore, our conclusions do not include an estimate for DERs for commercial or industrial structures despite the Green New Deal's call for the highest levels of efficiency in all buildings. The effect of including such large numbers—hundreds of trillions of dollars in various states—would be to discourage any examination of any of the GND proposals. For the purposes of public education and our analysis, the key figure is the average cost of a DER for residential homes, \$40,420. The costs associated with only upgrading housing stock vary from nearly \$12.9 billion in Alaska to almost \$231 billion in Pennsylvania.

### **Summary and Synthetic Estimates for Robustness**

Figures 7, 8, and 9 summarize the findings of this study in order to put in context the tremendous costs of the GND. As a final set of calculations, we created synthetic estimates for the variables where multiple analyses exist: the household costs for the electric grid, electric vehicles, and retrofitting the nation's housing stock to comply with the GND.

Zycher's analysis varies by state for the electric grid, while Holtz-Eakin and Bosch offer a national average of \$39,000 and Wood Mackenzie finds a national average of \$35,000. The first synthetic variable, Synthetic Grid Estimate, takes the average of these three figures. For Alaska, only the latter two estimates are averaged; Zycher did not offer an estimate. For example, in Florida, Zycher estimates \$4,273, Wood Mackenzie estimates \$35,000, and Holtz-Eakin and Bosch estimate \$39,000. The average or combined estimate is the sum of the figures divided by three, \$26,091.

We present our own estimate to transform the auto fleet to EVs and include a range of likely expenses from Holtz-Eakin and Bosch for shifting the nation to high-speed rail. The synthetic transportation estimate is the mid-point of the range for high-speed rail combined with the household EV costs.

We also created a synthetic estimate for housing using the average DER cost of \$40,240 and the range of likely outcomes found by Holtz-Eakin and Bosch of \$12,000 to \$30,000. Because there is no state variability in the data, the synthetic housing estimate is \$27,413.

The synthetic estimates, when combined with the estimate for increased shipping expenses, produce a single figure for households in each state for the initial year of implementation. For each of the next four years, the household costs would fall by \$27,413, reduced by the synthetic estimate of implementing a DER for every home. After five years, the expense associated with converting each household to EVs would fall away.

While it is not possible to express absolute confidence in the estimated costs for these provisions of the GND, the use of synthetic estimates reduces the risk of any one type of analysis skewing the results. Critics will undoubtedly highlight the variance in the data. However, variance is not a detriment when analyzing such a sweeping set of proposals. Rather, it is a mark of humility. Further, we contend that the conclusions drawn here are extremely modest, representing only the energy-related costs. We do not provide estimates for either the transition of the 15.5 million commercial trucking fleet or energy efficient upgrades to every commercial and industrial building. Also included in our analysis are the GND's calls for universal health care and guaranteed employment among other social policies that would have tremendous transition costs.

## **Conclusion**

The Green New Deal is a plan to radically reshape the American economy that would affect every American household. The proposal would impose significant new costs on every aspect of how we live and work. The majority of goods that are currently essential for agriculture, transportation, and construction would be affected. In short, it is not realistic. However, many national political figures seek to implement it as a policy agenda.

All of the potential benefits and social costs—such as massive increases in land use for the production of energy and food without fossil fuel inputs—are beyond the scope of this analysis. Yet we can conclude that the Green New Deal is an unserious proposal that is at best negligent in its anticipation of transition costs and at worst a politically motivated policy whose creativity is outweighed by its enormous potential for economic destruction.

**Figure 6. Average Household Costs**

| State          | Annual Average Household Cost to Green Electric Power | Annual Average Shipping Cost Per Household | Annual Average Household Cost to Convert to EV – Authors' Estimate* | Holtz-Eakin and Bosch et. al. Estimate of Zero-Emission Transportation – Annual Cost for High-Speed Rail | Average Residential DER One-Time Cost | Holtz-Eakin and Bosch et. al. Green Housing Estimate – One-Time Cost |
|----------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Alaska         | \$35,000 to \$39,000                                  | \$240                                      | \$5,431   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Colorado       | \$3,028 to \$39,000                                   | \$275                                      | \$6,423   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Florida        | \$4,273 to \$39,000                                   | \$237                                      | \$7,868   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Iowa           | \$4,821 to \$39,000                                   | \$646                                      | \$7,850   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Michigan       | \$3,665 to \$39,000                                   | \$214                                      | \$6,455   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| New Hampshire  | \$3,820 to \$39,000                                   | \$181                                      | \$7,489   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| New Mexico     | \$4,508 to \$39,000                                   | \$301                                      | \$6,049   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| North Carolina | \$3,900 to \$39,000                                   | \$230                                      | \$6,499   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Ohio           | \$3,592 to \$39,000                                   | \$299                                      | \$7,731   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Pennsylvania   | \$4,549 to \$39,000                                   | \$300                                      | \$6,911   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |
| Wisconsin      | \$3,865 to \$39,000                                   | \$451                                      | \$6,933   | \$9,000 to \$20,000  | \$40,240                              | \$12,000 to \$30,000   |

\* These costs are for each of the first five years.

**Figure 7. Synthetic Estimates and Best Estimate of Household Costs**

| State          | Annual Synthetic Grid Estimate | Annual Transportation Estimate – EV and High-Speed Rail | Synthetic Housing Estimate | Annual Average Shipping Cost Per Household | First Year Implementation Best Estimate to Transition Power, Shipping, Transportation and Construction to GND |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| Alaska         | \$37,000                       | \$19,931  | \$27,413                   | \$240                                      | \$84,584  |
| Colorado       | \$25,676                       | \$20,923  | \$27,413                   | \$275                                      | \$74,287  |
| Florida        | \$26,091                       | \$22,368  | \$27,413                   | \$237                                      | \$76,109  |
| Iowa           | \$26,274                       | \$22,350  | \$27,413                   | \$646                                      | \$76,683  |
| Michigan       | \$25,888                       | \$20,955  | \$27,413                   | \$214                                      | \$74,470  |
| New Hampshire  | \$25,940                       | \$21,189  | \$27,413                   | \$181                                      | \$74,723  |
| New Mexico     | \$26,169                       | \$20,549  | \$27,413                   | \$301                                      | \$74,432  |
| North Carolina | \$25,967                       | \$20,999  | \$27,413                   | \$230                                      | \$74,609  |
| Ohio           | \$25,864                       | \$22,231  | \$27,413                   | \$299                                      | \$75,807  |
| Pennsylvania   | \$26,183                       | \$21,411  | \$27,413                   | \$300                                      | \$75,307  |
| Wisconsin      | \$25,955                       | \$21,433  | \$27,413                   | \$451                                      | \$75,252  |

**Figure 8. Sum of Average Household Costs**

| State          | Year 1 Household Costs | Annual Household Costs Years 2-5 | Annual Household Costs Years 6 and Ever After |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Alaska         | \$84,584               | \$57,171                         | \$51,740                                      |
| Colorado       | \$74,287               | \$46,874                         | \$40,451                                      |
| Florida        | \$76,109               | \$48,696                         | \$40,828                                      |
| Iowa           | \$76,683               | \$49,270                         | \$41,420                                      |
| Michigan       | \$74,470               | \$47,057                         | \$40,602                                      |
| New Hampshire  | \$74,723               | \$47,310                         | \$39,821                                      |
| New Mexico     | \$74,432               | \$47,019                         | \$40,970                                      |
| North Carolina | \$74,609               | \$47,196                         | \$40,697                                      |
| Ohio           | \$75,807               | \$48,394                         | \$40,663                                      |
| Pennsylvania   | \$75,307               | \$47,894                         | \$40,983                                      |
| Wisconsin      | \$75,252               | \$47,839                         | \$40,906                                      |





## **Addendum – The Green New Deal’s Impact on Wisconsin Agriculture**

*By Will Flanders\**

Wisconsin’s official nickname, “the Dairy State,” belies the importance of agriculture to the state as a whole. While both national and state trends point toward consolidation of the agriculture industry and a reduction in the number of farms, the sector remains an important part of Wisconsin’s economy. More than 435,000 people were employed in agriculture-related jobs in 2017, representing 11.8 percent of employed persons in the state.<sup>24</sup>

The Green New Deal represents as important a threat to agriculture as it does to other parts of the economy. With its goal of zero emissions and promotion of organic farming methods, farmers are likely to incur substantial new costs, which will be passed on to consumers. This addendum explores two areas in which the GND could impact farming—by reducing crop productivity and by requiring a curtailment of emissions from dairy.

**Crop Productivity Reduction.** In 2012, Dutch researchers Tomek de Ponti, Bert Rijk, and Martin K. van Ittersum conducted a meta-analysis on the productivity difference between conventional and organic farming methods. Because organic farming eschews some modern farming methods, such as genetically modified crops and herbicides and pesticides, it produces generally lower yields than traditional farming. Across 34 studies specific to corn, the researchers found that organic yields were 11 percent lower than those using traditional techniques. This means that the average farmer could expect to see 11 percent less marketable produce on the same size farm after adopting organic methods.<sup>25</sup>

For the purpose of estimating the cost to Wisconsin of an 11 percent yield reduction, we assume that this reduction is achieved without any increases in cost to farmers (or that organic farming decreases costs). In reality, it is likely that costs would increase, as the net present value of organic crops has been found to be lower in the absence of cost premiums, which would necessarily go away were all farming in the United States to go organic.<sup>26</sup> We examine the likely impact on two important crops for Wisconsin, corn and soybeans.

Corn is arguably the most important component of the agricultural economy in Wisconsin after dairy. In 2016 corn represented \$1.315 billion in cash receipts—12.3 percent of all agricultural receipts in the state, according to the most recent Department of Agriculture (USDA) data.<sup>27</sup> An 11 percent reduction in yield would impose \$144.675 million in costs on the state’s economy. These costs would be borne by farmers, their families, and the

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*\* Will Flanders is the Research Director at the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. Dr. Flanders holds a Ph.D. in Political Science with a specialization in American Politics and Public Policy from Florida State University, as well as an M.S. in Political Science and an M.S. in Applied American Politics and Policy from the same school.*

communities they live, in addition to any costs they would have to bear for converting their farm to organic.

Soybean production is a large and growing part of Wisconsin's agricultural economy. According to the same USDA source, soybeans brought in \$885 million in cash receipts in 2016.<sup>28</sup> An 11 percent reduction in yield would result in a loss of approximately \$97.35 million to Wisconsin's economy.

The case could be made that the loss of yield could be made up for by the expansion of farming, yet increasing deforestation and the footprint of farming in the state are at odds with the Green New Deal's stated goals.

**Agricultural Emissions.** A major goal of sustainable farming advocates is to reduce livestock farming. According to some estimates, agriculture is responsible for approximately 13 percent of global emissions.<sup>29</sup> Thus, many environmental activists urge people to become vegan or vegetarian in order to help stave off global warming.<sup>30</sup>

This is particularly problematic for Wisconsin, which is heavily reliant on the dairy industry for its economic well-being. There are 1.28 million dairy cows in the state across 9,520 farms, according to recent estimates from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.<sup>31</sup> What would the Green New Deal mean for these farmers?

The Green New Deal does not specifically mention how to address livestock emissions, but clues can be found in the fact that it has a goal of zero *net* emissions rather than zero *total* emissions. As explained by Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA) in an initial draft of the proposal, the Green New Deal's architects "set a goal to get to net-zero, rather than zero emissions, in 10 years because we aren't sure that we'll be able to fully get rid of farting cows and airplanes that fast."<sup>32</sup> A goal of zero net emissions suggests that the emissions of agriculture would have to be offset in some manner.

Fortunately, environmentalists have provided us with an estimate of just what it should cost polluters to prevent global warming. Economist William Nordhaus estimated that polluters should have to pay \$230 per metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) emissions in order to remain below 2.5 degrees Celsius of warming.<sup>33</sup> This works out to about \$2,000 per year per cow.<sup>34</sup>

It is easy from these figures to estimate the cost of the GND to the state's dairy farmers. Given the number of cows in the state, this would represent an annual cost of approximately \$2.560 billion to Wisconsin's dairy industry. Some of this might be borne by consumers, but it is likely that consumers would seek milk alternatives as the price of milk shot up. Indeed, consumers are already moving away from milk at a time of low prices.<sup>35</sup> This could lead to mass closures of small farms in an industry that is already struggling.<sup>36</sup>

Another approach is to compare the gas production of a single cow with the EPA's estimated social cost of that level of emission.<sup>37</sup> Theoretically, the price of agricultural goods would have to increase to a sufficient extent to offset this cost. A 2018 study estimated that a

cow on a North American Farm produces the equivalent of 11,280 kilograms, or 11.28 metric tons, of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year. The second lowest EPA estimated social cost of a metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> is \$43.90.<sup>38</sup> This works out to a cost \$633,845,760 annually.

| Model                    | Estimated Cost  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Nordhaus Estimate        | \$2,560,000,000 |
| EPA Social Cost Estimate | \$633,845,760   |

**Conclusion.** The Green New Deal’s harms are not limited to heavy industry, but would represent a tremendous shock to all sectors of Wisconsin’s economy. In all agriculture-reliant states, the move toward organic farming would undermine both farmers’ bottom lines and state revenue. Policy makers must consider the full implications of such a proposal before moving toward such a dramatic upheaval of the American economy.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal, H.R. 109/S. 59, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-resolution/59?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22green+new+deal%22%5D%7D&sr=2&r=3>.

<sup>2</sup> Vote summary, “On the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to S.J. Res. 8, Vote Number 52, 3/5 Vote Result: Cloture Motion Rejected March 26, 2019, 04:18 PM, [https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=116&session=1&vote=00052#top](https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=116&session=1&vote=00052#top).

<sup>3</sup> Benefit-cost estimates rely on net present value (NPV) to provide analysts a tool to see how various benefits or costs change over time. Similarly, robust cost estimates utilize NPV analysis, and costs are calculated as negative future cash-flows. The various elements of the GND—from changes in housing stock to vehicles to the electric grid—would all require specialized and differing discount rates to find the NPV. Therefore, we did not discount future costs. This analysis is a composite of others’ work as well as our own estimates and there is no single discount rate available that is sensible for either the component parts of the GND or the other cost estimates. Admittedly, this may overestimate the effects of the GND in the out years but we are confident that the magnitude of the estimated costs are not affected by minor variances in discount rates or the NPV for the GND.

<sup>4</sup> Benjamin Zycher, *The Green New Deal: Economics and Policy Analytics*, American Enterprise Institute, 2019, <https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RPT-The-Green-New-Deal-5.5x8.5-FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Nichola Groom, “Weaning U.S. power sector off fossil fuels would cost \$4.7 trillion: study,” Reuters, June 27, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-carbon-report/weaning-u-s-power-sector-off-fossil-fuels-would-cost-4-7-trillion-study-idUSKCN1TS0GX>.

<sup>6</sup> H.R. 109.

<sup>7</sup> Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Dan Bosch, Ben Gitis, Dan Goldbeck, and Philip Rossetti, *The Green New Deal: Scope, Scale, and Implications*, American Action Forum, February 25, 2019, <https://www.americanactionforum.org/research/the-green-new-deal-scope-scale-and-implications/>.

<sup>8</sup> With 127.59 million households in the United States in 2018. “Number of households in the United States in 2018, by state (in millions),” Statista,

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<https://www.statista.com/statistics/242258/number-of-us-households-by-state/>.

<sup>9</sup> Holtz-Eakin and Bosch provide national estimate and an average household estimate. The household estimate is presented here.

<sup>10</sup> A British thermal unit is a unit of measure for energy. One million BTUs is enough to dry about 50 loads of laundry.

<sup>11</sup> Freight Analysis Framework Data Tabulation Tool (FAF4), Center for Transportation Analysis, accessed July 10, 2019, <https://faf.ornl.gov/faf4/Extraction2.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> Trucking and Rail BTUs per ton-mile: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, "Freight Transportation Demand: Energy-Efficient Scenarios for a Low-Carbon Future," Transportation Energy Futures Series, March 2013, [https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc844590/m2/1/high\\_res\\_d/1072830.pdf](https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc844590/m2/1/high_res_d/1072830.pdf).  
Barge BTUs per ton-mile: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Table 6-10 Energy Intensities of Domestic Freight Transportation Modes: 2007-2013, [https://www.bts.gov/archive/data\\_and\\_statistics/by\\_subject/freight/freight\\_facts\\_2015/chapter6/table6\\_10](https://www.bts.gov/archive/data_and_statistics/by_subject/freight/freight_facts_2015/chapter6/table6_10).

<sup>13</sup> Energy Cost Calculator, College of Agricultural Sciences, Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania State University, accessed July 10, 2019,

<https://buffalo.extension.wisc.edu/files/2011/01/Energy-Cost-Calculator-for-Various-Fuels-PSU.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> Jefferey Rissman, "The Future of Electric Vehicles in the U.S.," Energy Innovation Policy and Technology LLC,

September 2017,

[https://energyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-09-13-Future-of-EVs-Research-Note\\_FINAL.pdf](https://energyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-09-13-Future-of-EVs-Research-Note_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Mark Kane, "State-By-State Look at Plug-In Electric Cars per 1,000 Residents," InsideEVs, December 1, 2018, <https://insideevs.com/news/341522/state-by-state-look-at-plug-in-electric-cars-per-1000-residents/>. The number of registered automobiles in 2017 for each state is drawn from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/196010/total-number-of-registered-automobiles-in-the-us-by-state/>.

<sup>16</sup> The cost of an EV purchased for \$39,500 can be amortized across five years with a typical low interest auto loan. We assume that each auto is purchased with 10 percent down (\$3,950) and \$35,550 on credit at 2.9 percent. This generous

formula creates an annual burden, in addition to the down payment, of \$637.21 a month or nearly \$7,647 a year. To simplify the analysis, we assume that the down payment is provided through a combination of new federal and state subsidies, and therefore consumers are responsible for 90 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 10 percent of cost does not go away, taxpayers pay for it.

<sup>17</sup> Tesla Semi, Tesla website, accessed July 10, 2019, <https://www.tesla.com/semi>.

<sup>18</sup> Brennan Less and Iain Walker, "A Meta-Analysis of Single-Family Deep Energy Retrofit Performance in the U.S.," Environmental Energy Technologies Division, Berkeley Lab, prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of

Scientific and Technical Information, 2014, <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1129577>.

<sup>19</sup> Daniel S. Bertoldi, "Deep Energy Retrofits Using the Integrative Design Process: Are they Worth the Cost," Master's Projects and Capstones, University of San Francisco, spring 2014, <https://repository.usfca.edu/capstone/22>.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Energy Information Administration, Summary annual household site consumption and expenditures in the U.S.—totals and intensities, 2015," Table 2.1 May 2018, <https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/data/2015/cande/pdf/ce1.1.pdf>.  
Energy Information Administration, Major fuel consumption intensities (BTU) by end use, 2012, Table E2, May 2016

<https://www.eia.gov/consumption/commercial/data/2012/cande/pdf/e2.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> Energy Information Administration, Alaska End-use energy consumption 2017, estimates, accessed July 10, 2019, <https://www.eia.gov/beta/states/states/ak/overview>.

<sup>23</sup> Brennan Less and Iain Walker, "A Meta-Analysis of Single-Family Deep Energy Retrofit Performance in the U.S.," Environmental Energy Technologies Division, Berkeley Lab, prepared for the U.S. Department of

- Energy, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, 2014, <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1129577>. Daniel S. Bertoldi, "Deep Energy Retrofits Using the Integrative Design Process: Are they Worth the Cost," Master's Projects and Capstones, University of San Francisco, spring 2014, <https://repository.usfca.edu/capstone/22>. Energy Information Administration, Summary annual household site consumption and expenditures in the U.S.—totals and intensities, 2015," Table 2.1 May 2018, <https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/data/2015/cande/pdf/ce1.1.pdf>. Energy Information Administration, Major fuel consumption intensities (BTU) by end use, 2012, Table E2, May 2016 <https://www.eia.gov/consumption/commercial/data/2012/cande/pdf/e2.pdf>.
- <sup>24</sup> University of Wisconsin Extension, "Contribution of Agriculture to Wisconsin," 2017, <https://cced.ces.uwex.edu/files/2019/06/Contribution-of-Agriculture-to-Wisconsin-2019-Employment-Trends.pdf>
- <sup>25</sup> Tomek de Ponti, Bert Rijk, and Martin K. van Ittersum, "The crop yield gap between organic and conventional agriculture," *Agricultural Systems*, Vol. 108 (April 2012), pp. 1-9, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X1100182X>.
- <sup>26</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics, [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/2017AgStats\\_web.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2017AgStats_web.pdf).
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> CAIT Climate Data Explorer, World Resources Institute, accessed December 18, 2019, <https://cait.wri.org/>.
- <sup>30</sup> Zachary Toliver, "Will 'Green New Deal' Supporters Walk the Walk by Going Vegan?" People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals blog, March 20, 2019, <https://www.peta.org/blog/vegan-green-new-deal/>.
- <sup>31</sup> Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, 2017 Wisconsin Dairy Data, <http://www.wisconsinmilk.org/assets/images/pdf/WisconsinDairyData.pdf>.
- <sup>32</sup> Yaron Steinbuch, "AOC explains why 'farting cows' were considered in Green New Deal," *New York Post*, February 22, 2019, <https://nypost.com/2019/02/22/aoc-explains-why-farting-cows-were-considered-in-green-new-deal/>.
- <sup>33</sup> William Nordhaus, "Integrated Assessment Models of Climate Change," *NBER Reporter* 2017 Number 3, National Bureau of Economic Research, <https://www.nber.org/reporter/2017number3/nordhaus.html>.
- <sup>34</sup> Katia Dmitrieva, "The Green New Deal Progressives Really Are Coming for Your Beef," *Bloomberg*, March 13, 2019, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-13/the-green-new-deal-progressives-really-are-coming-for-your-beef>.
- <sup>35</sup> Lauren Hirsch, "Milk may need a makeover: Alternatives to dairy are increasingly winning over consumers," *CNBC*, May 29, 2018, <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/29/alternatives-to-dairy-are-increasingly-winning-over-consumers.html>.
- <sup>36</sup> Rick Barrett, "'Struggling to tread water': Dairy farmers are caught in an economic system with no winning formula," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 18, 2019, <https://www.jsonline.com/in-depth/news/special-reports/dairy-crisis/2019/05/16/wisconsin-dairy-farms-closing-milk-prices-drop-economics-get-tough/3508060002/>.
- <sup>37</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "The Social Cost of Carbon," accessed February 19, 2020, [https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climatechange/social-cost-carbon\\_.html](https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climatechange/social-cost-carbon_.html)
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid. Inflation-adjusted from reported \$42 in January 2017. This number was released in 2016 by the EPA under the Obama administration. The EPA under the Trump administration revised these numbers down drastically. However, any implementation of the Green New Deal is likely to happen under an administration more amenable to the Obama estimates.

## **WILL CEI POWER THE FUTURE PRESS EVENT**

**Who:** WILL, CEI, Power the Future, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Milwaukee-Area Legislators, National Groups, Wisconsin Dairy Alliance and Area Businesses

**What:** Press conference on the impact of the Green New Deal on Wisconsin

**When:** 12:50 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020

**Where:**

Allis Roller  
5801 W Franklin Drive  
Franklin, WI 53132

**Speaking Order:**

Introduction by Dave Dull of Allis-Roller (Host) and acknowledgement of Business Park Consortium attendees

Dave will turn it over to Rick Esenberg, President and General Counsel of WILL

Rick will emcee calling on speakers.

Rick Esenberg will introduce Will Flanders and Kent Lassman of CEI

Cindy Leitner, President of the Wisconsin Dairy Alliance

Senator Fitzgerald

Senator Craig & Representative Skowronski (Allis-Roller is in district)

Senator Kapenga

Press Q&A

**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** Craig, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Hope, Sam  
**Subject:** Fwd: THU News Summary: State awards \$75M for local transpo projects; WI prepares for coronavirus

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing <info@wispolitics.com>  
**Date:** March 5, 2020 at 11:11:09 AM CST  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services <WisPolitics-Notifications@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** THU News Summary: State awards \$75M for local transpo projects; WI prepares for coronavirus  
**Reply-To:** WisPolitics.com <news@wispolitics.com>



**THU News Summary -- 5 March 2020**

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<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/thu-news-summary-state-awards-75m-for-local-transpo-projects-state-prepares-for-coronavirus/>

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**March 17: WisPolitics Luncheon with Congressman Bryan Steil**

*Join WisPolitics.com for lunch at The Madison Club, 5 East Wilson St., Madison, on Tuesday, March 17, with Congressman Bryan Steil, R-Janesville, talking about his first two years in the House grappling with issues such as impeachment, tariffs and trade, and the economy.*

*Steil won election in 2018 to the U.S. House in Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District, succeeding Paul Ryan.*

Check-in and lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., with the program going from noon to 1 p.m. WisPolitics.com subscribers and members as well as Madison Club members and their guests receive discounted pricing for WisPolitics luncheons of \$19 per person. Price for general public is \$25 per person.

This luncheon is sponsored by: Husch Blackwell, American Family Insurance, Xcel Energy, Walmart, AARP Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wispolitics-luncheon-with-congressman-bryan-steil-tickets-90221203047>

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- [Public health and safety](#)
- 

### **TOP STORIES**

#### **State gives \$75M to transportation projects, including \$1M for County buses**

Gov. Tony Evers gave out nearly \$75 million Wednesday to help local governments around the state pay for 152 transportation projects and programs. The one-time funding was included in last year's state budget as the Democratic governor and Republican lawmakers sought to provide more money for transportation. The local funding will go toward projects and programs in 66 of the state's 72 counties. Milwaukee County's bus system will get \$1 million, a Lake Michigan cruise dock will get more than \$200,000 and a project on Santa Monica Boulevard in Milwaukee County will get \$200,000. ... Local governments asked for funding for about 1,600 projects, and the DOT agreed to help pay for 152 of them. ... GOP lawmakers included \$90 million for local road projects in the budget they wrote last year, but Evers used his veto powers to bring down the amount to \$75 million and make it available to other types of transportation projects. ... On Twitter, Republican Rep. Mark Born criticized Evers for the veto and spending some of the remaining money on buses and bike paths. ... Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz, a Democrat from Oshkosh, said lawmakers should not micromanage how the money is spent. "Roads were not the only bit of infrastructure that the state fell way behind on over the last eight years," Hintz said. By Marley and BeMiller, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2020/03/04/tony-evers-doles-out-75-million-wisconsin-transportation-projects/4951645002/>

#### **WI joins lawsuit against diverting defense funds for border wall**

... Evers has authorized [AG Kaul] to join a coalition of 18 other states [led by CA] in suing President Donald Trump to prevent his ... national emergency declaration to [divert] billions of [\$defense\$] on a border wall to stop what Trump said was "an invasion of drugs and criminals coming into our country." ... an unconstitutional violation of Congress' appropriation power. ... includes the diversion of \$101M in funds for heavy expanded mobile tactical trucks exclusively manufactured by Oshkosh Defense, putting hundreds of jobs at



Telecommunications

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risk. ... threatens > \$97M in military construction funding for projects located i WI ... "a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars and neglects the needs of our state National Guard units," Evers said. "There is simply no justification for the president's continued desire to create a crisis at the border, and this move negatively impacts not only WI's economy, but the safety of our communities. Trump administration has argued the diversion serves national security, exempt from congressional approval. By Vetterkind, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL  
<https://madison.com/wsj/dbd61e55-9754-531e-8336-109c2a7d6326.html>

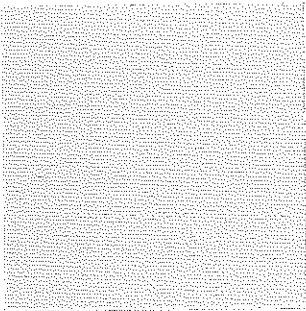
**WI officials ruling out state of emergency over coronavirus for now**

... Under a state of emergency, which would be declared via a gubernatorial executive order, state funding could be mobilized to support local health departments for costs on quarantining and isolating individuals, among other things. The states of Washington and Florida [and CA this morning] declared their own public health emergencies ... Asked about shortages among prison personnel, Vos noted that the issue "is not a problem because of the coronavirus. The department does a good job managing this the best they can," he said. "If we see a large outbreak, they have the ability to move staff around, of course we have the State Patrol. So I think there's more than enough adequate systems in place to deal with it but if something out of the ordinary occurs, of course we'll sit down and talk about it." By Reilly, CAPITA TIMES  
<https://madison.com/ct/cdf29a7a-b007-55a7-a05b-62ab3537d884.html>

**WI Hospitals, Lawmakers, Health Officials Prepare For More COVID-19 Cases**

... At a state Capitol briefing Wednesday held by state health officials for lawmakers, Rep. Michael Schraa [noted the 8 correctional facilities in his district are 15-30% short-staffed,] "If there is an outbreak, do you have any specific plan to man these facilities?" DHS Dr. Westergard: "If there's a community that has a correctional facility and we have COVID-19 spreading i the community, we have to be proactive in the same way that we are about skilled nursing facilities to make sure we have attention paid to exposing people, visitation rules or screening like we do in health systems." UW Hospital presser in Madison, Dr. Safdar detailed plans for increased testing and care of patients in addition to making sure there is enough PPE like N95 respirators, gowns, gloves and eyewear to safely care for COVID-19 patients "It seems community transmission will be inevitable. It's already in the U.S. ... Our approach has been to use signage and more monitoring of those kiosks where we have masks just to make sure they've being conserved for the people who really need them." Rehash WI's 1 case, now cured, 6 tests pending. UW Hospital has COVID-19 hotline: 608-720-5300. By Watson, WPR  
<https://www.wpr.org/hospitals-lawmakers-state-health-officials-prepare-more-covid-19-cases-wisconsin>

**State treasurer tries to revive office with task force on homeownership**  
... [Godlewski's] task force, made up predominantly of local treasurers [reps from Munies, Realtors], is scheduled to conclude its work by the end of the



year and seeks to help Wisconsinites buy their first homes and afford to stay in them by finding ways to prevent penalties, delinquencies and foreclosures. ... "The people of Wisconsin asked for this," Godlewski said. "I believe the reason that we won was we talked about financial security as part of that mission that the state treasurer should be achieving." ... hopes ... to create a "foreclosure prevention system." Rehash downsizing, attempts to eliminate the office. By Vetterkind, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL  
<https://madison.com/wsj/23c4b825-553c-5de7-b434-e98210895070.html>

#####  
**STORY TOPICS**  
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**WHITE HOUSE** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Mike and Karen Pence cancel visit to Onalaska ... now plans to visit Washington state, which continues to grapple with the coronavirus. For awhile on Wednesday, officials said the second lady and an unnamed state GOP would take their place, but the entire event has now been called off.

[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/mike-and-karen-pence-cancel-visit-to-onalaska/article\\_d979ec5b-de83-5bf5-ac44-cabc1328fe37.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/mike-and-karen-pence-cancel-visit-to-onalaska/article_d979ec5b-de83-5bf5-ac44-cabc1328fe37.html)

- State, local costs for VP Mike Pence's WI Capitol visit exceeded \$40K  
<https://madison.com/ct/1f24c370-8a35-5ffe-a814-0331f3f3c418.html>

- WI joins border wall lawsuit, says diversion of defense funds hurts Oshkosh Corp.  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2020/03/04/wisconsin-joins-lawsuit-against-trump-over-border-wall-funds/4954497002/>

**2020** <sup>^top^</sup>

- What Biden's big Super Tuesday means for WI faceoff with Sanders ... introduced the possibility that Biden seizes command of the contest and builds an almost insurmountable delegate lead [2/3 of pledged delegates will be awarded, with 15 more states voting] before [WI's April 7 primary] ... [or] a more protracted duel between two major contenders (Biden and Sanders) with distinct and enduring coalitions. [Biden: elder, black, moderate] ... unclear whether Sanders' coalition [youth, Latino, liberal] is big enough right now to win him the nomination. But it's certainly big enough for him to fight for it. MI is most consequential, as Sanders narrowly won there in 2016 and demographics don't favor him or Biden. If Sanders loses MI, WI could be a desperate late stand. Sanders' MN defeat is a cautionary sign for him about WI, which he won dbl digits in 2016. Cases compared for Sanders, Biden.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/03/05/4955455002/>

- Bernie Sanders to host Rockford rally on March 10  
[https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/illinois-news/bernie-sanders-to-host-rockford-rally-on-march/article\\_8f0bb667-c951-5587-b231-4d89e39eb2e1.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/illinois-news/bernie-sanders-to-host-rockford-rally-on-march/article_8f0bb667-c951-5587-b231-4d89e39eb2e1.html)

- Many young voters sat out Super Tuesday, contributing to Bernie Sanders' losses ... Exit polls for several states Biden won, including Massachusetts, Texas and several

southern states ... found that while more young voters went to the polls this election cycle, they did not show up at the rate they did in 2016.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/03/04/2016/4947795002>

- Last-minute Klobuchar endorsement helped put Biden over the top in Minnesota  
<https://www.rivertowns.net/news/government-and-politics/4982015-Last-minute-Klobuchar-endorsement-helped-put-Biden-over-the-top-in-Minnesota>

- Super Tuesday: The Earthquake, After Biden's triumph on Super Tuesday, John Nichols analyzes the bad night for Bernie--and the tasks that remain if Biden is going to be defeated in the primaries.

<https://www.thenation.com/super-tuesday-bernie-biden/>

### **STATE GOVERNMENT** <sup>^top^</sup>

- PolitiFact: Assembly speaker's prison claim falls short ... governor has, more than once, expressed the goal of reducing the state prison population by 50% as part of broader criminal justice reform. ... supported recent legislation that would have made changes to parole and extended supervision rules ... a far cry from releasing half the prison population overnight, which is what Vos' claim suggests. ... Half True  
<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/04/robin-vos/wisconsin-assembly-speakers-prison-claim-falls-sho/>

### **AGRIBUSINESS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- From Farm To Pint, How Will Beer Weather Climate Change? In An Industry With Already Heavy Regulations And Tight Margins, Small Breweries Are Even More Vulnerable

<https://www.wpr.org/farm-pint-how-will-beer-weather-climate-change>

### **COURTS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Bice: Justice Kelly tries fundraising off controversy over his shooting range fundraiser  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/investigations/daniel-bice/2020/03/04/dan-kelly-raises-money-off-controversy-over-shooting-range-fundraiser/4952709002/>

- WI court refuses to refund airlines' property taxes ... Niess refused to grant the refund, finding the airlines [Southwest, AirTran] didn't fly enough departing flights [in 2013-14] to qualify for the exemption [they had retroactively claimed after a DOR audit].

<https://madison.com/wsj/a156d4cd-d5b7-53e2-b2d5-7d0eb0f26507.html>

### **DEMOGRAPHICS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Some Wisconsin Counties Struggling To Recruit Census Workers ... as of March 3, Dane County needed 2,380 more applications to meet its recruitment goals, and La Crosse County needed 1,029 ... Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway [sez] "Madison and Dane County have a higher cost of living, so I think it might be appropriate for them to think about bumping that up to be more competitive."

<https://www.wpr.org/some-wisconsin-counties-struggling-recruit-census-workers>

## **ECONOMY** [^top^](#)

- Everbrite to close South Milwaukee facility, lay off 116 employees  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/03/04/everbrite-to-close-south-milwaukee-facility-lay.html>
- Spring job fair draws 70 employers and applicants of all ages  
[https://journaltimes.com/business/local/spring-job-fair-draws-employers-and-applicants-of-all-ages/article\\_031190ee-4aed-5260-89cb-eff41b56c6b5.html](https://journaltimes.com/business/local/spring-job-fair-draws-employers-and-applicants-of-all-ages/article_031190ee-4aed-5260-89cb-eff41b56c6b5.html)
- Sheboygan looks to Fox Valley, GB, Milwaukee for biz park occupants  
<https://www.sheboyganpress.com/story/news/2020/03/05/sheboygans-southpointe-enterprise-campus-courts-wisconsin-businesses/4928074002/>
- Ascend Services to receive [AT&T Foundation] grant for job readiness: announcement event Friday will include Sen. LeMahieu, Co.. Exec. Ziegelbauer.  
<https://www.htrnews.com/story/news/2020/03/05/manitowoc-ascend-services-receive-grant-job-readiness-programs/4952463002/>
- Fall River looks to expand with new TIF district proposal  
[https://www.wiscnews.com/columbusjournal/news/local/fall-river-looks-to-expand-with-new-tif-district-proposal/article\\_72fd8877-a44f-5fca-8376-bc74b6f62d4d.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/columbusjournal/news/local/fall-river-looks-to-expand-with-new-tif-district-proposal/article_72fd8877-a44f-5fca-8376-bc74b6f62d4d.html)

## **EDUCATION** [^top^](#)

- WI College Graduation Rates Improving, Data Shows: 68% of 2013 freshmen graduated by 2019.  
<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-college-graduation-rates-improving-data-shows>
- Declining enrollment pushes UWM into another round of employee buyouts  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2020/03/04/uwm-offer-second-round-employee-buyouts-since-2015/4953257002/>
- Baraboo school administrator, other local leaders share story of 'waking from a nightmare.' Re: Nazi salute pic  
[https://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/local/education/baraboo-school-administrator-other-local-leaders-share-story-of-waking/article\\_44c3adbf-bc96-5ef1-94a3-a00eb42ca765.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/local/education/baraboo-school-administrator-other-local-leaders-share-story-of-waking/article_44c3adbf-bc96-5ef1-94a3-a00eb42ca765.html)
- UW-EC, CVTC see more grads taking jobs in region  
[https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front-page/uw-ec-cvtc-see-more-grads-taking-jobs-in-region/article\\_edaa7f8a-0541-56d5-82ac-cea1bef367c.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front-page/uw-ec-cvtc-see-more-grads-taking-jobs-in-region/article_edaa7f8a-0541-56d5-82ac-cea1bef367c.html)

## **ELECTIONS** [^top^](#)

- Gerrymandering issue to go to countywide referendum vote  
[https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/gerrymandering-issue-to-go-to-countywide-referendum-vote/article\\_6ae10f78-e652-5589-a924-b0d3d7c3cde0.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/gerrymandering-issue-to-go-to-countywide-referendum-vote/article_6ae10f78-e652-5589-a924-b0d3d7c3cde0.html)

## **ENVIRONMENT** [^top^](#)

- Land stewards in training, Recruiting millennials to become the next generation of

conservation advocates

<https://isthmus.com/news/news/recruiting-millennials-to-become-conservation-advocates/>

- Small but toxic beetles kill 14 horses on Mauston horse ranch

[https://www.wiscnews.com/juneaucountystartimes/news/state-and-regional/small-but-toxic-beetles-kill-horses-on-mauston-horse-ranch/article\\_c5f987b1-806e-5986-b767-784129fcba77.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/juneaucountystartimes/news/state-and-regional/small-but-toxic-beetles-kill-horses-on-mauston-horse-ranch/article_c5f987b1-806e-5986-b767-784129fcba77.html)

## **HEALTH CARE** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Superior pushes for student mental health resources

<https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/education/4982457-Superior-pushes-for-student-mental-health-resources>

- AG Josh Kaul: 'Important and innovative' mental health services being provided in La Crosse

[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/ag-josh-kaul-important-and-innovative-mental-health-services-being/article\\_deb95e0e-477c-5195-998f-900321d9f87c.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/ag-josh-kaul-important-and-innovative-mental-health-services-being/article_deb95e0e-477c-5195-998f-900321d9f87c.html)

## **LAW AND ORDER** <sup>^top^</sup>

- WI pours more money, ideas into fighting child abuse, but 'nothing seems to have changed' ... "This isn't like other things we do as police," said Cassie Pakkala, a detective in Green Bay's Sensitive Crimes unit, which handles abuse cases. "This isn't like speed enforcement; there's no radar trap we can set up to catch" child abusers.  
<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/2020/03/05/wisconsin-child-abuse-more-spending-resources-doesnt-ease-states-numbers/4893245002/>

- MPD: Initial info has not shown that Molson Coors shooter was retaliating for racism ... "detectives have interviewed several witnesses regarding the suspect's actions and statements leading up to the incident," the department said in a statement, breaking days of silence on the investigation. "As a result of the preliminary investigation, neither race nor racism has been identified as a factor in this incident. ... [not aware] of any of the victims targeted in the mass shooting being involved in any inappropriate or racist behavior toward the suspect. ... it is imperative to wait for the facts of the investigation to be released rather than speculating and generating a false narrative that could negatively impact the lives of the family members of the victims and of the suspect, as well as the employees of Molson Coors." Rehash 5-y/o noose incident, which shooter never saw because he was off that day, other racist notes thereafter, Mayor Barrett call for more info, Sen. Taylor saying shooters co-workers have alleged broad racism, victims.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/crime/2020/03/04/molson-coors-shooting-racism-not-factor-milwaukee-police-say/4957255002/>

- Here's what we know, and don't, about investigation of Stevens Point police chief  
<https://www.stevenspointjournal.com/story/news/2020/03/04/stevens-point-police-chief-leave-what-we-know-and-dont-know/4951995002/>

## **MEDIA** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Walking quorum decision to be appealed: newspapers to appeal dismissed suit against Rhinelander mayor

<http://www.rivernewsonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=6&SubSectionID=59&ArticleID=88131>

## **NON-PROFITS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- WILL power, A conservative law and policy center is coming on strong ... if you are a progressive, you are likely not a fan of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. You might know WILL best from a case currently winding its way through the courts that could have the effect of removing more than 200,000 Wisconsin voters from the registration rolls. ... now suing [MMSD] over its [transgender] policy around parental notification ... active in cases enforcing ... Act 10 ... in favor of school choice. ... extreme partisan gerrymandering ... sued Gov. Tony Evers over ... unconstitutional use of his line-item veto. ... Launched in 2011 by one of those Harvard lawyers, Rick Esenberg, WILL is part of a well-heeled network of conservative think tanks [especially Bradley Foundation], law firms and policy shops that are coordinated with Republican elected officials. It's an idea-to-policy pipeline. WILL opponent atty. Mandell concerned "WILL has found a way within the system to advance truly radical goals ... And very few people are noticing," fears WI Supreme Court is poised to go much further than the stepped-up scrutiny that Esenberg says he wants. Mandell colleague Poland: "WILL's overall goal appears to be one of uniformly rolling back the clock on Wisconsin law more than 100 years, reducing the rights and benefits of Wisconsinites, and making Wisconsin less democratic." OWN's Browne dittoed, "You would struggle in Wisconsin to find the progressive organization that is an answer to WILL. ... a glaring gap and it would behoove the left to get serious about filling." Esenberg countered with ACLU, others, "The public interest legal movement on the left is quite robust and has been quite successful in using the courts to effectuate policy change. There was a need to change the intellectual conversation. ... Right now as a state-based organization on our side of the fence, we are probably the most active and impactful along with the Goldwater Foundation," denied any Bradley control. Bradley CEO Graber: "The success of a grant recipient is the result of their own hard work and decision making; we never interfere in what they do." ACLU's Ott: "If WILL was inspired by or formed in response to the ACLU, we appreciate that level of respect, and we agree with WILL on issues such as the need for open government. However, we disagree with them on a lot of civil and constitutional rights issues," such as voter rolls, transgender policy. WCRIS' Schmeling "appreciated WILL's help in getting access to education services guaranteed by state and federal law." FOIC's Lueders: "I appreciate WILL's commitment to open government ... sincere in their desire to push back against official secrecy. ... expands access for everyone." But ... Personally and politically, I disagree with much of [their] agenda. In particular, I think the obvious real goal of its so-called voter integrity crusade is voter suppression, for the purpose of making it easier for Republicans to win." Rehash tailgating, wedding barn, "Lochner," voter list, cemeteries cases.

<https://isthmus.com/news/cover-story/will-conservative-law-and-policy-center-is-coming-on-strong/>

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Health officials provide update to lawmakers on coronavirus ... "While the state has concluded there is not a need to declare a public health emergency at this time, it's

important to know that this tool exists and DHS and the governor's office will assess this authority if needed to protect the health of our citizens," said [DHS CMO] Dr. Ryan Westergaard ... "It's possible and in fact likely that we will detect additional cases in the coming days or weeks." ... On Wednesday, Wisconsin received \$1M-CDC in immediate assistance ... not clear how the funding will be used. U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, called on Congress to pass a bipartisan emergency funding agreement that could net WI as much as an additional \$10M. Speaker Vos led as many as 8 lawmakers, many staffers at the briefing, "It's important for the public to remember that there are many more people who are subject to the regular flu than there are for the coronavirus, so we want to be safe but we also don't want to have any kind of public hysteria where we overreact in a way that hurts people more than helps them." UW Health rationing masks to symptomatic patients, employing telemedicine to limit doctor-patient contact, starting COVID-19 hotline. ASTHO CMO Dr. Marcus Plescia told National Press Foundation that continuous state prep in face of declining funding has reduced capacity, "We do have some concerns that this could become overwhelming." State officials expect global pandemic amid unknowns like re-infection and resurging in fall, will rely on close collaboration with community health workers, may close schools or limit mass gatherings. DHS Ayers rehashed prevention techniques, symptoms, self-isolation.

<https://madison.com/wsj/b834f60a-92c4-561c-83d1-2146ac6008ed.html>

- Evers admin. experts brief lawmakers on resources in event of coronavirus outbreak  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2020/03/04/coronavirus-june-9-wisconsin-lawmakers-attend-experts-briefing/4952309002/>

- Coronavirus updates: CA, L.A. declare emergencies as US death toll hits 11  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/health/2020/03/05/coronavirus-live-updates-us-death-toll-schools-amtrak/4953471002/>

- States Have 'Immense' Powers to Fight Coronavirus ... They can close schools and private businesses. ... restrict or shut down mass transit systems. ... cancel concerts, sporting events and political rallies. ... call up the National Guard. ... suspend medical licensing laws and protect doctors from liability claims. ... quarantine or isolate people who might infect others. ... suspend [professional] licensing [reqs] to bring in professional help from elsewhere if needed. "The authority is immense, and it is extensive," said [U-AZ prof.] Hodge ... [Wash. Dem] Gov. Jay Inslee has declared a state of emergency and directed state agencies to use "all resources necessary" to respond to the outbreak. ... [NY Dem Gov. Cuomo] is requiring health insurers to waive patient costs associated with testing for COVID-19, and no New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid will be asked for a copayment for any COVID-19 testing. ... New York lawmakers of both parties complained that a bill passed Monday authorizing \$40 million to fight the coronavirus gave Cuomo too much power. Trammels: States' total public health workforce has fallen by 15% since 2010, int'l nexus has left state reliant on CDC for test kits, which not all states have yet, PPE supplies may not keep up with need. Public info important: Trump admin. inconsistent, but states have been consistently cautious. Association of Public Health reps, Spanish flu chronicler comment.  
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/03/05/states-have-immense-powers-to-fight-coronavirus>

- Milwaukee-area companies limit corporate travel amid spread of coronavirus  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/03/04/milwaukee-area-companies->

[limit-corporate-travel.html](#)

- Carthage College soccer trip to Italy canceled due to coronavirus  
[https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/carthage-college-soccer-trip-to-italy-canceled-due-to-coronavirus/article\\_c84a2e97-fdce-597a-890c-a82e795278ae.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/carthage-college-soccer-trip-to-italy-canceled-due-to-coronavirus/article_c84a2e97-fdce-597a-890c-a82e795278ae.html)

- Coronavirus-related issues cause \$40M drop in Plexus revenues  
<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/money/2020/03/04/plexus-sees-40-m-revenue-drop-due-coronavirus-effect-suppliers/4951218002/>

- School districts in Baraboo, Portage monitor coronavirus situation  
[https://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/local/school-districts-in-baraboo-portage-monitor-coronavirus-situation/article\\_e7e586d8-12c9-57d6-b507-daa102400148.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/local/school-districts-in-baraboo-portage-monitor-coronavirus-situation/article_e7e586d8-12c9-57d6-b507-daa102400148.html)

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Fort Council advances installation of fiber internet for businesses and government  
[https://www.dailyunion.com/news/fort-council-advances-installation-of-fiber-internet-for-businesses-and/article\\_9d52b705-b92e-51a5-9677-223c057289dc.html](https://www.dailyunion.com/news/fort-council-advances-installation-of-fiber-internet-for-businesses-and/article_9d52b705-b92e-51a5-9677-223c057289dc.html)

### **TRANSPORTATION** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Speed literally kills in Wisconsin: 159 people died last year alone, while 8,000 injured  
<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/2020/03/05/speed-kills-wisconsin-transportation-officials-ask-drivers-ease-up/4906934002/>

- I-39/90 expansion project resumes with work between Janesville and Edgerton, DOT says  
<https://madison.com/wsj/7e961278-30ba-5a8a-88ae-7207cd6b1635.html>

- Local road grant funding includes \$3.6 million for 6 Dane County projects: Part of \$75M in grants Evers announced On Wednesday for 84 towns, 34 cities and villages and 34 counties. "No matter where you go in Wisconsin, folks can all agree that we need to fix our crumbling roads," Evers said in a statement. "These newly funded projects are going to impact folks all across our state, improving safety, connectivity, and economic growth in each community." Evers vetoed down GOP's \$90M one-time funds as he attempted to boost education spending. Speaker Vos argued, "Governor Evers is shortchanging our local roads," by cutting funds and spending it on all types of projects, "It's disappointing that 100 percent of the money isn't going to local roads as intended." Projects were ranked by three committees, prioritizing higher economic impact. WisDOT's Jackson noted projects are "tip of the iceberg. Wisconsin needs a long-term, sustainable transportation funding plan." WISPIRG's Skopek pleased but frowned about only 1 public transit project, "Let's build a bridge that leads Wisconsin to a future where we're less dependent on cars."  
<https://madison.com/wsj/5b5137f5-ad60-5a48-92d2-2bd4c798c9fe.html>

- BrownCo gets \$1M state to expand Lineville Road in Howard, Suamico to 5 lanes  
<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/2020/03/04/brown-county-expand-lineville-road-suamico-5-lanes-2025/4952145002/>



- State awards Egg Harbor \$1 million for traffic-minimizing road project  
<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/door-co/2020/03/05/evers-awards-village-egg-harbor-1-million-traffic-fix-project/4954934002/>

- Union Grove, Highway Y get total of \$1.8M in state transportation funds  
[https://journaltimes.com/news/local/union-grove-highway-y-get-total-of-m-in-state/article\\_22433e3c-2b60-56d9-b73c-726e333a8834.html](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/union-grove-highway-y-get-total-of-m-in-state/article_22433e3c-2b60-56d9-b73c-726e333a8834.html)

- Dodge County communities receive state grants for road projects  
[https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/dodge-county-communities-receive-state-grants-for-road-projects/article\\_1135729d-e550-5e6d-850f-991eba7b9f7f.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/dodge-county-communities-receive-state-grants-for-road-projects/article_1135729d-e550-5e6d-850f-991eba7b9f7f.html)

## **COLUMNS <sup>^top^</sup>**

- Dave Zweifel: Trump pollutes the 'swamp' with pardons for his pals  
<https://madison.com/ct/349dda35-8f22-5a38-acdc-dd5d7e838b6a.html>

- FOIC's Bill Lueders: Not as open as we could be, Despite general compliance, Wisconsin doesn't always do a good job with transparency  
<https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/wisconsin-freedom-of-information-opinion/>

- M.D. Kittle: Liberal F-35 resistance group bombs Baldwin  
<https://empowerwisconsin.org/liberal-f-35-resistance-group-bombs-baldwin/>  
- Rep. Chris Taylor: With Roe v. Wade under threat, Wisconsin must pass the RESPECT Women Act  
<https://madison.com/ct/c9cd4cc0-a41f-585b-90a0-1898216dd3a5.html>

- Atty. Jeff Spitzer-Resnick: It can happen here ... My wife and I have discussed whether we will need to leave the country if he is reelected, as we fear that he will know no limits if that happens. ... It happened in Turkey to my friends. It happened in Europe during the Holocaust. It can happen here too. No nation is immune from fascism. We must be vigilant to prevent it. At a minimum, as disability rights activist Justin Dart once said, "vote as if your life depended on it, because it does."  
<https://madison.com/ct/9a1e7ad0-b36f-5348-87a1-94eebc5e4a4d.html>

- Dave Cieslewicz: Give the guy a chance: MSD Supt. Gutierrez  
<https://isthmus.com/opinion/citizen-dave/matthew-gutierrez-madisons-school-superintendent/>

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Hope, Sam

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**From:** Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty <info@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Chad  
**Subject:** Letter to Governor Evers: Demand Counties Retract Claim That Drive-Up Religious Services are Illegal

For more information, contact:  
Collin Roth | WILL Director of Communication  
collin@will-law.org | 414-607-2558



WISCONSIN INSTITUTE  
FOR LAW & LIBERTY

## Letter to Governor Evers: Demand Counties Retract Claim That Drive-Up Religious Services are Illegal

### *Local governments threaten churches ahead of Easter weekend*

**The News:** The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) and attorney Michael Dean issued a [letter to Governor Tony Evers](#) requesting that he clarify, correct, and restrain local government officials who are using [Emergency Order #12](#), the “Safer at Home” order, to ban drive-up religious services conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. We are requesting a response from Governor Evers by 2 PM today to ensure that drive-up Good Friday and Easter services will not be impacted.

**Background:** Numerous churches around Wisconsin have planned drive-up religious services this weekend to be conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. But religious leaders have reported that some local government officials have interpreted Governor Evers’ “Safer at Home” order to prohibit this type of religious gathering. This interpretation conflicts with both Governor Evers’ order and the Wisconsin Constitution’s protection of religion under Article I, § 18.

**Letter to Governor Evers:** Rick Esenberg, President and General Counsel of WILL, and Michael Dean, Principal of Michael Dean LLC, [wrote to Governor Evers](#) Thursday and said, in part: “We understand the Governor’s responsibility to facilitate the safety of all Wisconsinites in the midst of this

pandemic. But we cannot lose our heads. And state and local actors cannot use the occasion of a public health threat to run roughshod over the right to the free exercise of religion while permitting activities that are functionally equivalent from a public health and safety perspective.”

Esenberg and Dean are requesting a response from Governor Tony Evers by 2 PM April 9, 2020 acknowledging that the “Safer at Home” order does not ban drive-up religious services conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

**Read More:**

- [Letter to Governor Tony Evers, April 9, 2020](#)



Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty | 330 East Kilbourn Avenue, Suite 725, Milwaukee, WI 53202

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## Hope, Sam

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**From:** CJ Szafir <cj@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 7:47 AM  
**To:** CJ Szafir  
**Cc:** Collin Roth  
**Subject:** 7 Policies to Repeal Red Tape.....

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Friends - To help combat the current economic devastation, WILL, AFP-WI, Badger, and MacIver recommend 7 commonsense policies - each with minimal or no cost - that would repeal red tape and give relief to Wisconsin's businesses. The Wisconsin legislature should strongly consider the following:

1. Place a moratorium on "non-essential" new regulations
2. Direct state agencies to review rules and allow for rapid cuts to red tape
3. Suspend or rescind energy, transportation, or environmental regulations that disrupt supply chains and unintentionally impact health and safety
4. Encourage home-based businesses
5. Waive new taxes on workers teleworking across state lines
6. Allow Work-Share requirements to apply to businesses of any size
7. Allow alcohol delivery and pickup options

More -> <https://medium.com/@willlawandliberty/free-market-coalition-7-ways-to-help-workers-economy-during-covid-crisis-65791940f5dc>

CJ Szafir  
Executive Vice President  
WILL

## Hope, Sam

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**From:** CJ Szafir <cj@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 7:47 AM  
**To:** CJ Szafir  
**Cc:** Collin Roth  
**Subject:** 7 Policies to Repeal Red Tape.....

Friends - To help combat the current economic devastation, WILL, AFP-WI, Badger, and Maclver recommend 7 commonsense policies - each with minimal or no cost - that would repeal red tape and give relief to Wisconsin's businesses. The Wisconsin legislature should strongly consider the following:

1. Place a moratorium on “non-essential” new regulations
2. Direct state agencies to review rules and allow for rapid cuts to red tape
3. Suspend or rescind energy, transportation, or environmental regulations that disrupt supply chains and unintentionally impact health and safety
4. Encourage home-based businesses
5. Waive new taxes on workers teleworking across state lines
6. Allow Work-Share requirements to apply to businesses of any size
7. Allow alcohol delivery and pickup options

More -> <https://medium.com/@willawandliberty/free-market-coalition-7-ways-to-help-workers-economy-during-covid-crisis-65791940f5dc>

CJ Szafir  
Executive Vice President  
WILL

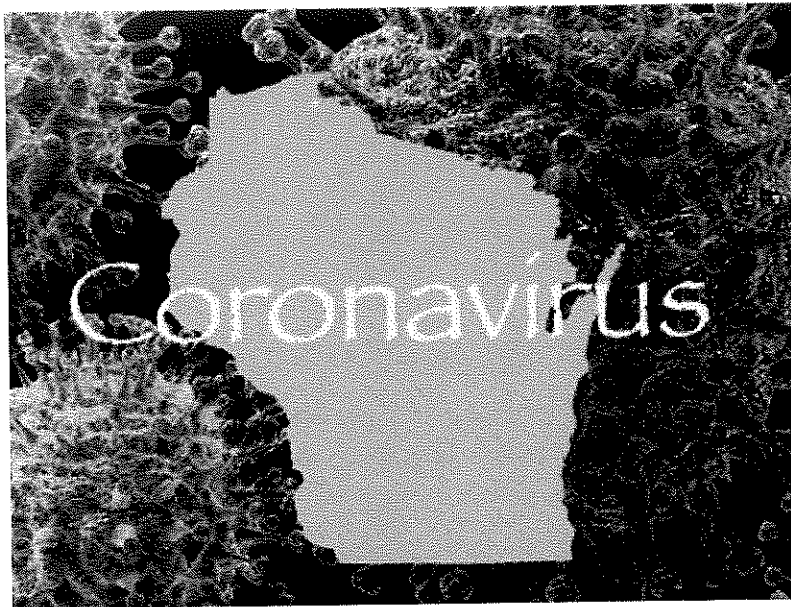
**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** RightWisconsin <RightWisconsin@RightWisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 6:15 AM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Coronavirus Economic Impact and What We Can Do

RightWisconsin Daily Update

[View this email in your browser](#)



# RIGHTWisconsin

## Wisconsin's Economy Is Sick But It Could Be Better

Dear Adam,

The Coronavirus is making Wisconsin's economy sick, and Cori Petersen of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty has the numbers to show it. However, a coalition of free market groups have seven suggestions for making the economy a little better.

James Wigderson  
Editor  
RightWisconsin



## On RightWisconsin Right Now:

### WISCONSIN ELECTION COMMISSION WAITING ON 'MISSING' ABSENTEE BALLOTS

by [Benjamin Yount](#)

Wisconsin's election managers hope to know in the next few days where thousands of 'missing' absentee ballots are located.

[READ MORE](#)

### BY THE NUMBERS: CORONAVIRUS SLAMS WISCONSIN ECONOMY

by [Cori Petersen](#)

As of April 5, 290,000 Wisconsinites have applied for unemployment benefits since Gov. Evers declared Wisconsin to be in a public health emergency March 12.

[READ MORE](#)

### FREE MARKET COALITION: 7 WAYS TO HELP WORKERS, ECONOMY DURING COVID CRISIS

by [RightWisconsin](#)

Here are 7 recommendations, many with no cost, to help Wisconsin's economy and workers.



[READ MORE](#)

## [ROBIN VOS GOES VIRAL \(PUN INTENDED\)](#)

by [James Wigderson](#)

The bizarre picture of Vos assuring everyone that it was safe to vote while looking like an assistant in Dr. No's laboratory went around the world.

[READ MORE](#)

## [CRISIS IS NO EXCUSE FOR ABANDONING FISCAL RESTRAINT](#)

by [David Fladeboe](#)

Just about every tax the state collects will be affected by the crisis, so now is not the time for massive new spending.

[READ MORE](#)

## [3 POLICIES TO HELP WISCONSIN K-12 EDUCATION DURING THE COVID CRISIS](#)

by [CJ Szafir, Libby Sobiech and Will Flanders](#)

Wisconsin should make sure that our school districts are working to provide instruction to their students, by whatever means possible.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Hope, Sam

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**From:** Sen.Craig  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 4:45 PM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam; Hope, Sam; Taylor, Chad; Eberle, Ed; Craig, David  
**Subject:** FW: Open Records Request

Just wanted to make sure everyone saw this.

- Sam

---

**From:** David Armiak <darmiak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 4:38 PM  
**To:** Sen.Craig <Sen.Craig@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Open Records Request

Dear Senator Craig,

Pursuant to Wisconsin's open records law, I request access to and a copy of all records that pertain to the Wisconsin Institute of Law & Liberty (WILL), including the following WILL employees:

- Rick Esenberg
- CJ Szafir
- Luke Berg
- Will Flanders
- Anthony LoCoco
- Don Daugherty
- Brian McGrath
- Mike Fischer

The scope of this request includes the Senator and his staff. The scope of this request should include but is not limited to emails, attachments, both sent and received, all draft records, briefing books, memos, notes, minutes, scheduling records, text messages, other correspondence (internal and external) and all other records.

The search for records may be limited to those sent and received between January 1, 2020 and the date of your final response.

Please note that this request includes all emails sent and received on official state email accounts, as well as any other private email accounts or applications, such as Dropbox, GoogleDocs, ALEC Connect, or the Briefing Room, that have been used for official business. This request also includes any and all records available through a web hyperlink. Note: once viewed online, downloaded, printed, or otherwise in your possession, these materials become a public document subject to state public records law.

I request that these records be provided in electronic form in their native format. The Center for Media & Democracy is a non-profit public-interest organization, and the disclosure of the materials requested here would be in the public interest, greatly benefiting public understanding of the workings of government. As such a waiver of any fees is requested. If the waiver is not granted, we agree to pay any reasonable copying and

postage fees of not more than \$20.

If the cost would be greater than this amount, please notify us. Please provide a receipt indicating the charges for each document.

If you choose to deny this request in whole or part, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s). As allowed by Wisconsin law, please provide all portions of releasable material, even if there is redacted material on the page or record.

Lastly, please acknowledge receipt of this message.

All the best,

David Armiak  
Research Director  
The Center for Media and Democracy  
520 University Ave, Suite 305  
Madison, WI 53703  
[david@prwatch.org](mailto:david@prwatch.org)  
608-229-6801  
EXPOSEDbyCMD.org

**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** Michael Jahr <michael@badgerinstitute.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 4:18 PM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Free-market Coalition: 7 Ways To Help Workers, Economy During COVID Crisis



**AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY**  
WISCONSIN



**BADGER  
INSTITUTE**

Free Markets ▪ Opportunity ▪ Prosperity



**MacIver Institute**  
The Free Market Voice for Wisconsin

**WILL**  
WISCONSIN INSTITUTE  
FOR LAW & LIBERTY

## **Free Market Coalition: 7 Ways to Help Workers, Economy During Crisis**

In a matter of weeks, the coronavirus pandemic turned life in Wisconsin upside down. Schools are closed. Sporting events and concerts are cancelled. Huge segments of the economy are shuttered.

State and federal efforts have largely centered on slowing the spread of the virus and containing the economic fallout. The CARES Act, passed by Congress in late March, will dispense \$2 trillion in relief to workers, businesses, and states to weather what is hoped to be a brief economic shutdown.

Wisconsin is moving into the next phase of crafting the Badger State's policy response to the crisis. Gov. Tony Evers has used executive power to suspend

certain rules and regulations to address the emergency. We should expect this to continue, but the governor should exercise restraint, especially when dealing with constitutional provisions. The state Legislature also has a role to play and will need to move quickly.

A free-market coalition of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL), Americans for Prosperity-Wisconsin, the Badger Institute, and Maclver Institute have pooled their resources to offer some solutions and policy recommendations to assist the state's workers and businesses, provide more certainty during the crisis, and spur a quick and lasting recovery.

Here are seven recommendations, many with no cost, to help Wisconsin's economy and workers.

### **1. Place a moratorium on "non-essential" new regulations**

Gov. Evers' moratorium on all "non-essential" businesses should be accompanied by a moratorium on all "non-essential" bureaucratic rulemaking orders. Regulations are new laws that impact the business community. Compliance with them costs money and time. But despite the current public health emergency and forced closure of businesses, state agencies continue to issue guidance documents, notice public hearings, and propose and implement new regulations. Policymakers can provide small businesses with economic relief and more certainty if it would put a simple moratorium on new regulations that do not directly address the crisis.

### **2. Direct state agencies to review rules and allow for rapid cuts to red tape**

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson issued an executive order that directs all state agencies to review their rules, identify any red tape hindering the coronavirus response and put those regulations up on their website. Such regulations will

be automatically suspended by emergency order for 30 days. Wisconsin should adopt this efficient method of cutting red tape to respond to COVID-19.

### **3. Suspend or rescind energy, transportation, or environmental regulations that disrupt supply chains and unintentionally impact health and safety**

During this crisis, it is imperative that supplies and goods move quickly and efficiently throughout the state. Yet examples of red tape from across the country that inhibit COVID-19 response include vehicular height, length, and width limitations and operator hours of service restrictions for those involved in response, restrictions on single use plastic products, and air quality regulations impacting the operation of critical medical sterilization facilities. Wisconsin must suspend any similar regulations that are inhibiting our ability to respond to the pandemic.

### **4. Encourage home-based businesses**

Home-based businesses strengthen local communities and are especially vital during times of economic dislocation and social distancing. But red tape makes it difficult to start your own business – permitting, occupational licensing, zoning, etc. Wisconsin should consider legislation or executive action modeled after Arizona's 2018 Home-Based Business Fairness Act, which designates a category of "no impact" home-based businesses that can operate with a special permit or license. Under the law, these businesses that don't disrupt the residential area they're located in may operate without completing time-consuming permitting or zoning processes.

### **5. Waive new taxes on workers teleworking across state lines**

For workers that may temporarily reside in Wisconsin due to telework or otherwise, the result could mean a new tax liability. According to Wisconsin law, any nonresident individual temporarily in Wisconsin that happens to earn over

\$2,000 while working in Wisconsin and telecommuting is subject to Wisconsin's income tax. Also, employers may now maintain a presence here if their workers are telecommuting, and could be subject to Wisconsin's corporate income tax and individual tax withholding. This is especially relevant for businesses or workers who live near the state's border. For tax purposes, Wisconsin should treat telework during the COVID-19 pandemic as temporary and continue taxing businesses as they were before widespread and temporary telework began.

#### **6. Allow Work-Share requirements to apply to businesses of any size**

The Wisconsin Work-Share program allows companies to avoid layoffs by curtailing hours and allowing affected employees to draw pro-rated unemployment insurance. While this program is typically used by larger businesses, the state should make it easier for small- and medium-sized businesses to take advantage of the program during economic crises. This would allow employees to maintain employment during and following the crisis.

#### **7. Allow alcohol delivery and pickup options**

Despite being a state known for its beer, Wisconsin has a number of laws that severely limit the ability of people to access their favorite alcoholic beverages. This includes a ban on the sale of alcohol outside of licensed locations, and a prohibition on producers and retailers delivering alcoholic beverages with few exceptions. Some states have taken action already to allow for delivered alcohol during the outbreak. The Governor of Kentucky, for example, created a path for citizens over 21 to get home delivery of drinks in their original container. New York has taken a similar path. Wisconsin should follow suit.





**Free Markets ▪ Opportunity ▪ Prosperity**

We believe competitive free markets, limited government, private initiative and personal responsibility are essential to our democratic way of life. The Badger Institute is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and does not receive government funding. Our work is funded solely through tax-deductible gifts from foundations, companies and individuals. We appreciate your support.

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**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty <info@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** Hope, Sam  
**Subject:** Free Market Coalition: 7 Ways to Help Workers, Economy During COVID Crisis



## **7 Ways to Help Workers, Economy During COVID Crisis**

A free-market coalition of the **Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL)**, **Americans for Prosperity-Wisconsin**, the **Badger Institute**, and **MacIver Institute** have pooled their resources to provide some solutions and policy recommendations to assist the state's workers and businesses, provide more certainty during the crisis, and spur a quick and lasting recovery.

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Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty | 1139 East Knapp Street, Suite 725, Milwaukee, WI 53202

[Unsubscribe sam.hope@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sam.hope@legis.wisconsin.gov)

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Hope, Sam

**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services  
**Subject:** WED News Summary: Election lawsuits expected following yesterday's vote



### WED News Summary -- 8 April 2020

*Exclusively for WisPolitics Subscribers - DO NOT FORWARD*

Access the mobile version of the News Summary:  
<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/wed-news-summary-election-lawsuits-expected-following-yesterdays-vote/>

#### **STORY TOPICS**

- White house
- 2020
- Dnc
- Coronavirus
- State government
- Federal government
- Courts
- Culture
- Economy
- Education
- Elections
- Health care

#### **TOP STORIES**

**WI now waits for the spring election results -- and then the lawsuits**  
... [UW Prof. Burden: "In every election there's a stray story of a voter who got stuck in a long line or had difficulty getting their ballot, but those stories are pretty widespread in this election, and especially in some communities like Milwaukee." Illegitimate winner "will be stronger and easier to allege if the election's close."] ... Voting in most cities appeared to go smoothly, especially given the immense challenges ... But some voters, particularly those in Milwaukee, which includes a large portion of the state's African American population, faced snaking lines and long waits at far fewer polling places than usual. ... Statewide, [WEC found] more than 10,000 voters ... didn't receive requested absentee ballots by Election Day ... forced to [choose] between sitting out the election or voting in person and risking their health. ... [absentee] Voters who used [no-witness] option during the legal window ... can't have their absentee ballots counted ... barred from voting in person under Wisconsin law. ... election law experts say the conditions on the ground on election day would make a recount or lawsuits highly likely. ... however [since WI, US Supreme Courts] created some of the voting difficulties, [they may not] welcome any challenges based on voter suppression or disenfranchisement [depending on vote margins. [Attys. Maistelman, Esenberg, Poland] say those lawsuits are unlikely to be successful. ... Karofsky said it's too early to think about legal remedies ... Kelly [spokesman] said the campaign is preparing for the possibility of litigation if he wins. DPW's Beyers claims "hundreds" of voters who did not receive absentees. Some voters, Madison deputy city clerk Verbick, Milwaukee Elections chief Albrecht

- Law and order

- Minnesota

- Retail

- Small business

- Telecommunications

- Tourism

- Transportation

- Editorials

- Columns

comment. By Vetterkind, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL  
<https://madison.com/wsj/bd1ba279-363e-5f93-8349-4933d4fcd96.html>

**Madison has 66 polling sites on Election Day, Milwaukee has five. What's the deal?**

... Around Madison, there have seemingly been few, if any, voters spotted waiting ... clerk's office reported it issued 87,237 absentee ballots to voters who requested them. ... has only seen a 28% drop in the number of its polling locations -- a small difference when compared to three of the state's other large cities [Milwaukee 5 of 180, GB 2 of 31, Kenosha 10 of 22] ... Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl credited the city's commitment to staffing more polling locations than other cities "because anything more than a 15-minute wait in line is unacceptable by our standards." Milwaukee's Albrecht blamed 1.5-2.5 hour wait on not knowing exact number of WNG support until Monday afternoon. Jeffreys for GB Mayor Genrich blamed 15 sites pulled out for worker shortage, forcing consolidation at sites with "Bigger parking lots, bigger spaces for people to stand," only 50 poll workers. Kenosha Clerk Salas cited only 95 workers, plus about 25 WNG, "It was more of our staff managing the set-ups of polling locations because we were so busy with absentee ballots as well." By Reilly, CAPITAL TIMES

<https://madison.com/ct/8868bacf-6697-5cf4-aa4f-d85fb37cf846.html>

**WI Election: Voters Forced to Choose Between Protecting Their Health and Their Civic Duty**

... the first to hold a major election with in-person voting since stay-at-home orders were widely instituted ... Across [Milwaukee], lines stretched for blocks even before 7 a.m. local time. ... Milwaukee[ans] were forced to choose between following public health orders to stay home and stand in line for hours at one of just five polling places ... many of the locations were in heavily immigrant neighborhoods, predominantly Spanish or Hmong, and the only signs posted were in English. ... an unmitigated mess ... [WEC] ordered municipal clerks not to release any results until April 13, in compliance with a federal court ruling. WI Dems wanted to postpone or extend absentee voting, but GOP blocked both in court. Hence, expect low Dem turnout when a crucial State Supreme Court seat is on the ballot. ... [Sen. Schachtner] who is her county's chief medical examiner brought a homemade face mask to the polls because she didn't want to take a surgical mask from her co-workers ... everywhere in between, Wisconsinites reported an array of problems with absentee ballots. Some didn't arrive, some couldn't be legally witnessed and others were afraid to venture outside their homes [to postmark ballots] ... an election almost certain to be tarred as illegitimate and contested by whichever side loses ... ["because of the politicalization," Schachtner said] ... especially if [conservative Justice Kelly] wins a full 10-year term. ... [Evers, Vos, Fitzgerald] epic and predictable failure. ... follows a decade of bitter partisan wrangling that saw [ex-guv] Walker and his G.O.P. clinically attack and defang the state's Democratic institutions, starting with organized labor and continuing with voting laws making it far harder for poor and black residents of urban areas to vote. Outagamie Dem chair Lederer touted volunteers witnessing transporting ballots, saw low turnout. Sheboygan GOP chair Gasper saw "fair opportunity to vote. Nobody's having a problem voting. I went by a number of

our polling places and there's no lines out in the country." [FdL GOP chair Bishop dittoed Gasper. Photo of Dem Leader Hintz, who did not vote today because he did not receive his absentee ballot.] ... estimated that hundreds, if not thousands, of voters in his Oshkosh district alone had not received the ballots they asked for, leaving them in a predicament over whether to vote in person and risk contracting or spreading the coronavirus. Dr. Luhn said his ballot was mailed March 23 but had not arrived, "Yesterday, I gave up. I called the election commission. They put you on extended hold," would not go to the polls on Tuesday out of concern for his family, patients and staffers. Gasper fretted fraud in Madison-Milwaukee, said Dems will cry "voter suppression" when city voters had more opportunity than rural voters. Appleton's Swanson self-isolating at home, dismayed to see witness req on her first-ever absentee. WEC, run by ex-GOP lawmaker, suggested a virtual witness then she could leave ballot outside for witness to sign; she posted her ballot April 3. But Tuesday night, WEC site did not list it as received. Rehash Evers blocked attempt to postpone election. WEC chair Knudson: "If they haven't got their ballot in the mail," he said, "they are going to have to go to the polling place tomorrow." Sawyer GOP chair Miller downplayed risk, "If you can go out and get fast food, you can go vote curbside. It's the same procedure." Rehash stakes in Supreme Court election, Hagedorn's and Prosser's narrow wins, Trump endorsing Kelly, Karofsky win means chance to flip court in 2023. Polls close at 9 p.m. EST, but court ruled ballots cannot be counted until April 13. Knudson: "Instead of having Iowa-style results where no one knows what to expect, if we stick to this we're going to have a clean election tomorrow but we're not going to report the results until the following week." By NEW YORK TIMES

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/us/politics/wisconsin-primary-election.html>

### **DHS: 2,578 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases In Wisconsin**

92 People Have Died ... 28,512 people have tested negative [138 more cases, 9 more deaths, 1,938 more negative tests since Monday] ... 745 people have been hospitalized. [29% of cases] ... cities are seeing the highest number of positive cases ... confirmed cases in 60 of 72 counties, except Burnett, Forest, Green Lake, Langlade, Lincoln, Pepin, Polk, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vernon and Washburn. By WPR

<https://www.wpr.org/dhs-2-578-confirmed-covid-19-cases-wisconsin>

#####  
**STORY TOPICS**  
#####

### **WHITE HOUSE <sup>^top^</sup>**

- Trump criticizes WHO as U.S. death toll tops 12,000 ... When asked about Wisconsin's long voting lines today, Trump said "I don't know anything about their lines. I don't know anything about their voting. I love the state. I won the state."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/coronavirus-pandemic-covid-19-latest-news-2020-04-07/>

## 2020 <sup>^top^</sup>

- Rain, hail, lawsuits and the coronavirus crisis fail to halt Wisconsin election, Voters showed up wearing homemade face masks and plastic garbage bags ... Voters here on Tuesday braved the most grueling of conditions -- with some fearing they were risking their lives -- to take part in one of the most dangerous elections the United States has seen. ... But crowds swarmed to the polls, with some voters saying they had no other choice if they wanted to vote. ... Wisconsin drew national attention for the dumbfounding decision ... similar contradiction played out at the White House on Tuesday, where a president who advocated social distancing and stay-at-home orders, supported the Republican-led effort ... "Mail ballots are a very dangerous thing for this country because they're cheaters," Donald Trump said at a White House briefing. "They go and collect them. They're fraudulent in many cases." ... came on the heels of 24 hours of disarray that saw Evers, a Democrat, issue an executive order on Monday [followed by court challenges, 2 Supreme rulings blocking Evers order and limiting absentee order] ... DPW Chair Wikler: "I think whatever the thought is of what Republican leadership did today, it's going to change significantly in retrospect when people learn they were exposed to coronavirus at polling places. Weeks and months from now, this will be a completely different conversation," expects a "firestorm of litigation." Mayor Barrett: "Every announcement about stay home, social distancing, stay away from people. There is no scientific exemption for voting when it comes to Covid-19, and to pretend that there is, is insanity." Sen. LaTonya Johnson: "The people who live in Milwaukee, they matter. They're our constituents, too." Milwaukee McDonald's worker Gardner: "I took the risk because it is my right, and I want to try to make something better for future generations. This will definitely be a story that my kids are telling their children about, my grandkids. ... This will be something in history."

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/07/wisconsin-voters-brave-long-lines-coronavirus-172322>

- Wisconsin Election Held Amid Virus Fears: Here's What You Need To Know  
<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/07/828055678>

- Wisconsinites brave coronavirus fears and long lines to vote ... "Although I remain deeply concerned about the public health implications of voting in-person today, I am overwhelmed by the bravery, resilience, and heroism of those who are defending our democracy by showing up to vote, working the polls, and reporting on this election," Evers said in a statement on Tuesday. Rehash DHS Sec. Palm warning from Monday. Milwaukee Election's chief Albrecht, voters Oliveira and Meadows comment.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/wisconsin-primary-election-polls-close-voting/>

- Joe Biden says Wisconsin primary should not have been conducted using in-person ballots ... in an interview on CNN with Chris Cuomo, who has been broadcasting from his basement after testing positive for the coronavirus. "It should have been all mail ballots. It should have been moved in the way that five other states have done it. The idea we didn't have enough poll workers in what, over 100 and some polling places in Milwaukee? "This was all about the Republican legislature pushing really, really hard to maintain and make sure they had an election. I think they know that low turnout affects their interests."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/04/07/coronavirus-latest-news/#link-B4T4CALWIRD53EFSI4H56NX2K>

- John Nichols: Bernie Sanders Is As Frustrated as You Are, With a pandemic radically reshaping our politics and our economy, the candidate sat down for an exclusive interview with The Nation.  
<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/exclusive-interview-sanders-coronavirus/>

## DNC <sup>^top^</sup>



- DNC chair hits decision to hold Wisconsin elections: 'This was a dark day for our democracy' ...  
"This was a dark day for our democracy. In the middle of one of the worst public health emergencies in modern history, the Republican Party forced the people of Wisconsin to choose between their safety and their vote," Perez said in a statement. "The craven self-interest of the GOP knows no bounds."

<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/491698-dnc-chair-hits-decision-to-hold-wisconsin-elections-this-was-a-dark-day-for>

## **CORONAVIRUS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- COVID-19 deaths near 100 with plans to house sick at State Fair Park

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/health/2020/04/07/coronavirus-wisconsin-death-toll-nears-100/2965117001/>

- State Lab Of Hygiene Eliminates COVID-19 Test Backlog Though Supplies Still Limited, By Working With Hospital Labs Around Wisconsin, State Lab Says Testing Capacity Has Increased 30-Fold

<https://www.wpr.org/state-lab-hygiene-eliminates-covid-19-test-backlog-though-supplies-still-limited>

- UW Hospital to treat COVID-19 patients with survivor blood starting next week

[https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/health-med-fit/uw-hospital-to-treat-covid-19-patients-with-survivor-blood-starting-next-week/article\\_c63ecbc5-7296-550d-99e8-e37dd1170551.html](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/health-med-fit/uw-hospital-to-treat-covid-19-patients-with-survivor-blood-starting-next-week/article_c63ecbc5-7296-550d-99e8-e37dd1170551.html)

- Coronavirus in Wisconsin: A family upended, again; a musician copes; a trucker keeps on truckin'  
<https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/2020/04/08/coronavirus-wisconsin-coping-covid-19-pandemic-brian-amy-ortner-tom-jordan-robin-grapa/5094872002/>

- Rep. Donna Shalala offers her take on coronavirus pandemic ... calling for better leadership from President Donald Trump, as well as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. ... was recently part of a historic \$2 trillion ... "CARES" act. Answers: What aspects of the CARES act are you most proud of? ... Where does the CARES Act fall short? ... A lot of what seems to be in this stimulus package doesn't coincide with typical Republican rhetoric. Why is that? ... Why were college students left out of the payments in the CARES act? ... How will this impact students who are graduating now and entering the job market during a possible economic crisis? ... Are politicians dropping the politics and fighting coronavirus? ... Up until the past few weeks, the president hadn't really made any national statements in support of addressing the coronavirus. When did the House really start to take this seriously? ... What sorts of things have you heard from the president that have been unhelpful during this pandemic? ... How would you characterize Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' leadership during this pandemic? ... What have you learned from your experience as the Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton that is helping you lead now in the House? ... What do you think will be the long term political impacts of this pandemic? ... How might this affect the election in November? ... What will be different when we emerge?

<https://www.themiamihurricane.com/2020/04/07/rep-donna-shalala-offers-her-take-on-coronavirus-pandemic/>

- The coronavirus is infecting and killing black Americans at an alarmingly high rate

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/07/coronavirus-is-infecting-killing-black-americans-an-alarmingly-high-rate-post-analysis-shows>

## **STATE GOVERNMENT** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Vos wore protective gear as a volunteer poll worker, said 'you are incredibly safe to go out'

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/04/08/wisconsin-elections-robin-vos-draws-criticism-ppe-voting-remarks/2967319001/>

- Courtney O'Brien: Scott Walker Sounds Off on Gov. Evers' Incompetence ... "This shouldn't be a partisan issue," former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said on Fox News Monday night. "The governor should have stepped in weeks ago. But unfortunately, weeks ago, the governor himself was saying there should be an election, and less than two weeks ago he said he couldn't do anything," Walker recalled. "Then just days ago he called for a special session and today he switched yet again saying they were going to postpone. It's just a huge mess for everyone all across the state of Wisconsin," he added.

<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/cortneyobrien/2020/04/07/-n2566461>

- Scott Walker to Newsmax TV: 'Breakdown in Leadership' Cause of Wisconsin Primary 'Mess'

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/scott/2020/04/07/id/961747/>

## **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Tricia Zunker says special election should be all mail-in ballots

<https://kbjr6.com/2020/04/07/tricia-zunker>

## **COURTS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Supreme Court stops extra time for ballots in first COVID-19 ruling, The decision is first of what could be many related to changes in how states conduct elections amid the pandemic

<https://www.rollcall.com/2020/04/06/supreme-court-stops-extra-time-for-ballots-in-first-covid-19-ruling/>

- SCOTUS Just Set the Stage for Republicans to Steal the Election, In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court blocked Wisconsin from extending the absentee voting deadline, disenfranchising thousands and creating a terrible precedent.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/scotus-wisconsin-election/>

- WI Supreme Court blocks governor from delaying state's primary

<https://www.axios.com/8daa8d7d-468d-4377-8a04-aca91f215ce3.html>

- Wisconsin Supreme Court Orders for Election to Take Place as Planned, Blocks Gov. Evers' Executive Order

<https://shepherdexpress.com/news/happening-now/wisconsin-supreme-court-orders-for-election-to-take-place-as/>

- Kelly's Flip-flop on Voter-Purge Recusal at Issue in Court Race

<https://shepherdexpress.com/news/features/kellys-flip-flop-on-voter-purge-recusal-at-issue-in-court-r/>

- Parties ready for court battles over COVID-19 coronavirus-era voting rights

<https://madison.com/wsj/8f67f495-0271-5c59-a5bb-f9bd654c1801.html>

## **CULTURE** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Woman with China connections describes lockdown and recovery

[https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/covid-19/woman-with-china-connections-describes-lock-down-and-recovery/article\\_f21cdbe2-192e-5ad0-8011-548ec8bedc6b.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/covid-19/woman-with-china-connections-describes-lock-down-and-recovery/article_f21cdbe2-192e-5ad0-8011-548ec8bedc6b.html)

## **ECONOMY** <sup>^top^</sup>

- How much business was lost with business closures? [UW] Report says 52% drop in foot traffic  
<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/money/2020/04/08/report-wisconsin-businesses-saw-half-foot-traffic-late-march-than-previous-year-due-covid-19-pandemi/2944647001/>
- Hobby Lobby lays off nearly 650, including Rib Mountain  
<https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/2020/03/12/wausau-coronavirus-updates-covid-19-breaking-news/5032562002/>
- Women Are Losing More Jobs In Coronavirus Shutdowns ... [USDOL] says more than 700,000 jobs were eliminated in the first wave of pandemic layoffs last month. Nearly 60% of those jobs were held by women.  
<https://www.wpr.org/women-are-losing-more-jobs-coronavirus-shutdowns>

## **EDUCATION** <sup>^top^</sup>

- In letter to administration, UW grad union demands maintained hourly pay, rent flexibility  
<https://madison.com/ct/2458bacb-0c71-532a-9d52-60bed5b605e1.html>
- Madison School District considers requiring fewer credits for graduation amid pandemic  
<https://madison.com/ct/4fa0dd52-aa89-5d2f-9a48-20cbf1066f04.html>
- Hudson schools seeking new ways to make the grade  
<https://www.rivertowns.net/news/education/5032936-Hudson-schools-seeking-new-ways-to-make-the-grade>
- UW-Madison opens dorm to health care workers serving on front lines of COVID-19  
<https://madison.com/ws/c3c1942d-f2d7-57c4-b7c2-a2e009ed9f5c.html>
- Four corners of an empty campus: How UW communities are adjusting to college life during COVID-19  
<https://madison.com/ct/30d9331c-031a-535a-afae-3f5cae831e8b.html>

## **ELECTIONS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Unofficial turnout numbers released by Wisconsin counties, cities: Madison clerk tweeted 50.3% yesterday w/o outstanding absentees, 66% in 2016. In Rock County, the county clerk shared that over 9,600 voters cast their ballots in person at the polls Tuesday, and over 32,000 votes so far either came from absentee ballots or early voting.  
<https://www.nbc15.com/content/news/569467391.html>
- Milwaukee Reports Lower Than Expected Voter Turnout: At least 75,292 Milwaukee voters cast a ballot in the April 7th Spring Election. ... could grow by as much as 40,223 as more absentee ballots are received in advance of an April 13th deadline.  
<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2020/04/07/milwaukee-reports-lower-than-expected-voter-turnout/>
- Wisconsin Polls Close But Hundreds Of Voters Remain In Line ... Milwaukee, Green Bay Polling Places Have Long Wait Times With Few Polls Open  
<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-polls-close-hundreds-voters-remain-line>

- Steady turnout and frustrated voters at Kenosha polling places  
[https://www.kenosha.com/news/local/steady-turnout-and-frustrated-voters-at-kenosha-polling-places/article\\_8c02fa2d-c811-5318-8f3b-20183e10794c.html](https://www.kenosha.com/news/local/steady-turnout-and-frustrated-voters-at-kenosha-polling-places/article_8c02fa2d-c811-5318-8f3b-20183e10794c.html)
- Residents take to polls in makeshift PPE, criticize election decision  
[https://www.kenosha.com/news/local/residents-take-to-polls-in-makeshift-ppe-criticize-election-decision/article\\_8a0aafdb-78a1-5829-ae2c-57b32179c1c1.html](https://www.kenosha.com/news/local/residents-take-to-polls-in-makeshift-ppe-criticize-election-decision/article_8a0aafdb-78a1-5829-ae2c-57b32179c1c1.html)
- 'Far from ideal': Madison, Dane County vote in first coronavirus-era election  
<https://madison.com/ct/7bf7ad0c-eccb-5c84-b98f-137b4650323d.html>
- La Crosse County sees early voter surge, short on workers  
[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/voting-during-a-pandemic-la-crosse-county-sees-early-voter-surge-short-on-workers/article\\_d9dfa165-ca6b-5d18-93e4-2175b3709c05.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/voting-during-a-pandemic-la-crosse-county-sees-early-voter-surge-short-on-workers/article_d9dfa165-ca6b-5d18-93e4-2175b3709c05.html)
- Despite coronavirus concerns, voters head to polls  
[https://www.dailyunion.com/news/despite-coronavirus-concerns-voters-head-to-polls/article\\_d5bb4022-6217-5a7f-a80c-04cc9db880a4.html](https://www.dailyunion.com/news/despite-coronavirus-concerns-voters-head-to-polls/article_d5bb4022-6217-5a7f-a80c-04cc9db880a4.html)
- An election day unlike any other: Wisconsin voters vote in the middle of a coronavirus pandemic  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/04/07/wisconsin-voters-vote-midst-coronavirus-pandemic/2960420001/>
- Why Does Madison Have More Voting Sites Than Milwaukee?  
<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2020/04/07/why-does-madison-have-more-voting-sites-than-milwaukee/>
- Wisconsin voters risk their health to be heard: numerous voters comment.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/politics/amp-stories/wisconsin-voters-primary-coronavirus/>
- Long lines, anger and fear of infection: Wisconsin proceeds with elections under court order  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/93727b34-78c7-11ea-b6ff-597f170df8f8\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/93727b34-78c7-11ea-b6ff-597f170df8f8_story.html)
- Beloit voters face long lines in 'historic' primary election amid COVID-19 pandemic ... All election day ballots were cast in Beloit via drive-through format, with a steady stream of vehicles snaking around downtown and leading to City Hall, the city's only polling place due to a lack of poll workers amid the COVID-19 disruption. Wait times in Beloit ranged from a half hour to over an hour throughout the day, and Beloit police set up barricades to handle the high volume of vehicles.  
[https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/covid-19/beloit-voters-face-long-lines-in-historic-primary-election-amid-covid-19-pandemic/article\\_ae1e36a7-9297-502c-8b7b-d6acbe06bdf2.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/covid-19/beloit-voters-face-long-lines-in-historic-primary-election-amid-covid-19-pandemic/article_ae1e36a7-9297-502c-8b7b-d6acbe06bdf2.html)
- Wisconsin's pandemic election: Long waits, face masks as voters go to polls  
<https://www.wisconsinwatch.org/2020/04/masks-and-lines-wisconsin-pandemic-election/>
- Milwaukee voters face wait times over 2 hours  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/04/07/wisconsin-election-milwaukee-voters-brave-long-wait-lines-polls/2962228001/>
- Their Wisconsin ballots never arrived. So they risked a pandemic. Or stayed home.  
<https://www.wisconsinwatch.org/2020/04/ballots-never-arrived-pandemic-or-stay-home/>

- Election day arrives with voters still waiting for absentee ballots

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/04/07/state-officials-counting-absentee-voting-reduce-risk-tuesday-election-but-problems-getting-ballots-m/2953676001/>

- Masks and ballots on a 'surreal' election day in Middleton amid COVID-19 pandemic

<https://madison.com/wsj/30cea989-7cf4-506c-8d7c-42dfedacbc.html>

- 'It's Surreal': Local Wisconsin Officials Work To Keep Election Safe Amid COVID-19 Outbreak, Elections Officials Across The State Say They're Doing The Best They Can To Serve Voters ... At the 66 polling places around the city of Madison, they've been able to provide 12 masks per polling place -- not enough for each poll worker, [clerk] Witzel-Behl said, but something. ... Engineering Department installed plexiglass barriers, poll workers assisting curbside voting are wearing plastic shield masks and hand sanitizer dispensers wait for voters when they arrive and when they leave. Gloves are also available for poll workers, Witzel-Behl said, but they've been clear [CDC warns against] false sense of security [only 1,700 of usual 3,000 poll worker shifts] ... Voting booths are sanitized after each use and voters have been encouraged to bring their own ballpoint pens. ... a common practice in other municipalities such as Eau Claire ... Wausau city clerk Leslie Kremer said several hand-washing stations are available at five polling sites and sneeze guards are set up ... [Cable] election officials are exclusively relying on curbside voting ... Yet some city officials are worried about voter turnout despite efforts ... Reed-Kadow, deputy city clerk of Manitowoc, said they're relying on many new poll workers this election because their more seasoned poll workers tend to be older ... [Milwaukee had 170] of the more than 2,400 Wisconsin National Guard members across the state that have been deployed to help cover a shortage of poll workers in nearly 60 percent of Wisconsin municipalities. ... [city clerk] Owczarski said he hadn't heard much support for in-person voting going forward Tuesday but, "on the other hand, there's an absolute determination to comply with the law," he said.

<https://www.wpr.org/its-surreal-local-wisconsin-officials-work-keep-election-safe-amid-covid-19-outbreak>

- Polls are closed in Wisconsin, but we won't know election results until next week ... While [WEC] told clerks they could count the number of ballots on Election Night, they should not tally votes Tuesday at the polling place and instead wait until next week Monday after 4 p.m. ... many voters across the state voted absentee ... latest statewide figures from WEC show 1.28 million were requested and 864,750, or 67.4%, were returned, while 9,388 had yet to be mailed as of Tuesday morning.

<https://madison.com/ct/6aa247e2-77c5-56ef-a08b-4a730f2c5c1c.html>

- Gilbert analysis: Absentee voting is especially high in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Dane counties. ... This is not a surprise. These three counties represent the areas with the most coronavirus cases ... may also be the three most politically mobilized counties in Wisconsin. ... historically cast more of their vote by absentee ballot than any other counties ... counties that are generating a disproportionately low share of the absentee vote are concentrated in northern and western Wisconsin, especially in [GOP-leaning GB] ... If the absentee vote in every county perfectly mirrored its final vote in last year's razor-thin, conservative vs. liberal Supreme Court race, then the regional tilt of the absentee vote reported so far would produce a narrow lead for Judge Karofsky of slightly less than one percentage point. ... a very big hypothetical. ... could certainly be offset by election-day voting ... geographic distribution of the absentee vote is the most concrete clue we have right now ... [detailed analysis] ... Absentee voting [has never] played a bigger and more unpredictable role in a Wisconsin election.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/analysis/2020/04/07/wisconsin-election-absentee-voting-highest-milwaukee-waukesha-and-dane-counties/2961131001/>

- Election workers make voting 'as safe as can be' in Douglas County

<https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/government-and-politics/5033726-Election-workers-make-voting-as-safe-as-can-be-in-Douglas-County>

- Dodge County polling brisk and safe: Measures ensure low-contact voting

[https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/dodge-county-polling-brisk-and-safe-measures-ensure-low-contact-voting/article\\_a3554bfa-f3dc-54d7-bf7d-da56292fc202.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/dodge-county-polling-brisk-and-safe-measures-ensure-low-contact-voting/article_a3554bfa-f3dc-54d7-bf7d-da56292fc202.html)

- Voters in Wisconsin wear gloves and face masks to practice their rights safely

<https://kbjr6.com/2020/04/07/superior-voters-anxiously-head-to-polls-for-presidential-primary/>

- Clerks optimistic safety measures protected voters, poll workers ... Even with that unsettling backdrop [many masked voters] in the midst of a statewide safer-at-home order, county clerks expressed confidence that municipal officials throughout west-central Wisconsin had done all they could to keep participants safe ... "We took all the safety measures we could to make everything as safe as possible so no one was denied the right to vote," Eau Claire County Clerk Janet Loomis said, referring to the hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, alcohol wipes, individual pens and tape marks for social distancing that were omnipresent at polling sites. ... [EC clerk Riepl reported] more voters than usual used curbside voting ... Trempealeau County Clerk Paul Syverson visited a number of polling sites Tuesday and came away impressed ... seeing a number of poll workers wearing face shields donated by Sparta-based Spartek. ... town of Unity set up a drive-thru voting plan ... almost every voter Syverson observed in the town of Albion wore a mask. ... joined other regional clerks in raving about the last-minute help provided by the Guard ... "The National Guard was a huge help," Dunn County Clerk Julie Wathke said. ... "I don't feel any worse about it than being on the ambulance every day," [ECFD paramedic, poll volunteer Sordahl] said. "It didn't seem like any increased risk from my day-to-day job." ... After all the work municipal clerks did to prepare for the elections, [DunnCo Clerk] Cook [who had emailed Evers, leaders to urge postponement] said she was not in favor of the elections postponement Evers ordered Monday ... citing an example of Barron voters being handed masks made of paper towels with rubber bands stapled to them. ... "We got all of our ballots out that met the deadlines," said Riepl, who didn't know why some wouldn't have reached voters in time to submit them. ... With so much news coverage about the late-breaking changes regarding Wisconsin's elections, Cook said, "People who wanted to know what was going on know what was going on." ... "It's strange," Loomis said. "I don't think anyone's ever seen anything like this election."

<https://www.leadertelegram.com/e2dd6962-6f7d-5b60-9ac7-6c73c4757f6b.html>

- Scenes from One of Milwaukee's Five Polling Places

<https://shepherdexpress.com/news/happening-now/scenes-from-a-milwaukee-polling-place-on-tuesday-april-7/>

- Election day in Wisconsin was chaotic, so naturally people were tweeting about it, including Barbra Streisand and Michelle Obama

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/milwaukee/2020/04/07/election-day-wisconsin-chaotic-so-people-tweeted/2963557001/>

## **HEALTH CARE** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Don't take new drugs for COVID-19 without consulting a doctor, local officials say

[https://www.leadertelegram.com/covid-19/don-t-take-new-drugs-for-covid-19-without-consulting-a-doctor-local-officials-say/article\\_91534ba1-080b-5c8d-bf45-68623f5a9953.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/covid-19/don-t-take-new-drugs-for-covid-19-without-consulting-a-doctor-local-officials-say/article_91534ba1-080b-5c8d-bf45-68623f5a9953.html)

- Gundersen temporarily furloughing, reducing hours of some staff due to COVID-19

[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/gundersen-temporarily-furloughing-reducing-hours-of-some-staff-due-to-covid-19/article\\_b2beb4ee-c65c-5e5b-bbc5-cb9c3c23c80d.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/gundersen-temporarily-furloughing-reducing-hours-of-some-staff-due-to-covid-19/article_b2beb4ee-c65c-5e5b-bbc5-cb9c3c23c80d.html)

- As Pandemic Spreads, Officials Expect It Will Strain Finances For Wisconsin's Rural Hospitals  
<https://www.wpr.org/pandemic-spreads-officials-expect-it-will-strain-finances-wisconsins-rural-hospitals>

- Minnesota rural hospitals buckle under weight of pandemic  
<https://www.rivertowns.net/business/healthcare/5033128-Minnesota-rural-hospitals-buckle-under-weight-of-pandemic>

- Competing Hospitals Cooperate to Meet the Crisis ... In hard-hit New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has created a command center to coordinate a "surge and flex" strategy to redistribute resources among the state's hospitals in real time. ... Washington state, for example, shipped 400 ventilators back to the Strategic National Stockpile to make them available to other states. Oregon sent 140 ventilators to New York. Many hospitals around the country fear that they wouldn't be able to handle a COVID-19 surge on their own, according to a ... [HHS] survey of 323 hospitals in 46 states, noted shortages of beds, equipment and staff.  
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/04/08/competing-hospitals-cooperate-to-meet-the-crisis>

## **LAW AND ORDER** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Dodge County Sheriff offers details about jail precautions  
[https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/dodge-county-sheriff-offers-details-about-jail-precautions/article\\_7d7bf54e-14ab-5078-afe4-8a25261b87f8.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/dodge-county-sheriff-offers-details-about-jail-precautions/article_7d7bf54e-14ab-5078-afe4-8a25261b87f8.html)

## **MINNESOTA** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Walz activates Minnesota National Guard to combat flooding  
<https://kbjr6.com/2020/04/08/gov-walz-activates-minnesota-national-guard-to-combat-flooding/>

## **RETAIL** <sup>^top^</sup>

- WisEye Morning Minute: WGA President [Scholz] on the State of Grocery Stores  
[https://madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/wiseye-morning-minute-wga-president-on-the-state-of-grocery-stores/video\\_27ff07ec-325c-50c8-9502-a130b09f947b.html](https://madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/wiseye-morning-minute-wga-president-on-the-state-of-grocery-stores/video_27ff07ec-325c-50c8-9502-a130b09f947b.html)

## **SMALL BUSINESS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Wheel and Sprocket gears up for bike season while adjusting to pandemic guidelines  
<https://www.tmj4.com/open/wheel-and-sprocket-gears-up-for-bike-season-while-adjusting-to-pandemic-guidelines>

- Why booze but not books? Thousands of businesses ask state if they're essential  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/04/07/why-booze-but-not-books-thousands-of-businesses.html>

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** <sup>^top^</sup>

- 'Everyone has to have it': Broadband gap leaves rural Wisconsin behind

[https://www.dailyunion.com/news/covid-19/everyone-has-to-have-it-broadband-gap-leaves-rural-wisconsin-behind/article\\_a3dcba93-d429-506a-ba05-3d011ea5e501.html](https://www.dailyunion.com/news/covid-19/everyone-has-to-have-it-broadband-gap-leaves-rural-wisconsin-behind/article_a3dcba93-d429-506a-ba05-3d011ea5e501.html)

## **TOURISM** [^top^](#)

- PGA says it's not postponing Ryder Cup at Wisconsin's Whistling Straits

<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/04/07/pga-says-its-not-postponing-ryder-cup-at.html>

## **TRANSPORTATION** [^top^](#)

- In-person services restricted at Wisconsin DMVs starting Wednesday

<https://www.tmj4.com/news/coronavirus/in-person-services-restricted-at-wisconsin-dmvs-starting-wednesday>

## **EDITORIALS** [^top^](#)

- BDN editorial: Politics must bow to reality, Everyday partisan differences are irrelevant in matters of science. ... Let the coronavirus crisis be a guide. It doesn't care what you believe. But it does have vulnerabilities to scientific engagement. Politics bows to reality.

[https://www.beloitdailynews.com/opinion/editorials/politics-must-bow-to-reality/article\\_69149b5c-601a-505f-8d59-c0bbac7e717a.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/opinion/editorials/politics-must-bow-to-reality/article_69149b5c-601a-505f-8d59-c0bbac7e717a.html)

- ChiTrib editorial: The hot mess in Wisconsin over its primary shows why our elections need to modernize

<https://madison.com/wsj/32c26128-f39c-5f3f-9554-61399ed328b9.html>

- CT Editorial: Maintaining local democracy in a time of crisis

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/editorial/editorial-maintaining-local-democracy-in-a-time-of-crisis/article\\_09471d55-3a6a-584e-98ac-791ea16312b2.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/editorial/editorial-maintaining-local-democracy-in-a-time-of-crisis/article_09471d55-3a6a-584e-98ac-791ea16312b2.html)

## **COLUMNS** [^top^](#)

- Dave Zweifel: Republicans disregard their own pleas for unity

<https://madison.com/ct/e9e08049-9f88-5914-8667-be91b1f8c274.html>

- Eric Levitz: The Wisconsin GOP Is Risking Voters' Lives to Protect Its Minority Rule

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/04/wisconsin-primary-elections-supreme-court-overs-democracy.html>

- M.D. Kittle: Representative democracy goes on: Amid liberal recriminations and dour reporting of fears in the polling place, Wisconsin's spring election went on as scheduled Tuesday.

<https://empowerwisconsin.org/representative-democracy-goes-on/>

- James Rowen: The Republican Death Cult

<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2020/04/07/op-ed-the-republican-death-cult/>

- James Wigderson: Robin Vos goes viral (pun intended): The bizarre picture of Vos assuring everyone that it was safe to vote while looking like an assistant in Dr. No's laboratory went around the world, with even the British tabloids The Daily Mail and The Independent reporting on it.

<https://rightwisconsin.com/2020/04/07/robin-vos-goes-viral-pun-intended>



- Dan O'Donnell: Wisconsin's Faux Outrage Election ... Democrats were perfectly fine with in-person voting for weeks when Evers insisted on it, and only shrieked about how dangerous it supposedly was when they could blame Republicans for it.

<http://www.maciverinstitute.com/2020/04/wisconsins-faux-outrage-election/>

- Dave Cieslewicz: Killing to win ... let's not mince words here. Vos and Fitzgerald literally have placed the very lives of thousands of Wisconsinites in jeopardy just so they can suppress voter turnout to increase the chances of electing a radical right-winger to a full term on the state high court. It's entirely possible that someone will die because of it. I didn't think these guys could get any lower. They found a way.

<https://isthmus.com/opinion/citizen-dave/killing-to-win/>

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## Hope, Sam

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**From:** WisPolitics-Publishing  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 8:09 AM  
**To:** WisPolitics Notification Services  
**Subject:** WED AM Update: Madison sees higher in-person turnout than Milwaukee



### WED AM Update -- 8 April 2020

*Exclusively for WisPolitics Subscribers - DO NOT FORWARD*

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[The Madison Club](#)

*From WisPolitics.com ...*

**-- Roughly 2,700 more voters in Madison turned out to cast ballots in person than in the city of Milwaukee, with current totals from both cities eclipsing turnout figures from the April 2019 election.**

The Madison municipal clerk's office tweeted turnout stood at 87,552, just over 50 percent of registered voters.

That includes 65,997 voters who returned absentee ballots, good for a return rate of 75 percent, according to the tweet.

Those figures indicate in-person turnout stood at 21,555.

In April 2019, the clerk's office said 79,453 ballots were cast in Madison.

Meanwhile, the City of Milwaukee Elections Commission reported an in-person turnout of 18,803 and said 56,489 voters had returned absentee ballots as of 8:20 p.m. last night.

Overall, Milwaukee saw roughly 12,000 fewer ballots cast than Madison, though those figures are subject to change as absentee ballots can be counted through April 13 so long as they were postmarked by yesterday.

The return rate for absentee ballots in Milwaukee stands at 58.4 percent, but commission Executive Director Neil Albrecht said he expects that figure will grow to around 70 percent-75 percent.

In April 2019, a total 75,292 voters in the city cast ballots. In April 2016, during the last presidential election, the tally was 167,765.

See the tweets from the Madison municipal clerk:

<https://twitter.com/MadisonWIClerk/status/1247818110524162049>

<https://twitter.com/MadisonWIClerk/status/1247751388903292929>

See the City of Milwaukee data:

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/election#.Xo3FxFNKjiA>

**-- As the polls closed, clerks reported more than three-fourths of the absentee ballots sent to voters had been returned.**

As of 8 p.m. yesterday, a record 1.3 million ballots had been sent to voters, who returned 990,129 of them, or 77.7 percent. Absentee ballots postmarked by yesterday can be counted so long as they're received by 4 p.m. Monday.

Overall turnout in last year's state Supreme Court race was 1.2 million, while more than 2.1 million votes were cast in April 2016, when both parties had contested presidential primaries on the ballot.

The numbers from the Elections Commission didn't include in-person voting numbers from yesterday.

The latest update also shows 12,736 ballots requested weren't mailed or hadn't yet been logged as mailed. Voters yesterday complained they didn't get the absentee ballots they had requested, forcing them to go to the polls.

The Elections Commission noted in last night's update that the numbers were based on reports from clerks, who "may be behind because of the incredible workload they've been dealing with trying to serve the voters of our state." The commission says the numbers were likely higher than those reported.

Results from the election are set for Monday.

See more:

<https://elections.wi.gov/blog>

**-- A total of 2,409 soldiers served as poll workers in the spring election for the first time in Wisconsin National Guard history.**

According to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, Guard members filled polls with vacancies in 71 of the state's 72 counties to make up for a shortage of volunteers in the COVID-19 pandemic. Florence County was the only one with no Guard members. And Milwaukee, Dane, Brown and Waukesha counties were the only four with over 100 soldiers present.

According to a National Guard release, most members worked within their home counties to comply

with state election law.

See more:

<https://elections.wi.gov/blog>

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/wisconsin-national-guard-in-a-first-for-wisconsin-national-guard-citizen-soldiers-and-airmen-serve-as-poll-workers-across-wisconsin-on-election-day/>

**-- DWD Secretary Caleb Frostman is joining Gov. Tony Evers in calling for the repeal of a one-week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance recipients.**

Frostman called the repeal an "essential part of assisting Wisconsinites" and said it was the only way for the state to deliver fiscal aid faster.

More than 40 states had similar one-week UI waiting periods in place before the coronavirus pandemic, but fewer than eight have kept the statute in place, according to Frostman.

"Wisconsin is one of those states, but we don't have to be," he said. "While the one-week wait hurts our state's families and economy in a normal situation, it will hurt even more now."

Evers' 2019-21 state budget request originally had a section eliminating the waiting period, first established by former GOP Gov. Scott Walker. He again called on the Legislature to repeal the provision due to the coronavirus recession on March 17.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, have both said they support repealing the law as part of a COVID-19 package.

See more:

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/dwd-repealing-one-week-wait-for-unemployment-essential-part-of-assisting-wisconsinites/>

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**Wisconsin PAs Support SB 515  
and AB 575: The CARES Act!**

[Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants](#)

## TOP HEADLINES

### **DHS: 2,578 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases In Wisconsin**

92 People Have Died ... 28,512 people have tested negative [138 more cases, 9 more deaths, 1,938 more negative tests since Monday] ... 745 people have been hospitalized. [29% of cases] ... cities are seeing the highest number of positive cases ... confirmed cases in 60 of 72 counties, except Burnett, Forest, Green Lake, Langlade, Lincoln, Pepin, Polk, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vernon and Washburn.

<https://www.wpr.org/dhs-2-578-confirmed-covid-19-cases-wisconsin>

## **WI Polls Close But Hundreds Of Voters Remain In Line**

Milwaukee, Green Bay Polling Places Have Long Wait Times With Few Polls Open ... city's Election Commission told voters as long as they were in line by 8 p.m., they could vote -- but many people were in for a long night. With only five of the city's 180 polling locations open, the sites had lines stretching around buildings and onto city streets throughout the day. Most voters waited between one and two hours. ... About half of the voters wore face masks and many kept to social distancing rules. Poll workers, who were brought in from the National Guard, wore full personal protective equipment. ... Albrecht said after voting himself ... "I truly could not have been more impressed by the safety precautions taken at these voting centers today. And I am 100-percent confident that you are safer than if you go into a grocery store when you appear to vote at one of these voting centers today." ... some voters in Green Bay said they waited more than four hours ... city opened two [of 30] polling sites ... citing safety concerns and a shortage of poll workers. ... Mayor Eric Genrich was an outspoken proponent of postponing the election ... [Last month, GB sued EC, Evers] to delay voting. "We're in the position of asking people to choose either their health or their right to vote and in our opinion that's unjust, it's unlawful, it's unsafe," Genrich said last month. Several voters comment. <https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-polls-close-hundreds-voters-remain-line>

## **'It's Surreal': Local WI Officials Work To Keep Election Safe Amid Pandemic**

Elections Officials Across The State Say They're Doing The Best They Can To Serve Voters ... At the 66 polling places around the city of Madison, they've been able to provide 12 masks per polling place -- not enough for each poll worker, [clerk] Witzel-Behl said, but something. ... Engineering Department installed plexiglass barriers, poll workers assisting curbside voting are wearing plastic shield masks and hand sanitizer dispensers wait for voters when they arrive and when they leave. Gloves are also available for poll workers, Witzel-Behl said, but they've been clear [CDC warns against] false sense of security [only 1,700 of usual 3,000 poll worker shifts] ... Voting booths are sanitized after each use and voters have been encouraged to bring their own ball point pens. ... a common practice in other municipalities such as Eau Claire ... Wausau city clerk Leslie Kremer said several hand-washing stations are available at five polling sites and sneeze guards are set up ... [Cable] election officials are exclusively relying on curbside voting ... Yet some city officials are worried about voter turnout despite efforts ... Reed-Kadow, deputy city clerk of Manitowoc, said they're relying on many new poll workers this election because their more seasoned poll workers tend to be older ... [Milwaukee had 170] of the more than 2,400 Wisconsin National Guard members across the state that have been deployed to help cover a shortage of poll workers in nearly 60 percent of Wisconsin municipalities. ... [city clerk] Owczarski said he hadn't heard much support for in-person voting going forward Tuesday but, "on the other hand, there's an absolute determination to comply with the law," he said. <https://www.wpr.org/its-surreal-local-wisconsin-officials-work-keep-election-safe-amid-covid-19-outbreak>

## **Madison has 66 polling sites on Election Day, Milwaukee has five. What's the deal?**

... Around Madison, there have seemingly been few, if any, voters spotted waiting ... clerk's office reported it issued 87,237 absentee ballots to voters who requested them. ... has only seen a 28% drop in the number of its polling locations -- a small difference when compared to three of the state's other large cities [Milwaukee 5 of 180, GB 2 of 31, Kenosha 10 of 22] ... Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl credited the city's commitment to staffing more polling locations than other cities "because anything more than a 15-minute wait in line is unacceptable by our standards." Milwaukee's Albrecht blamed 1.5-2.5 hour wait on not knowing exact number of WNG support until Monday afternoon. Jeffreys for GB Mayor Genrich blamed 15 sites pulled out for worker shortage, forcing consolidation at sites with "Bigger parking lots, bigger spaces for people to stand," only 50 poll workers. Kenosha Clerk Salas cited only 95 workers, plus about 25 WNG, "It was more of our staff managing the set-ups of polling locations because we were so busy with absentee ballots as well." <https://madison.com/ct/8868bacf-6697-5cf4-aa4f-d85fb37cf846.html>

## **WI now waits for the spring election results -- and then the lawsuits**

... [UW Prof. Burden: "In every election there's a stray story of a voter who got stuck in a long line or had difficulty getting their ballot, but those stories are pretty widespread in this election, and especially in some communities like Milwaukee." Illegitimate winner "will be stronger and easier to allege if the election's close."] ... Voting in most cities appeared to go smoothly, especially given the immense challenges ... But some voters, particularly those in Milwaukee, which includes a large portion of the state's African American population, faced snaking lines and long waits at far fewer polling places than usual. ... Statewide, [WEC found] more than 10,000 voters ... didn't receive requested absentee ballots by Election Day ... forced to [choose] between sitting out the election or voting in person and risking their health. ... [absentee] Voters who used [no-witness] option during the legal window ... can't have their absentee ballots counted ... barred from voting in person under Wisconsin law. ... election law experts say the conditions on the ground on election day would make a recount or lawsuits highly likely. ... however [since WI, US Supreme Courts] created some of the voting difficulties, [they may not] welcome any challenges based on voter suppression or disenfranchisement [depending on vote margins. Attys. Maistelman, Esenberg, Poland] say those lawsuits are unlikely to be successful. ... Karofsky said it's too early to think about legal remedies ... Kelly [spokesman] said the campaign is preparing for the possibility of litigation if he wins. DPW's Beyers claims "hundreds" of voters who did not receive absentees. Some voters, Madison deputy city clerk Verbick, Milwaukee Elections chief Albrecht comment.  
<https://madison.com/wsj/bd1ba279-363e-5f93-8349-4933d4fcdb96.html>

## **WI Election: Voters Forced to Choose Between Protecting Their Health and Their Civic Duty**

... the first to hold a major election with in-person voting since stay-at-home orders were widely instituted ... Across [Milwaukee], lines stretched for blocks even before 7 a.m. local time. ... Milwaukee[ans] were forced to choose between following public health orders to stay home and stand in line for hours at one of just five polling places ... many of the locations were in heavily immigrant neighborhoods, predominantly Spanish or Hmong, and the only signs posted were in English. ... an unmitigated mess ... [WEC] ordered municipal clerks not to release any results until April 13, in compliance with a federal court ruling. WI Dems wanted to postpone or extend absentee voting, but GOP blocked both in court. Hence, expect low Dem turnout when a crucial State Supreme Court seat is on the ballot. ... [Sen. Schachtner] who is her county's chief medical examiner brought a homemade face mask to the polls because she didn't want to take a surgical mask from her co-workers ... everywhere in between, Wisconsinites reported an array of problems with absentee ballots. Some didn't arrive, some couldn't be legally witnessed and others were afraid to venture outside their homes [to postmark ballots] ... an election almost certain to be tarred as illegitimate and contested by whichever side loses ... ["because of the politicalization," Schachtner said] ... especially if [conservative Justice Kelly] wins a full 10-year term. ... [Evers, Vos, Fitzgerald] epic and predictable failure. ... follows a decade of bitter partisan wrangling that saw [ex-guv] Walker and his G.O.P. clinically attack and defang the state's Democratic institutions, starting with organized labor and continuing with voting laws making it far harder for poor and black residents of urban areas to vote. Outagamie Dem chair Lederer touted volunteers witnessing transporting ballots, saw low turnout. Sheboygan GOP chair Gasper saw "fair opportunity to vote. Nobody's having a problem voting. I went by a number of our polling places and there's no lines out in the country." [FdL GOP chair Bishop dittoed Gasper. Photo of Dem Leader Hintz, who did not vote today because he did not receive his absentee ballot.] ... estimated that hundreds, if not thousands, of voters in his Oshkosh district alone had not received the ballots they asked for, leaving them in a predicament over whether to vote in person and risk contracting or spreading the coronavirus. Dr. Luhn said his ballot was mailed March 23 but had not arrived, "Yesterday, I gave up. I called the election commission. They put you on extended hold," would not go to the polls on Tuesday out of concern for his family, patients and staffers. Gasper fretted fraud in Madison-Milwaukee, said Dems will cry "voter suppression" when city

voters had more opportunity than rural voters. Appleton's Swanson self-isolating at home, dismayed to see witness req on her first-ever absentee. WEC, run by ex-GOP lawmaker, suggested a virtual witness then she could leave ballot outside for witness to sign; she posted her ballot April 3. But Tuesday night, WEC site did not list it as received. Rehash Evers blocked attempt to postpone election. WEC chair Knudson: "If they haven't got their ballot in the mail," he said, "they are going to have to go to the polling place tomorrow." Sawyer GOP chair Miller downplayed risk, "If you can go out and get fast food, you can go vote curbside. It's the same procedure." Rehash stakes in Supreme Court election, Hagedorn's and Prosser's narrow wins, Trump endorsing Kelly, Karofsky win means chance to flip court in 2023. Polls close at 9 p.m. EST, but court ruled ballots cannot be counted until April 14. Knudson: "Instead of having Iowa-style results where no one knows what to expect, if we stick to this we're going to have a clean election tomorrow but we're not going to report the results until the following week."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/us/politics/wisconsin-primary-election.html>

### **Rain, hail, lawsuits and the coronavirus crisis fail to halt Wisconsin election**

Voters showed up wearing homemade face masks and plastic garbage bags ... Voters here on Tuesday braved the most grueling of conditions -- with some fearing they were risking their lives -- to take part in one of the most dangerous elections the United States has seen. ... But crowds swarmed to the polls, with some voters saying they had no other choice if they wanted to vote. ... Wisconsin drew national attention for the dumbfounding decision ... similar contradiction played out at the White House on Tuesday, where a president who advocated social distancing and stay-at-home orders, supported the Republican-led effort ... "Mail ballots are a very dangerous thing for this country because they're cheaters," Donald Trump said at a White House briefing. "They go and collect them. They're fraudulent in many cases." ... came on the heels of 24 hours of disarray that saw Evers, a Democrat, issue an executive order on Monday [followed by court challenges, 2 Supreme rulings blocking Evers order and limiting absentee order] ... DPW Chair Wikler: "I think whatever the thought is of what Republican leadership did today, it's going to change significantly in retrospect when people learn they were exposed to coronavirus at polling places. Weeks and months from now, this will be a completely different conversation," expects a "firestorm of litigation." Mayor Barrett: "Every announcement about stay home, social distancing, stay away from people. There is no scientific exemption for voting when it comes to Covid-19, and to pretend that there is, is insanity." Sen. LaTonya Johnson: "The people who live in Milwaukee, they matter. They're our constituents, too." Milwaukee McDonald's worker Gardner: "I took the risk because it is my right, and I want to try to make something better for future generations. This will definitely be a story that my kids are telling their children about, my grandkids. ... This will be something in history."

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/07/wisconsin-voters-brave-long-lines-coronavirus-172322>

### **Absentee voting is especially high in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Dane counties.**

... This is not a surprise. These three counties represent the areas with the most coronavirus cases ... may also be the three most politically mobilized counties in Wisconsin. ... historically cast more of their vote by absentee ballot than any other counties ... counties that are generating a disproportionately low share of the absentee vote are concentrated in northern and western Wisconsin, especially in [GOP-leaning GB] ... If the absentee vote in every county perfectly mirrored its final vote in last year's razor-thin, conservative vs. liberal Supreme Court race, then the regional tilt of the absentee vote reported so far would produce a narrow lead for Judge Karofsky of slightly less than one percentage point. ... a very big hypothetical. ... could certainly be offset by election-day voting ... geographic distribution of the absentee vote is the most concrete clue we have right now ... [detailed Gilbert analysis] ... Absentee voting [has never] played a bigger and more unpredictable role in a Wisconsin election.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/04/07/2961131001/>

### **Clerks optimistic safety measures protected voters, poll workers**

... Even with that unsettling backdrop [many masked voters] in the midst of a statewide safer-at-home order, county clerks expressed confidence that municipal officials throughout west-central Wisconsin had done all they could to keep participants safe ... "We took all the safety measures we could to make everything as safe as possible so no one was denied the right to vote," Eau Claire County Clerk Janet Loomis said, referring to the hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, alcohol wipes, individual pens and tape marks for social distancing that were omnipresent at polling sites. ... [EC clerk Riepl reported] more voters than usual used curbside voting ... Trempealeau County Clerk Paul Syverson visited a number of polling sites Tuesday and came away impressed ... seeing a number of poll workers wearing face shields donated by Sparta-based Spartek. ... town of Unity set up a drive-thru voting plan ... almost every voter Syverson observed in the town of Albion wore a mask. ... joined other regional clerks in raving about the last-minute help provided by the Guard ... "The National Guard was a huge help," Dunn County Clerk Julie Wathke said. ... "I don't feel any worse about it than being on the ambulance every day," [ECFD paramedic, poll volunteer Sordahl] said. "It didn't seem like any increased risk from my day-to-day job." ... After all the work municipal clerks did to prepare for the elections, [DunnCo Clerk] Cook [who had emailed Evers, leaders to urge postponement] said she was not in favor of the elections postponement Evers ordered Monday ... citing an example of Barron voters being handed masks made of paper towels with rubber bands stapled to them. ... "We got all of our ballots out that met the deadlines," said Riepl, who didn't know why some wouldn't have reached voters in time to submit them. ... With so much news coverage about the late-breaking changes regarding Wisconsin's elections, Cook said, "People who wanted to know what was going on know what was going on." ... "It's strange," Loomis said. "I don't think anyone's ever seen anything like this election."

<https://www.leadertelegram.com/e2dd6962-6f7d-5b60-9ac7-6c73c4757f6b.html>

### **Rep. Donna Shalala offers her take on coronavirus pandemic**

... calling for better leadership from President Donald Trump, as well as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. ... was recently part of a historic \$2 trillion ... "CARES" act. Answers: What aspects of the CARES act are you most proud of? ... Where does the CARES Act fall short? ... A lot of what seems to be in this stimulus package doesn't coincide with typical Republican rhetoric. Why is that? ... Why were college students left out of the payments in the CARES act? ... How will this impact students who are graduating now and entering the job market during a possible economic crisis? ... Are politicians dropping the politics and fighting coronavirus? ... Up until the past few weeks, the president hadn't really made any national statements in support of addressing the coronavirus. When did the House really start to take this seriously? ... What sorts of things have you heard from the president that have been unhelpful during this pandemic? ... How would you characterize Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' leadership during this pandemic? ... What have you learned from your experience as the Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton that is helping you lead now in the House? ... What do you think will be the long term political impacts of this pandemic? ... How might this affect the election in November? ... What will be different when we emerge?

<https://www.themiamihurricane.com/2020/04/07/rep-donna-shalala-offers-her-take-on-coronavirus-pandemic/>

### **TODAY'S CALENDAR**

<https://www.wispolitics.com/category/events/>

- No events listed.

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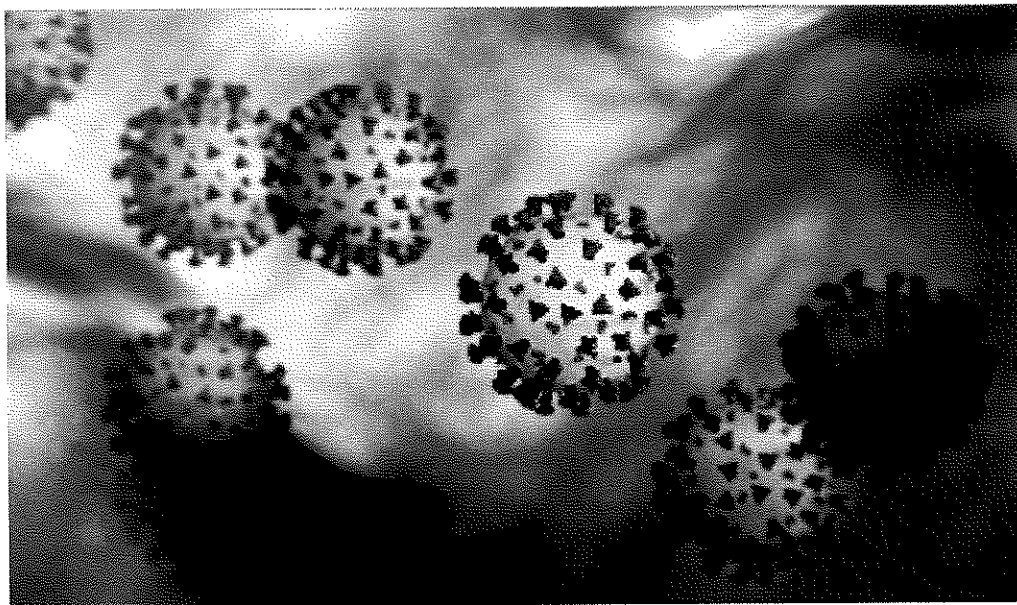
**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** RightWisconsin <RightWisconsin@RightWisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 6:15 AM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Helping K-12 Education During the Coronavirus Crisis

RightWisconsin Daily Update

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# RIGHTWisconsin

## Helping K-12 Education in a Coronavirus Crisis

Dear Adam,

Well, it was a disaster. Now we'll wait for two results from the election, ironically expected about the same time. The final day for ballots to be counted in April 12. By then, we should have the first Coronavirus cases from people voting, including in Waukesha where a person showed up to vote with the symptoms of the virus. We'll never know how many showed up carrying the virus, didn't show

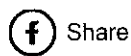
the symptoms, and then transmitted the disease to someone else.

Since the spread of the disease is going to continue, the legislature needs to think of ways to help schools educate students in the Coronavirus environment. Our friends at the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty have [three suggestions for the legislature](#) to consider before we lose these kids to an education system unprepared for this emergency.

James Wigderson

Editor

RightWisconsin



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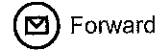
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The bizarre picture of Vos assuring everyone that it was safe to vote while looking like an assistant in Dr. No's laboratory went around the world.

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by [David Fladeboe](#) | Apr 6, 2020

Just about every tax the state collects will be affected by the crisis, so now is not the time for massive new spending.

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## US SUPREME COURT KILLS ABSENTEE BALLOT EXTENSION IN TUESDAY'S ELECTION

by [James Wigderson](#)

"...when a lower court intervenes and alters the election rules so close to the election date, our precedents indicate that this Court, as appropriate, should correct that error."

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by [James Wigderson](#)

"This election will proceed as planned." – Assembly Speaker Vos & Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald

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## 3 POLICIES TO HELP WISCONSIN K-12 EDUCATION DURING THE COVID CRISIS

by [CJ Szafir, Libby Sobiech and Will Flanders](#)

Wisconsin should make sure that our school districts are working to provide instruction to their students, by whatever means possible.

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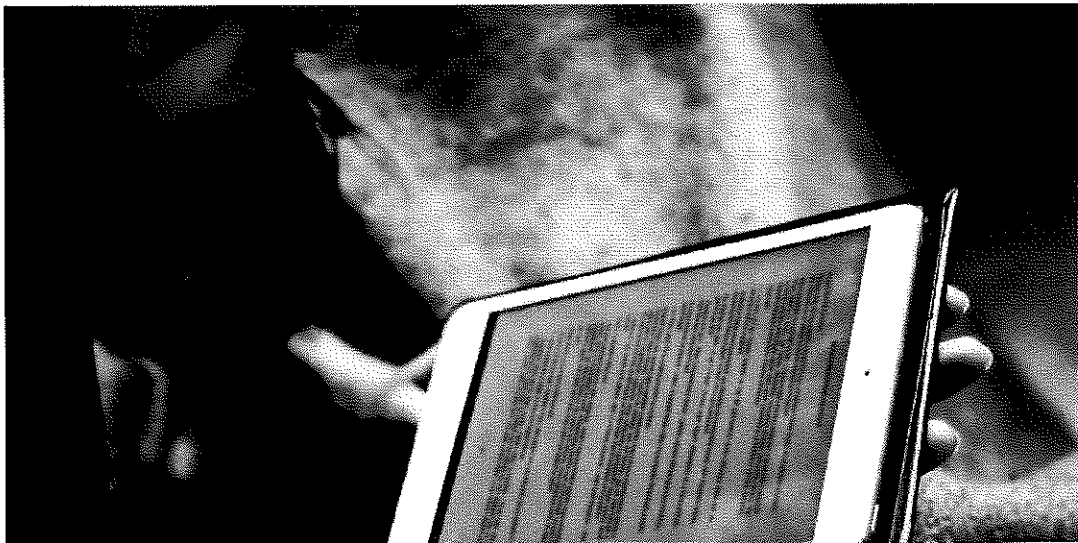
**From:** Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty <info@will-law.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2020 7:01 PM  
**To:** Hope, Sam  
**Subject:** WILL Call | Policies to Combat COVID Disruption in WI, Defending Civil Liberties During the Crisis

**WILL Call**

an update on the work of the  
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## ***News and Updates***



### ***3 Policies to Help Wisconsin K-12 Education During the COVID Crisis***

CJ Szafir, Libby Sobic, and Will Flanders identify 3 policies Wisconsin policymakers can enact that will help Wisconsin students navigate the disruption caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Read more about these policies and more [here](#).

---

## *First Amendment*

### ***WILL Demand Letter: Sheriff, School Administrator Use COVID Crisis to Violate First Amendment***

WILL issued letters to Marquette County Sheriff Joseph Konrath and Westfield School District Administrator Robert Meicher demanding recompense after an Oxford, Wisconsin teen was threatened with arrest if she failed to remove a social media post.

Read more [here](#).

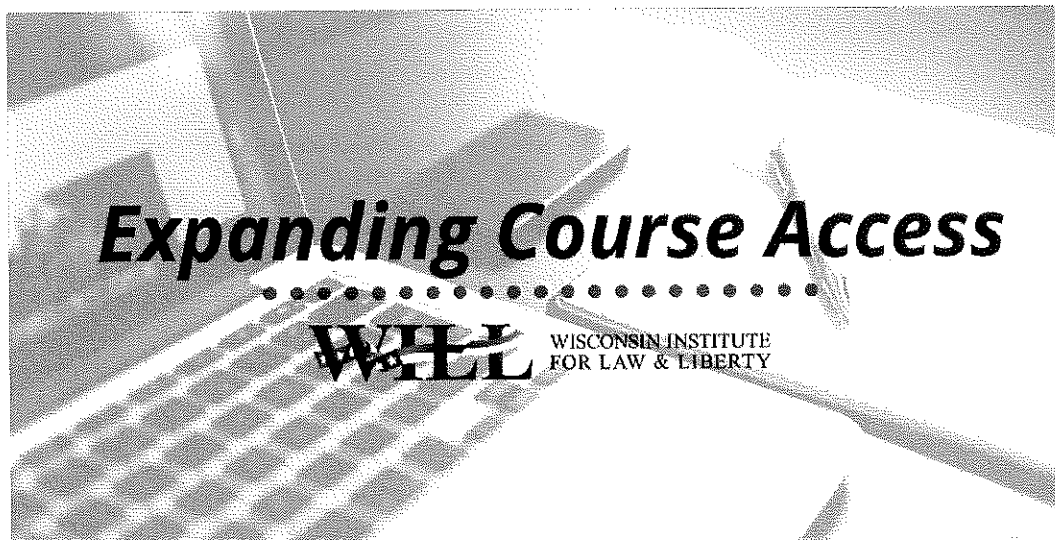
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### ***WILL Analysis: What to Know About the CARES Act and K-12 Education in Wisconsin***

CJ Szafer and Libby Sobiech dive into the details of the new CARES Act and highlight what it means for Wisconsin K-12 education. Szafer and Sobiech provide recommendations for policymakers as they consider the new funding.

Read more [here](#).



### ***Expanding Course Access Will Empower Wisconsin Families Post-COVID***

CJ Szafer and Libby Sobiech make the case for expanding course access as part of a post-COVID education policy response. SB 789 has passed the Assembly and is currently awaiting a vote in the Senate.

Read more about expanding course access [here](#).



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**MacIver Institute**  
The Free Market Voice for Wisconsin



WISCONSIN INSTITUTE  
FOR LAW & LIBERTY

***Free Market Coalition: Cut Red Tape to Fight Pandemic***



WILL partnered with Americans for Prosperity - Wisconsin, the Badger Institute, and the MacIver Institute to applaud some of Governor Tony Evers' executive actions that cut health care red tape to fight the pandemic. The coalition provided further recommendations for consideration.

Read the statement [here](#).

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### Quick Hits

- WILL President **Rick Esenberg** joined Steve Scaffidi on Tuesday to provide [legal analysis](#) on the actions of Governor Evers, the legislature, and Supreme Court surrounding the spring election.
- Research Director **Will Flanders** makes the case for [beer and alcohol delivery](#) during the pandemic crisis.
- **Cori Petersen** examines how the coronavirus pandemic has [impacted the Wisconsin economy](#) is just a few short weeks.

## Tweet of the Week



**SenDarling** @SenDarling · Apr 1

Thanks @CJSzafir. @WILawLiberty does a great job of how this important bill can help prepare students and schools after the #COVID19 crisis ends.



**CJ Szafir** @CJSzafir · Apr 1

COVID is an earthquake to Wisconsin's K-12 schools. Fortunately @SenDarling @Thiesfeldt bill will better equip families for the aftermath by expanding course access, expanding the educational horizon for thousands of children...

I explain ->  
[medium.com/@willlawandlib...](https://medium.com/@willlawandlib...)

**Tweet It!**



Rick Esenberg

### ***WATCH: Rick Esenberg Discusses Wisconsin Emergency Powers and Limits***

WILL President **Rick Esenberg** joined Director of Outreach Eric Searing for a Zoom call to discuss Wisconsin's 'Safer at Home' order and the constitutional issues provoked by the current emergency.

Watch the webinar [here](#).



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The work we do would not be possible without the generosity of our donors; we are a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization that receives no public funds. Our focus is primarily, if not exclusively, on Wisconsin – a state that has become one of the focal points of our ongoing debate about the proper role of the government within society and of the courts within government. As a non-profit and non-partisan organization, we litigate in the areas of property rights, the freedom to earn a living, voting rights, regulation, taxation, school choice, and religious freedom. As an educational organization, we strive to advance the debate concerning law and public policy in these and other areas.

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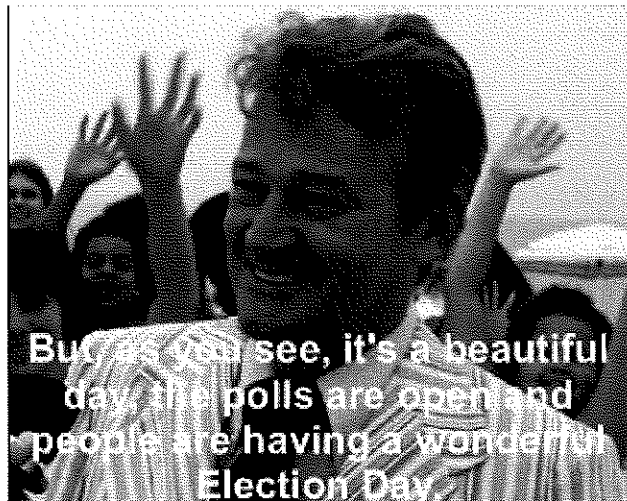
**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** RightWisconsin <RightWisconsin@RightWisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2020 6:15 AM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** GOP Court Victories Mean Today Is Election Day

RightWisconsin Daily Update

[View this email in your browser](#)



# RIGHTWisconsin

## GOP Court Victories Create Election Day Setting

Dear Adam,

Despite a last-ditch effort by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers (D) to derail Tuesday's election by executive order, Election Day will take place as scheduled.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court handed Evers a 4-2 defeat, ruling his executive order unconstitutional. It's not that surprising considering Evers himself said,

just days ago, that he did not have the power to postpone the election by himself.

Then the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a federal judge had erred in allowing absentee voting through April 13. Instead, all ballots must be postmarked on Election Day or before, and ballots received after April 13 will not be counted.

Finally, Pat Poblete of WisPolitics is reporting the state Elections Commission said that absentee ballots that were not witnessed before they were submitted will not be counted, even if they were submitted during the period when a federal judge said they could be submitted without the signature of a witness before he was overturned by an Appeals Court. Those voters who made the mistake of following the instructions of the judge will also not be allowed to fix their ballots, nor will they be allowed to cast another ballot on Election Day.

It's going to be the chaos our elected officials of both parties created. We strongly argued for delaying the election, even presenting a five-point plan. Instead, both sides played a game of political chicken, and the voters are the ones who are literally going to suffer for it.

In the end, Evers' unconstitutional attempt to postpone the election by himself was just shameless grandstanding and an attempt to undermine the legitimacy of an already difficult election. Evers had to know the Supreme Court would overturn his action. Even if postponing the election was the right thing to do, it was the right thing to do by the legislative process and not an executive order.

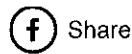
If you are voting today, be careful, keep a safe distance from others, and wash yourself afterwards. Just because you don't feel any symptoms, it doesn't mean you don't have the Coronavirus. And just because the people around you look healthy, it doesn't mean that they are.

Good luck to everyone today.

James Wigderson

Editor

RightWisconsin



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## On RightWisconsin Right Now:

### US SUPREME COURT KILLS ABSENTEE BALLOT EXTENSION IN TUESDAY'S ELECTION

by [James Wigderson](#)

"...when a lower court intervenes and alters the election rules so close to the election date, our precedents indicate that this Court, as appropriate, should correct that error."

[READ MORE](#)

### WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT SLAPS DOWN EVERS ELECTION POSTPONEMENT ORDER

by [James Wigderson](#) |

"This election will proceed as planned." – Assembly Speaker Vos & Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald

[READ MORE](#)

### 3 POLICIES TO HELP WISCONSIN K-12 EDUCATION DURING THE COVID CRISIS

by [CJ Szafir, Libby Sobiech and Will Flanders](#)

Wisconsin should make sure that our school districts are working to provide instruction to their students, by whatever means possible.

[READ MORE](#)

## [CRISIS IS NO EXCUSE FOR ABANDONING FISCAL RESTRAINT](#)

by [David Fladeboe](#)

Just about every tax the state collects will be affected by the crisis, so now is not the time for massive new spending.

[READ MORE](#)

## [WISCONSIN'S SCALIA HEADS TO THE BALLOT](#)

by [Matthew Fernholz](#)

Justice Kelly has made his mark for his strong defense of originalism, which looks to the original public understanding of constitutional provisions.

[READ MORE](#)

## [VOTE YES ON ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS](#)

by [Van Wanggaard](#)

The proposed amendment simply puts the victims of crime on a more equal playing field with those accused of committing crimes.

[READ MORE](#)

## [DON'T LET FEAR AND PANIC DERAIL OUR DEMOCRACY](#)

by [Dean Knudson](#)

Everything is in place for our elections to go forward. Don't let fear and panic derail our democracy.

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## [DELAY THE ELECTION NOW](#)

by [James Wigderson](#)

All I maintain is that on this earth there are pestilences and there are victims, and it's up to...

[READ MORE](#)

## [PRO-LIFE LEGISLATORS CALL FOR SHUT DOWN OF ABORTION CLINICS AS NON-ESSENTIAL](#)

by [RightWisconsin](#)

Abortion clinics are continuing to operate in Wisconsin, needlessly exposing people to the potential to contract COVID-19 and using precious medical resources that are needed elsewhere to save Wisconsinites.

[READ MORE](#)

## [A REPUBLIC, IF YOU CAN KEEP IT](#)

by [Dale Kooyenga](#)

Big changes should come from democratically elected legislative bodies, not judges with long-term or lifetime appointments.

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Hope, Sam

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**From:** Michael Jahr <michael@badgerinstitute.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Analysis: Crisis is no excuse for abandoning fiscal restraint



## **Analysis: Crisis is no excuse for abandoning fiscal restraint**

*Wisconsin would be worse off had responsible budgeting not  
produced healthy surplus, rainy day fund*

By DAVID FLADEBOE | April 6, 2020

As Wisconsin remains on lockdown, our state budget is headed towards a cliff. Just about every tax the state collects will be affected by the crisis, so now is not the time for massive new spending. Fewer cars on the road mean the state will collect less in gas taxes, layoffs and pay reductions mean lower income tax collections, shuttered stores and restaurants mean less in sales tax revenues. Our best-case estimates show at least a \$100 million deficit in gas tax collections alone.



Gov. Tony Evers is pushing the Legislature to “convene without any further delay,” but the legislative leadership is rightfully taking time to assess our states finances, understand the full ramifications of the massive federal relief bill and hold off on any new state spending. While some expenditures may be necessary to get us through this difficult period, they need to be targeted and temporary.

Wisconsinites are fortunate that responsible state budgeting over the last nine years meant we entered this crisis with a healthy rainy day fund and sizeable budget surplus. The state is going to have to dip into the reserves but should not abandon the fiscally prudent policies that produced the surplus in the first place. Doing so would be a recipe for bankruptcy.

The Badger Institute and our coalition partners at the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, AFP-Wisconsin and the Maclver Institute have made several non-fiscal policy recommendations. Lavish government spending is not going to fix our economy or replenish state coffers – it will only make the recovery harder. The state needs to focus on reducing red tape, lowering the tax burden and maintaining fiscal responsibility, not writing checks we can’t cash.

The Tax Foundation also has recommendations for states to end 2020 with a balanced budget: <https://taxfoundation.org/fy-2020-state-budgets-fy-2021-state-budgets/>

Read the article [here](#).

*David Fladeboe is a public affairs associate for the Badger Institute. Permission*

*to reprint is granted as long as the author and Badger Institute are properly cited.*



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