

- Labor

- Law and order

- Michigan

- Military

- Minnesota

- Columns

300/day, results within 24 hours. Milwaukeean Schaefer went to urgent care doc, tested negative for everything else, but "He comes in, and he was like, 'I can't give you a COVID test because your fever isn't high enough, but I am sure that's what you have. So, you need to go home and you need to isolate and your family needs to quarantine and anyone who has been in contact with you, you need to let them know. ... I am being told I have it but I can't be tested. It's crazy,'" still angry to be sent home without official diagnosis, finally got tested Monday at drive-thru triage center in New Berlin, but not told when to expect results. Froedtert spokesperson no comment on Schaefer case, but test need doc recommendation. By Kremer, WPR  
<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-labs-testing-covid-19-are-overwhelmed>

**Milwaukee orders bars, restaurants to close 2:01 a.m. Tuesday to slow coronavirus spread**

Milwaukee and 10 other Milwaukee County municipalities ordered bars and restaurants to close effective 2:01 a.m. Tuesday, except for carryout, delivery and curbside service -- an effort of elected and health officials to head off a growing number of coronavirus cases. The order, which builds on Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers' directive prohibiting gatherings of more than 50 people, did not have an end date. The remaining municipalities in the county were expected to follow suit within the next 24 hours, ultimately closing down establishments countywide. ... In addition to Milwaukee, St. Francis, South Milwaukee, Cudahy and the seven North Shore communities of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay issued orders to close establishments. City and county health officials said at a press conference Monday evening outside the county courthouse that there were nine cases in Milwaukee and 13 in the county as a whole. Health Commissioner Jeanette Kowalik said the county has seen "community spread," meaning people catching coronavirus from other people within the community, not from people who traveled abroad to areas where coronavirus has been active. About 180 cases are under investigation in the county. By Dirr, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/milwaukee/2020/03/16/milwaukee-bars-restaurants-ordered-close-because-coronavirus/5065451002/>

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

- White House advises avoiding groups of 10 or more for 15 days; going beyond Gov. Evers' directive  
[https://journaltimes.com/news/white-house-advises-avoiding-groups-of-or-more-for-days/article\\_378ee4e7-8dcd-568d-9784-5f1c6ed56a21.html](https://journaltimes.com/news/white-house-advises-avoiding-groups-of-or-more-for-days/article_378ee4e7-8dcd-568d-9784-5f1c6ed56a21.html)

- Twitter removes David Clarke's tweets as he and other Trump allies sow coronavirus conspiracy theories and doubts ... And even as officials such as Fauci have increasingly urged people to socially distance themselves and take the coronavirus seriously, a number of top allies of President Trump, such as Nunes [Keric, Clarke, Regan], have pressed forward with very different messages. Some of them have even floated conspiracy theories ... "Not ONE media outlet has asked about George

Soros's involvement in this FLU panic," Clarke [tweeted]. "He is SOMEWHERE involved in this." ... "GO INTO THE STREETS FOLKS," [another Clarke tweet, echoing Nunes] said. "Visit bars, restaurants, shopping malls, CHURCHES and demand that your schools reopen. NOW! If government doesn't stop this foolishness ... STAY Ind. THE STREETS. END GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES. IF NOT NOW, WHEN? THIS IS AN EXPLOITATION OF A CRISIS." ... Twitter has taken down other Clarke tweets in accordance with its policy against tweets that encourage self-harm ... [Kerik and Clarke also] tweeted approvingly about a potential Trump pardon for Michael Flynn, which Trump floated Sunday morning. ... Certain Trump allies such as Newt Gingrich ... and [Limbaugh sub] Steyn are being much more forceful in urging people to take this seriously. Trump's comments about what Nunes said moved the ball forward somewhat and could discourage others from joining in what Nunes did.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/03/16/twitter-takes-down-david-clarkes-tweets-he-other-trump-allies-see-coronavirus-conspiracy-theories-doubt/>

- David Clarke Is Still Crazy, Or maybe crazier. Just ask Charlie Sykes.

<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2020/03/16/back-in-the-news-david-clarke-is-still-crazy/>

- USAID head to resign amid coronavirus pandemic ... Mark Green says his exit from the premier agency for humanitarian aid is not born of any dissatisfaction with the administration's response to the burgeoning epidemic.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/usa-id-head-to-resign-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/2020/03/16/9da2af60-677a-11ea-b5f1-a5a804158597\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/usa-id-head-to-resign-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/2020/03/16/9da2af60-677a-11ea-b5f1-a5a804158597_story.html)

- Who is Mike Pence? 1:45 video profile

<https://madison.com/20475259-c06c-584c-b34c-622544cf0043.html>

- Challenges a former vice president faces. 2:01 Biden profile

<https://madison.com/d7a7767c-40db-540d-bf00-e1a6804fc954.html>

## 2020 <sup>^top^</sup>

- Delaying Wisconsin's April 7 presidential primary amid coronavirus pandemic would be difficult ... Evers said Monday he was not considering delaying the election "at this time," even as he banned gatherings of more than 50 people. "We're hoping to hold it on the date if we possibly can," he told reporters. ... as Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced he would bring a lawsuit to try to extend his state's primary, which is scheduled for Tuesday, to June 2. Three other states -- Arizona, Florida, and Illinois -- are supposed to have presidential primaries on Tuesday. UW prof. Burden, WILL's Esenberg, election atty's Poland and Mandell, Rep. Crowley, Commissioner Albrecht comment.  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2020/03/16/coronavirus-wisconsin-delaying-presidential-primary-not-easy/5058563002/>

- John Nichols: Sunday Night's Debate Failed the Coronavirus Test, Biden and Sanders should have stolen a page from Andrew Yang and promised to give money to hard-hit Americans.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/sanders-biden-ubi-coronavirus/>

## DNC <sup>^top^</sup>

- DNC continues planning for Milwaukee convention while monitoring coronavirus ... "We... remain focused on planning a successful convention in July, and nominating the next president and vice president of the United States here in Milwaukee," [DNC convention] tweet said. ... acknowledged "we're faced with the unprecedented challenge as a country of responding to Covid-19. In this climate

of uncertainty, we wanted to share an update on planning. ... Stay safe, take care of one another, and stay tuned for future updates regarding our convention plans," the post said. DNCC CEO Solmonese: "[Our] thoughts are with the families and communities struggling through this illness, and with those grieving the loss of loved ones. Our gratitude is with those who are working around the clock to contain this virus."

<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/03/16/dnc-continues-planning-for-milwaukee-convention.html>

- As other large events are canceled the DNC in Milwaukee remains a question  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/03/13/2020-dnc-milwaukee-remains-question-coronavirus-closes-events/5033934002/>

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

- WI governor orders ban on gatherings as virus spreads [Bauer of AP]

[https://www.gazetteextra.com/news/state/wisconsin-governor-orders-ban-on-gatherings-as-virus-spreads/article\\_38d99103-bfe8-539a-b473-6676f711d20f.html](https://www.gazetteextra.com/news/state/wisconsin-governor-orders-ban-on-gatherings-as-virus-spreads/article_38d99103-bfe8-539a-b473-6676f711d20f.html)

- Wisconsin restaurants, bars must operate at limited capacity, Gov. Evers says  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/03/16/wisconsin-restaurants-bars-must-operate-at-limited.html>

- WI's active coronavirus cases up to 46, including evidence of 'likely' community spread: reviews cases in WI, worldwide, DHS' Dr. Westergard comments.  
<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/2020/03/16/wisconsin-coronavirus-cases-46-including-community-spread-evidence/5058903002/>

- Most Wisconsinites aboard Grand Princess cruise ship return to state ... Evers announced that [WNG] transported 29 Wisconsinites back to their homes early Monday morning. Two additional passengers chose to remain in [HHS] quarantine in Texas ... Another seven passengers remain in HHS custody in California but plan to return to Wisconsin.  
<https://madison.com/wsj/501521c5-907d-5ec0-bde7-9c9aee933dd6.html>

- Outagamie County has its first confirmed case  
<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/2020/03/12/appleton-coronavirus-updates-boys-girls-clubs-fox-valley-postpones-fundraiser/5034144002/>

- Kenosha County has first confirmed case of COVID-19  
[https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/kenosha-county-has-first-confirmed-case-of-covid/article\\_8b33d375-3e46-56c7-b3ba-e77c24da588c.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/kenosha-county-has-first-confirmed-case-of-covid/article_8b33d375-3e46-56c7-b3ba-e77c24da588c.html)

- 'It's time to be aggressive': Dane County closes schools, bans large gatherings, caps restaurant capacity  
<https://madison.com/ct/e9a8937e-66ef-11ea-a2b7-df84012a3014.html>

- WI hospitals encourage people to schedule video visits instead of coming in with coronavirus symptoms  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/money/business/health-care/2020/03/17/wisconsin-doctors-taking-calls-video-appointments-coronavirus/5056643002/>

- Local hospitals exploring drive-up COVID-19 testing

[https://www.leadertelegram.com/covid-19/local-hospitals-exploring-drive-up-covid--testing/article\\_edc160cf-d647-5696-b57c-6730762167f6.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/covid-19/local-hospitals-exploring-drive-up-covid--testing/article_edc160cf-d647-5696-b57c-6730762167f6.html)

- La Crosse hospitals begin drive-up coronavirus testing, but tests are limited

[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/la-crosse-hospitals-begin-drive-up-coronavirus-testing-but-tests/article\\_907d1ecb-ceaf-5c90-afa7-2da7cc3f6367.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/la-crosse-hospitals-begin-drive-up-coronavirus-testing-but-tests/article_907d1ecb-ceaf-5c90-afa7-2da7cc3f6367.html)

- Local hospitals institute 'no visitor' restrictions

[https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/local-hospitals-institute-no-visitor-restrictions/article\\_ad6ec683-9a9a-5664-a5f4-3a99920c7661.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/local-hospitals-institute-no-visitor-restrictions/article_ad6ec683-9a9a-5664-a5f4-3a99920c7661.html)

- State lab ramps up testing for COVID-19 as person-to-person spread begins, From the Closings, number of cases and more

<https://madison.com/wsj/4af8cd07-fac5-5460-8995-838a1453add3.html>

- 'I'm very grateful for this community': School groups look to help feed students during COVID-19 closure

<https://madison.com/ct/b7146000-71d3-5861-9d01-af500602e918.html>

- Madison School District hourly, support staff will receive pay for two weeks of closure

<https://madison.com/ct/310b6cc5-5d5e-5ceb-8e6e-9355c33de319.html>

- With schools shut down, Madison families adjust to new reality, uncertainty ... canceling spring break trips. ... scramble to arrange child care or find a way to work from home. ... keeping children fed and academically engaged. ... [MSD] opened 12 sites for families to pick up free meals ... On Monday, 352 breakfasts and 337 lunches were distributed. ... GoFundMe page set up Friday had already raised > \$7K by Monday afternoon to buy food for families who won't be able to get to Leopold's in-school food pantry during the closure. Some parents and students comment.

<https://madison.com/wsj/33aa9370-ed48-5933-b9b6-4bcffc3193fa.html>

- Seeking 'a sense of normalcy,' parents adjust to having kids at home as schools, day cares close

<https://madison.com/ct/5dfcd511-abe7-5519-9186-ca3fc58a24b8.html>

- Life in the time of COVID-19: questionnaire for readers to share their experiences

<https://madison.com/wsj/6e6a35df-0592-52ce-b8ac-89c7fcd0dd4b.html>

- As COVID-19 causes national gas prices to plummet, Wisconsin enjoys savings at the pump ... reaching a low of \$2.06 on Monday. ... fallen 9.1% over the past week and 11.4% since a month ago. ... 8.9% below the national average of \$2.25. ... unusually cheap gas i[n] Appleton ... \$1.94 average is down 12.6% from a week ago. Green Bay (\$2.08) and Wausau (\$2.18) have also seen significant decreases over the past week. La Crosse is tops with \$1.85 -- an 18.7% decrease since last week. Eau Claire (\$1.93), Janesville-Beloit (\$1.97) and Milwaukee (\$1.99), with Madison (\$2.04). AAA's Jarmusz comments.

<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/2020/03/16/coronavirus-wisconsin-covid-19-causes-gas-price-decrease/5062575002/>

- 'There is not a lot of safety net': With St. Patrick's Day effectively canceled, Milwaukee bar and restaurant owners face uncertain futures

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/03/16/wisconsin-bar-restaurant-owners-face-uncertainty-amid-pandemic/5062848002/>



- Madison restaurant owners grapple with coronavirus crisis  
<https://madison.com/wsj/27a177f0-3cb7-59bd-a633-546433853fbe.html>

- Ho-Chunk Gaming closes Madison casino until April due to COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic  
<https://madison.com/wsj/ff54760e-ecac-5b93-b293-b63d9d05a085.html>

- Area businesses must take drastic actions to avoid huge hit on economy: MMAC's Sheehy ... discussed takeaways Monday from the MMAC's regular bi-monthly board meeting held over the lunch hour. For the first time in the organization's 158-year history, the meeting was not face-to-face but via Zoom ... brace for two to three months of altering their workplaces and separating their staffs ... "It's hard to tell people to do stuff here, but you have to if you want to mitigate the rise of the (coronavirus) curve," Sheehy said. 70 CEO's participated, including Mayor Barrett, health chief Kowalik, MCOW chief Raymond. "Their message was we can't go far enough fast enough in terms of how our businesses operate to flatten this curve," he said. ... said many businesses already have "blown past" Evers' ban ... "It is the best medicine for the economy overall and the best for the region," Sheehy said. ... offering for free on Tuesday a webinar [including Sheehy, WEDC's Hughes] titled "How your business can withstand a global pandemic outbreak."  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/03/16/area-businesses-must-take-drastic-actions-to-avoid.html>

- Landlords should be banned from evictions during crisis, says Legal Action of WI ... [dir. Peterson in today's] letter to 39 [southern WI] chief judges ... noted that Milwaukee and Dane counties have already closed their small claims courts where eviction cases are heard until at least April 3. ... asking the judges to go a step further and halt the execution of eviction orders ... "This is not the time to drive families into homelessness," she wrote. "A household may become homeless or be forced to double up with friends or family," Peterson wrote. "Both of these conditions would facilitate the spread of COVID-19 and exacerbate the predicted strain on our health care systems." ... Several cities around the nation, including San Francisco, Boston and Seattle, have enacted eviction moratoriums ... "This morning they were still executing writs," said Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Pedro Colon. "That is, they were evicting people." ... [not signing new writs, "We're closed."] ... 25 eviction orders set to be executed by Milwaukee County sheriff's deputies this week, said [Sheriff's] Colas ... unless ordered by a court not to do so. Apartment Assoc.'s Giese: "I don't understand why you would stop the evictions that are already out there," pending for two to three months.  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/2020/03/17/legal-action-wisconsin-wants-evictions-banned-during-coronavirus/5062475002/>

- Coronavirus Threatens Strained Rural Health Care System ... [focus on Presidio Co., TX] ... in Colorado, several rural areas have documented cases, including mountain areas such as Eagle, Pitkin and Summit counties that are popular with tourists. ... Harrison County, Kentucky, which saw the state's earliest cases of coronavirus, has a population of roughly 19,000 people. But it's less than an hour's drive from an urban center, Lexington. ... Since the Affordable Care Act went into effect in 2010, 126 rural hospitals have closed their doors. Last year, 19 rural hospitals shuttered, the most of any year since 2005. Interactive map shows declared states of emergency.  
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/03/17/coronavirus-threatens-strained-rural-health-care-system>

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

- Rep. Steil explains his opposition to COVID-19 bill  
[https://www.gazettextra.com/news/politics/rep-steil-explains-his-opposition-to-covid--bill/article\\_99b6ad97-dd92-5694-b7c3-6edd905aa79d.html](https://www.gazettextra.com/news/politics/rep-steil-explains-his-opposition-to-covid--bill/article_99b6ad97-dd92-5694-b7c3-6edd905aa79d.html)

- Rep. Steil's office stops walk-in meetings

[https://www.gazettextra.com/news/health\\_care/coronavirus/rep-steil-s-office-stops-walk-in-meetings/article\\_a8b7970d-346f-53e6-b34d-fa476b72fa28.html](https://www.gazettextra.com/news/health_care/coronavirus/rep-steil-s-office-stops-walk-in-meetings/article_a8b7970d-346f-53e6-b34d-fa476b72fa28.html)

- Winner in 7th Congressional District special election in May will face quick transition -- and another election in November

<https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/2020/03/16/wisconsin-7th-congressional-district-winner-may-special-election-face-november-reelection/4809130002/>

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

- Madison, Dane County government meetings moving online or canceled

<https://madison.com/ws/j7dc6884e-2c2d-5604-b02e-5a90bf02321a.html>

- Madison, Dane County officials anticipate changes for official meetings

<https://madison.com/ct/ead950d3-bc28-524b-8706-c4efa93e100c.html>

- Rock County has 10 negative, no positive COVID-19 cases

[https://www.gazettextra.com/news/health\\_care/coronavirus/health-department-rock-county-has-negative-no-positive-covid-/article\\_b5d47525-6506-55db-ac5c-131d2a56fba3.html](https://www.gazettextra.com/news/health_care/coronavirus/health-department-rock-county-has-negative-no-positive-covid-/article_b5d47525-6506-55db-ac5c-131d2a56fba3.html)

- Beloit, Rock County approve emergency declarations

[https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/local-news/beloit-rock-county-approve-emergency-declarations/article\\_b62d88ab-faab-5469-8100-ca404d464f20.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/local-news/beloit-rock-county-approve-emergency-declarations/article_b62d88ab-faab-5469-8100-ca404d464f20.html)

- Superior, Douglas County declare state of emergency

<https://www.superiortelegam.com/news/government-and-politics/5001529-Superior-Douglas-County-declare-state-of-emergency>

- Reedsburg community reacts to coronavirus

[https://www.wiscnews.com/reedsburgtimespress/news/local/reedsburg-community-reacts-to-coronavirus/article\\_6d7577bb-3cca-58cd-b29f-10c1af05c40a.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/reedsburgtimespress/news/local/reedsburg-community-reacts-to-coronavirus/article_6d7577bb-3cca-58cd-b29f-10c1af05c40a.html)

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

- Kristine Snow feels her experience will make a difference in circuit court race

[https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/kristine-snow-feels-her-experience-will-make-a-difference-in/article\\_4257b612-3a37-5249-90b8-cca3c8782cb4.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/kristine-snow-feels-her-experience-will-make-a-difference-in/article_4257b612-3a37-5249-90b8-cca3c8782cb4.html)

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

- WI Businesses Impacted By Efforts To Stem Spread Of New Coronavirus ... hospitality industry is seeing significant impacts to group business and is taking steps to enhance cleaning measures at facilities. The exact impact to resorts, lodges and hotels is unclear, said [Hotel and Lodgings'] Pugall [surveying 600 members on issues, steps to protect guests, employees] ... hopes to receive responses within the next two to three days. ... assessing what the loss of revenue from reduced business may mean for workers. Great Wolf Lodge closed Sunday through April 1. Kalahari Resorts to close at 4 p.m. Wednesday and re-open April 2. Potawatomi Hotel and Casino suspending operations indefinitely beginning 5 p.m. Tuesday. Tavern League's Stenger noted 5K members hit by sport event cancellation, may need \$relief\$, "I think first we have to make this work. We certainly

need to be at the top of the list of triage after this is over." Restaurants' Hillmer advising 1,500 members to follow county recommendations, "We are also suggesting that they stop all self-service operations, such as salad bars, buffets, beverage stations ... prohibit customers from any self-dispensing of all packaged foods," financial hits vary from minimal to 60%, suggesting members prep for takeout and delivery options, as other states have closed restaurants, said House relief bill is too slow. Recaps \$750B Senate Dem plan. Popeye's mgr. Lavender comments on self-quarantine order during conference call Monday advocating paid sick leave. Reps. Subeck, Pope sick leave bills have failed. Cinema worker Otto also drives Lyft and teaches guitar, "I have no work for the indefinite future," doesn't know what he's going to do. Recaps Land's End, REI, Wal-Mart closings.

<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-businesses-impacted-efforts-stem-spread-new-coronavirus>

- Chippewa Valley businesses responding to COVID-19 impact

[https://www.leadertelegram.com/covid-19/chippewa-valley-businesses-responding-to-covid--impact/article\\_86fb9ed5-1a2f-5eec-be6c-42ec6861df51.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/covid-19/chippewa-valley-businesses-responding-to-covid--impact/article_86fb9ed5-1a2f-5eec-be6c-42ec6861df51.html)

- This is a massive buying opportunity: Marc Lasry: Bucks co-owner assesses market opportunities, NBA season. 4:52 video

<https://www.cnbc.com/video/2020/03/16/this-is-a-massive-buying-opportunity-marc-lasry.html>

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

- DPI working on allowing schools to waive state-mandated hour requirements, skip mandated assessments ... "aggressively pursuing" a waiver from [USEd] for annual standardized student-achievement tests, and will work with the state lawmakers and Gov. Tony Evers to suspend state testing requirements this spring due to the "unprecedented circumstances ... The DPI is taking action to remove barriers that may be in the way of our schools and students during these trying times," [DPI Super] Stanford Taylor said. "I am proud of our schools and communities, who remain focused on providing continuity of learning, and providing meals and other resources to students who may need them." ... asking Evers to suspend [Admin. Code] temporarily so districts can use a simplified form to apply for a [immediate] waiver to the mandated hours of instruction ... Discussions of how altered state and federal testing policies will impact DPI's annual Accountability Report Cards are ongoing ... also received a federal waiver allowing schools to continue serving meals to economically disadvantaged students during the school closures.

<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/2020/03/16/5063726002/>

- RUSD not requiring online work, virtual learning days planned for west-end schools

[https://journaltimes.com/news/local/rusd-not-requiring-online-work-virtual-learning-days-planned-for/article\\_b82d28be-5d45-5a1b-87b3-9a30b6c255b2.html](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/rusd-not-requiring-online-work-virtual-learning-days-planned-for/article_b82d28be-5d45-5a1b-87b3-9a30b6c255b2.html)

- [Supt.] Jacobi: SDR was ready for governor's directive to close schools

<http://www.rivernewsonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=6&SubSectionID=47&ArticleID=88241>

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

- Officials urge absentee voting as Wisconsin's April election still on

<https://madison.com/wsj/d883d267-262c-5c0f-b900-f20807726cd1.html>

- Ashland encourages residents to vote absentee

[https://www.apg-wi.com/ashland\\_daily\\_press/covid-19/ashland-encourages-residents-to-vote-absentee/article\\_869daeec-67ab-11ea-ac2c-b746fbf53b9b.html](https://www.apg-wi.com/ashland_daily_press/covid-19/ashland-encourages-residents-to-vote-absentee/article_869daeec-67ab-11ea-ac2c-b746fbf53b9b.html)

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

- Mark Ecklund saved a life by donating stem cells. He wants you to do it too.

<https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/2020/03/17/weston-man-builds-epic-motorcycle-promote-match-donations/4825219002/>

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

- Whitewater cook says he was fired for missing work shift during self-isolation

[https://www.gazettextra.com/news/health\\_care/coronavirus/update-whitewater-cook-says-he-was-fired-for-missing-work/article\\_a2776575-3c14-52e2-8ce9-87579ab3192e.html](https://www.gazettextra.com/news/health_care/coronavirus/update-whitewater-cook-says-he-was-fired-for-missing-work/article_a2776575-3c14-52e2-8ce9-87579ab3192e.html)

## **LAW AND ORDER** <sup>^top^</sup>

- Dane County Jail will medically screen new inmates to minimize COVID-19 risk

<https://madison.com/wsj/a6bcb727-38d4-5f5d-bf9c-92de3f98e883.html>

- Rock County Jail changes implemented during COVID-19 outbreak

[https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/local-news/rock-county-jail-changes-implemented-during-covid-outbreak/article\\_84d05cb7-8706-55c8-aa21-66cc3806da98.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/local-news/rock-county-jail-changes-implemented-during-covid-outbreak/article_84d05cb7-8706-55c8-aa21-66cc3806da98.html)

- Chippewa County judge upholds order blocking sex offender's release

[https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front-page/chippewa-county-judge-upholds-order-blocking-sex-offender-s-release/article\\_8971de71-c121-5350-9924-1a2e9cc7d44e.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front-page/chippewa-county-judge-upholds-order-blocking-sex-offender-s-release/article_8971de71-c121-5350-9924-1a2e9cc7d44e.html)

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

- Michigan governor bans dining out, extends jobless benefits

[https://www.wiscnews.com/news/national/govt-and-politics/michigan-governor-bans-dining-out-extends-jobless-benefits/article\\_7654aa05-13d4-5ebc-a28e-c07247ab2829.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/news/national/govt-and-politics/michigan-governor-bans-dining-out-extends-jobless-benefits/article_7654aa05-13d4-5ebc-a28e-c07247ab2829.html)

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

- State military officials order rare Level 1 activation for coronavirus

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2020/03/16/coronavirus-wisconsin-military-orders-rare-level-1-activation/5059669002/>

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

- 'We need to stop congregating,' Walz says, calling for closure of Minnesota bars, restaurants

<https://www.rivertowns.net/news/government-and-politics/5001212-We-need-to-stop-congregating-Walz-says-calling-for-closure-of-Minnesota-bars-restaurants>

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

- Jessie Opoien: It's time to look for the helpers in the COVID-19 crisis

<https://madison.com/ct/74ddcb32-fd36-5276-b345-6d88a6d188df.html>

- Treasurer Sarah Godlewski: Senators Must Pass Coronavirus Act, House passed relief bill goes to Senate, Johnson and Baldwin should support it.



<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2020/03/16/op-ed-senators-must-pass-coronavirus-act/>

- Will Flanders: Coronavirus panic no reason to expand Medicaid

<https://rightwisconsin.com/2020/03/16/coronavirus-panic-no-reason-to-expand-medicaid>

- John Nichols: Don't let COVID-19 prevent a high-turnout election on April 7

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/john\\_nichols/john-nichols-don-t-let-covid--prevent-a-high/article\\_d230f7e8-2d28-528a-a4ff-75f95aa9a033.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/john_nichols/john-nichols-don-t-let-covid--prevent-a-high/article_d230f7e8-2d28-528a-a4ff-75f95aa9a033.html)

- Dave Zweifel: Renovations help an already special Aldo Leopold Nature Center shine brighter

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/dave\\_zweifel/plain-talk-renovations-help-an-already-special-aldo-leopold-nature/article\\_045a5d50-72f9-553d-a97a-c78fc7f028ad.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/dave_zweifel/plain-talk-renovations-help-an-already-special-aldo-leopold-nature/article_045a5d50-72f9-553d-a97a-c78fc7f028ad.html)

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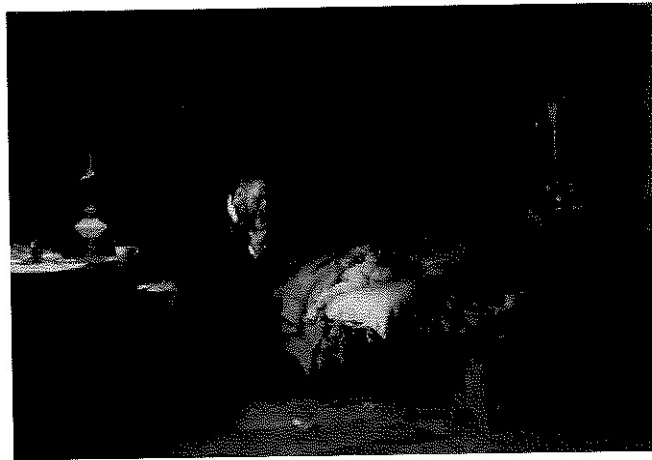
**Hope, Sam**

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**From:** RightWisconsin <RightWisconsin@RightWisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 6:45 AM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion Is Not the Coronavirus Cure

RightWisconsin Daily Update

[View this email in your browser](#)



# RIGHTWisconsin

**The Cost of the Green New Deal to Wisconsin**

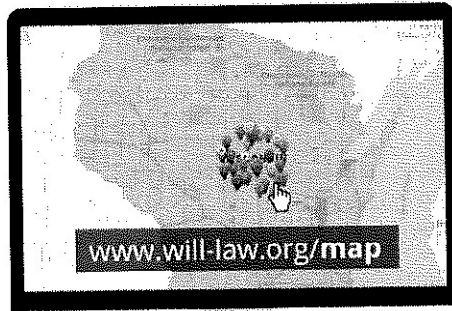
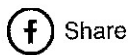
## **Medicaid Expansion No Cure for Coronavirus Costs**

Dear Adam,

Will Flanders of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty hears the pandemic

panic calls for expanding Medicaid. But the Coronavirus is not a good excuse for wrecking the health care success Wisconsin has had, according to Flanders. Let's not let panic make poor public policy.

James Wigderson  
Editor  
RightWisconsin



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## On RightWisconsin Right Now:

### CORONAVIRUS PANIC NO REASON TO EXPAND MEDICAID

by Will Flanders

Let's not let panic over the Coronavirus lead Wisconsin down a policy path which we will come to regret in the future.

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### CORONAVIRUS CRAZY CLARKE

by James Wigderson

Oh yeah, we hear you Clarke, loud and clear. That's a large pizza and a whole lotta crazy bread.

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## [EVERS: MOVING APRIL PRIMARY NOT ON THE TABLE](#)

by [Benjamin Yount](#)

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers on Monday said no one is talking about moving next month's primary election because of the virus.

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## [ADJUSTING TO THE CORONAVIRUS WORLD](#)

by [James Wigderson](#)

The Coronavirus will kill people. But how many? And will we take the steps necessary to reduce the number of deaths?

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## [WISCONSIN REPUBLICANS EXPLAIN VOTING NO ON CORONAVIRUS BILL](#)

by [James Wigderson](#)

All four Wisconsin Republicans in the House voted "no," and it appears Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) may be a "no" vote next week in the U.S. Senate.

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## [NEW INTERACTIVE TOOL FOR PARENTS HELPS THEM CHOOSE THE RIGHT SCHOOL](#)

by [James Wigderson](#)

In this era of different educational options, parents now have a tool to help them pick the right schools for their children.

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## CURSIVE WRITING ENHANCES STUDENTS' BRAINS

by Jeremy Thiesfeldt

The College Board even found that students who wrote in cursive for the SAT scored higher than students who used print.

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## SCENES FROM A CORONAVIRUS PANIC

by James Wigderson

Normally calm, cool and collected (and very Republican) Waukesha is caught up in the Coronavirus panic, too, and hoarding toilet paper.

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## ACT 10 SAVES WISCONSIN TAXPAYERS MORE THAN \$12 BILLION, NEW ANALYSIS FINDS

by Maclver Institute

Act 10 ultimately put Wisconsin taxpayers back in charge of our government and back in control of our future.

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## APPEAL FILED WITH STATE SUPREME COURT IN VOTER REGISTRATION CASE

by James Wigderson

The Wisconsin Supreme Court may not take up the case until after the April 7 election, removing the reason for Kelly to recuse himself

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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.*

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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-Y6YHWE6HRJEBIHME3PREUVOX4>

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:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2020 3:28 PM  
**To:** Eberle, Ed  
**Subject:** FW: Course Choice Memos  
**Attachments:** Testimony in Support of Course Choice.docx; Research Brief Course Choice.pdf; FAQ AB 849 - Final.pdf; Course Choice FINAL 2.11.png

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**From:** Megan Novak <MNovak@afphq.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam <Adam.Gibbs@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Course Choice Memos

Adam –

Attached are the memos on course choice from AFP and WILL. Let me know if you have more questions.

Thanks!  
Megan

Megan Novak | Legislative Director | Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin | 608.218.0580 | [mnovak@afphq.org](mailto:mnovak@afphq.org)



**AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY**

**WISCONSIN**

**Testimony in Support of Course Choice**

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 789 which would expand the part time open enrollment program in Wisconsin. Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin is a grassroots organization with thousands of activists committed to supporting a free society. One of the pillars of a free society is educational opportunity, where every student's potential is unleashed through an education system that recognizes the individual needs of every child. Senate Bill 789 takes an important step closer to reaching this goal.

Senate Bill 789, authored by Senator Darling and Representative Thiesfeld, will expand and revamp the part time open enrollment program in our state offering more students access to more courses and more opportunity.

Currently, the part-time open enrollment program is limited to students in the traditional public school system. Senate Bill 789 would rename the program "Course Choice" and expand it to students in all schools, grades 1 through 12, if those private schools choose to participate. Under the revamped Course Choice, private schools will be able to opt into the program, and students at those schools will be able to participate as well.

The new and improved Course Choice program will help all students in Wisconsin have access to courses that they may not otherwise have. The individual interests and potential of each student will be further met by allowing access to thousands of more course options throughout the state. Our students across Wisconsin deserve this opportunity.

Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin thanks Senator Darling and Representative Thiesfeldt for authoring this important bill to provide more opportunity to more students in Wisconsin. Thank you, Chairman Olsen and members of the Committee on Senate Education, for hearing this needed reform. We respectfully encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Megan Novak  
Legislative Director  
Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin

# Untapped Potential

## *WILL's Analysis of Wisconsin's Part-Time Open Enrollment Program and the Need to Expand Course Access*

### **I. Introduction**

Wisconsin's part-time open enrollment allows certain students at public high schools to take courses at a nonresident public high school while remaining in their local school. But very little analysis has been done on the program. Through open records requests and interviews, WILL studied 26 school districts across the state to explore how the current program is being used.

The research shows that even though the current program has restrictions, students are utilizing it to access courses at other schools. These courses are often highly specialized – Livestock, Mandarin, Engineering – and not offered at the student's home school. Some take advantage of virtual schools to take courses online.

Unfortunately, our study also shows that there is little to no publically available information on the program. That, coupled with laws that unfairly prevent public schools from working with private schools, limits the program's growth.

### *Takeaways*

- WILL analyzed part-time open enrollment at 26 school districts. Students took Livestock and Equine Management, Mandarin, AP statistics, Horticulture and Landscape, AP Music Theory, and Engineering courses at nonresident public school districts including Elmbrook, Racine, Wausau, Wauwatosa, Green Bay, and Sheboygan.
- Students are willing to travel to participate in classes at other school districts. For example, a student from Winneconee school district took Advanced Physics Concepts at Neenah school district, about 15 miles away. Virtual public schools are also common.
- Yet the program has strict limitations and little publically available information for parents.
- This is a crisis. A WILL analysis of AP courses at Milwaukee Public Schools concluded that only 5% of high schools offer an AP Computer Science course, 16% offer AP Physics, 26% offer AP Chemistry, and 42% offer AP Government/Civics. Northeastern Wisconsin public schools were worse with 0% of high schools offering AP Spanish, German, and or economics.
- A new bill, AB 849 / SB 789, could fix this problem and give children access to more courses.

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February 2020

AB 849 / SB 789, authored by Rep. Thiesfeldt and Sen. Darling would solve these problems. The bipartisan bill deserves passage and would fix a critical problem.

We surveyed courses in high schools in rural Northeast Wisconsin and Milwaukee Public Schools. Although these school districts have stark contrasts in geography, student body, and transportation, they do share a severe lack in Advanced Placement course offerings. Lack of course access greatly contributes to preventing students from realizing their full potential and is contributing to the workforce skills gap.

## **II. Parents – and Schools – have little to no information on the current program**

Simply put, there is little to no way for parents to learn about the existing part-time open enrollment. Consider:

- DPI's website provides a short explanation of the program but there is no centralized information about the types of courses available or even data relating to past participation.<sup>1</sup>
- School districts rarely post information about the program on their websites and it is wholly incumbent on the parents and students to find the list of courses and apply – assuming that they know the program exists.
- WILL simply wanted to know how many students utilize part-time open enrollment. We could not do that. We had to submit open records requests to school districts for that information. To make matters even more complicated, districts have multiple ways and forms of presenting the information – which makes cross-district comparisons hard, if not impossible.

## **III. Even with limitations, the current program is utilized**

Because there is no publically available database or easily accessible information, WILL analyzed 26 school districts to learn about whether students were using part time open enrollment either to take courses in their school or to take courses at another public high school.<sup>2</sup>

The conclusion – despite what some may say, part-time open enrollment is utilized in a number of ways. Some highlights include:

- **There is a demand for specialized courses that may not be offered at the public school the child attends.** Through part-time open enrollment students took Livestock and Equine

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Instruction, Part-Time Open Enrollment, <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/ptoe>

<sup>2</sup> Appleton Area, Beloit, DC Everest Area, Eau Claire Area, Elmbrook, Fond du Lac, Green Bay Area, Howards Grove, Hudson, Janesville, Kenosha Unified, Kimberly Area, La Crosse, Madison Metropolitan, Middleton Cross Plains Area, Neenah Joint, Oak Creek-Franklin, Oconomowoc Area, Oshkosh Area, Racine Unified, Sheboygan Area, Sun Prairie Area, Verona Area, Wausau Area, Wauwatosa, West Allis – West Milwaukee school districts.



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Management, Mandarin, AP statistics, Horticulture and Landscape, AP Music Theory, and Engineering courses at nonresident public schools.

- **Certain school districts have a lot of students using part-time open enrollment to attend their classes.** 11 students from outside the district use part-time open enrollment to take courses at Elmbrook high schools. 18 students from outside the district take courses at Racine Unified Public Schools, 11 students take courses at Wausau Public Schools, and 10 students take course at Wauwatosa Public Schools. Part-time open enrollment was also utilized at DC Everest, Green Bay Public Schools, Hudson, Kenosha, and Sheboygan school districts.
- **Virtual public schools are used.** Students from all over the state use part-time open enrollment to take courses that their resident school district may not offer, such as foreign languages, chemistry, personal finance, and economics. The opposite holds true as well. Students attending virtual schools attended classes at the local high schools to participate in classes like band, choir, aerospace engineering, art classes, like drawing and painting, and computer science.
- **Students are willing to travel** to participate in classes at other school districts. For example, a student from Winneconee school district took Advanced Physics Concepts at Neenah school district, about 15 miles away. A student from Campbellsport school district took AP Statistics at Fond du Lac school district, about 17 miles away. Student from Milwaukee Public Schools took band and aerospace engineering at Oak Creek-Franklin school district, about 13 miles away.

Based on WILL's open records requests, Appendix A lists every school district that participated in part-time open enrollment during the 2018-2019 school year. Appendix B is a comprehensive list of classes students have taken through part-time open enrollment based on WILL's open records requests.<sup>3</sup>

#### **IV. Lack of Courses in Struggling Regions**

Overall, the state report cards show that Wisconsin student's proficiency in math and reading hovers around 40%. A deep dive into the data shows glaring problems. Wisconsin's urban districts have one of the worst academic achievement gaps between white students and their minority peers. In practice, the NAEP scores indicate that 8th grade African Americans in Wisconsin are performing academically just one grade ahead of 4th grade white students.

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<sup>3</sup> Appendices are available at [www.will-law.org](http://www.will-law.org).

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Sadly, student performance in rural schools often looks the same, or worse, than performance in urban schools.

These concerning trends indicate that we need to give students access to as many educational options as possible. Students learn differently so access to additional courses may help a child learn and supplement their education.

WILL was able to gather information about Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Access to AP courses is critical to high school success and every child deserves the opportunity to full-fill their potential. AP courses are a good proxy to determine whether students have access to a wide range of topics and courses. Research has shown that students that take AP courses attend college at a higher rate,<sup>4</sup> earn higher grades in college,<sup>5</sup> and are less likely to drop out of college.<sup>6</sup> We surveyed high school course catalogs in Milwaukee and Northeastern Wisconsin, two parts of the state with struggling K-12 schools.

In Milwaukee, we surveyed every high school in Milwaukee Public Schools.<sup>7</sup> The following information is based on the 2018-2019 course catalogs for 19 Milwaukee Public School high schools<sup>8</sup>:

- 5% of MPS high schools offer an AP computer science course.
- 16% of MPS high schools offer an AP economics course.
- 16% of MPS high schools offer an AP physics course.
- 26% of MPS high schools offer an AP chemistry course.
- 32% of MPS high schools offer an AP statistics course.
- 37% of MPS high schools offer an AP studio arts course.
- 42% of MPS high schools offer an AP biology course.
- 42% of MPS high schools offer an AP calculus course.
- 42% of MPS high schools offer an AP Spanish course.
- 42% of MPS high schools offer an AP US government course.

This is not just a Milwaukee problem. We surveyed Northeastern Wisconsin, focusing on school districts 40-50 miles north and west of Oconto Unified School District and as far south as Pulaski. Of the nine high schools surveyed:

- 0% of high schools offer AP Spanish
- 0% of high schools offer AP German
- 0% of high schools offer AP economics

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<sup>4</sup> Study by Chajewski, Mattern, & Shaw; Wyatt & Mattern, 2011

<sup>5</sup> Keng & Dodd, 2008; Morgan & Klaric, 2007; Murphy & Dodd, 2009

<sup>6</sup> Mattern, Shaw & Xiong, 2009

<sup>7</sup> Appendix C, with the full list of schools in Milwaukee and Northeast Wisconsin, is available at [www.will-law.org](http://www.will-law.org).

<sup>8</sup> Please note: not included in the list of 19 MPS schools are 3 MPS high schools that only offer IB courses, 4 MPS non-instrumentality public charter schools or any alternative high schools.

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- 11% of high schools offer AP Art History
- 22% of high schools offer AP government
- 22% of high schools offer AP computer science
- 33% of high schools offer AP English
- 33% of high schools offer AP physics

For example, Coleman High School in Northeastern Wisconsin only offers one AP course *total* and located just over 20 miles away, Marinette High School and Wausaukee High School only offer two AP courses total.

The full breakdown of high schools in Milwaukee and Northeastern Wisconsin can be found on our website as Appendix C.

Across the state, only 16.9% of high school students took AP exams in 2017-2018. While more Wisconsin students are taking exams than in previous years, it is still less than a quarter of the student population. Expanding course choice will allow more students to access AP courses if their own schools do not offer them.

Of course, the survey only looks at AP courses. There's reason to believe that course access is an issue for non-AP courses too. According to Code.org, only 42% of Wisconsin's public high schools teach a computer science course and only 87 schools in the state offered an Advanced Placement Computer Science course.<sup>9</sup>

#### V. Interest from Private Schools

During former Governor Walker's administration, the part-time open enrollment was briefly expanded to allow any public school student to take courses from both public and nonprofit organizations, including private schools (from 2013-2017). Sadly this was rolled back in the last Walker budget for reasons that have never been fully explained.

But for a brief time, there were partnerships between school districts and nearby private schools, which had space in their classrooms. For example, students from the Green Bay Area Public School District, Howard-Suamico School District, and Ashwaubenon School District took courses at Notre Dame Academy de la Baie. The majority of those students enrolled in Notre Dame's Mandarin and IB German programs. It was a win-win for all. The local public school districts did not need to spend resources to hire qualified teachers for Mandarin courses, Notre Dame presumably had empty seats to fill, and students could stay at Green Bay Public Schools but still take the courses that they wanted.

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<sup>9</sup> Code.org, "Support K-12 Computer Science in Wisconsin." <https://code.org/advocacy/state-facts/WI.pdf>

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Karen Konop, outreach Administrator at Notre Dame Academy (NDA) with over 750 students, recently testified in favor of AB 849, explaining their experience in part-time open enrollment, and desire to continue working with Green Bay Public Schools:

“NDA participated in the Course Options program beginning in 2016 when the law permitted private schools to do so. We had students in four different school districts enroll and take classes in Mandarin and IB German. These students were able to do so until the Course Options program ended after 2018 and left these students with no option to continue their studies in these areas.

As individual schools, we are not all able to offer every opportunity in education for all students. However, together we can offer much more and access for all students.”

Notre Dame is not alone in its desire to work with parents at public schools. In an informal survey of private schools, WILL found that over 65% of private schools would be willing to allow students from public schools to take courses at their school.<sup>10</sup> With over 170 private schools located in rural counties across Wisconsin, AB 849 could help students in rural parts of Wisconsin access courses from schools in their communities.<sup>11</sup>

Alternatively, High Point Christian School testified in favor of AB 849, stating that they would want their students to explore taking courses at neighboring public schools.

“It is not always possible for High Point Christian to offer classes in every topic our students are interested in. AB 849 will allow High Point Christian students to access a course that we don’t offer. We would be willing to work with public schools if there was a change in state law to permit it.”

Current law prohibits collaboration between public, private, and independent public charter schools. With 25 independent public charter schools and at least 790 private schools across Wisconsin, the opportunity for collaboration between schools is great. AB 849 would lift these unfair restrictions.

Interestingly High Point Christian School educates over 230 students in pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This indicates a demand for course access for elementary school and middle school. This is something also that is prohibited by current law and AB 849 would fix.

## **VI. Conclusion**

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<sup>10</sup> Out of 28 private schools surveyed, 19 said that they would be interested in participating if the course was expanded to include private school students.

<sup>11</sup> Flanders, Will. “The case for school choice in rural Wisconsin. April 2017. <http://www.will-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/REPORT-Rural-Schools-Need-to-Expand-WPCP.pdf>

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AB 849 / SB 789, authored by Rep. Thiesfeldt and Sen. Darling, would make Wisconsin a national leader in course access, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

Increasing Course Access for Students  
*Everything You Need To Know About AB 849/ SB 789*

**1. Background**

*What is the part-time open enrollment program?*

The part-time open enrollment program is an existing program that gives high school public school students the option to take a course at a different public school. This program is for individual students as a resource only if they are interested in taking additional courses. These classes do not have to be for college credit (like IB or AP). Instead, the student looks to take a class based on her interest or need.

*How long has the program been in place?*

In 1997, the legislature created the part-time open enrollment program to allow a student to take up to two courses at any time in a nonresidential school district. The program has gone through a few expansions and changes – in 2013, the program was expanded to allow students to take classes at the UW system, a technical college, a nonprofit institution of higher education, a tribal college, a charter school and nonprofit organization approved by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). But in 2017, the program was limited back to its original form – permitting only public high school students to take courses from a nonresidential district.

*How does the part-time open enrollment program work under current law?*

A public high school student cannot access a course at a nonresidential school district unless the student applies to the nonresidential district; there is space for the student; and that student is qualified

*Short Version*

- All students deserve the opportunity to reach their academic potential. But far too many students attend schools that lack courses valuable for academic growth.
- For AP courses, 5% of Milwaukee Public School High Schools offer computer science, 16% offer economics, and 16% offer physics. Rural Wisconsin also struggles. 0% of high schools in the Northeastern Wisconsin area offer AP Spanish or economics and 22% offer AP government or computer science.
- Wisconsin’s part-time open enrollment program gives students the chance to take courses outside of their resident school. A WILL study showed that this program is utilized. But it is limited due to restrictions that prevent collaboration between public and private schools and provide very little information to parents the program exists.
- A new bill, AB 849 / SB 789, would fix those problems and make Wisconsin a leader in course access. By ensuring all students have access to important courses, the bill would work to improve the next generation of the workforce and close the racial achievement gap.



to take the course. The student's full-time school can claim undue financial burden if the cost of the course is a burden on the school's finances. If the school claim's undue financial burden, the student is then unable to participate in the class at the nonresidential school.

Current law requires a nonresidential district to select students randomly if more students apply than there are spaces available in the class.

*Is transportation provided under current law?*

No public transportation is provided by the district. Under current law, a family may request low-income assistance from DPI to be reimbursed for the costs incurred from transporting the student. DPI must give preference if the student satisfies the free or reduced price lunch criteria.

*How is the current program funded?*

DPI's administrative rule, PI 36.19, provides the formula to determine the cost of the course. The student's full-time school pays the nonresident school for the cost of the course.

*How is this program different than existing programs designed to give students access to college courses?*

Part-time open enrollment is different than dual enrollment and the early college credit program. Dual enrollment programs permit students to enroll simultaneously in both high school and college to earn both high school and college credit. Dual enrollment classes taught at high schools require teachers to have specific credentials to begin and to continue teaching college credit general education courses in their high schools.

The early college credit program allows any high school student, public or private, the option to take college courses at the UW system, technical colleges and a nonprofit institution of higher education.

*How is the program different from programs that give nonpublic school students access to classes at their residential districts?*

The part-time open enrollment program is also different from an existing admissions process that allows local private high school students to take up to two classes at their local public school at no charge to the student (Wis. Stat. 118.145(4)). Under this limited program, high school students that live in the district and attend a private school may apply to the local public school to take a course. The local public school counts the private school student for that course and receives some state aid for the student. This enrollment option does not provide private school students access to courses across districts or to other schools, like public charter schools.

*How many students utilize the existing program?*

It is not known how many students utilize the existing program. Participation in the program is not tracked by DPI. But WILL analyzed part-time open enrollment at 26 school districts. Students took Livestock and Equine Management, Mandarin, AP statistics, Horticulture and Landscape, AP Music Theory, and engineering courses at nonresident public schools. Students took courses at many non-resident school districts including Elmbrook, Racine, Wausau, Wauwatosa, Green Bay, and Sheboygan. Virtual schools are common and utilized under the current program.

Students are willing to travel to participate in classes at other school districts. For example, a student from Winneconee school district took Advanced Physics Concepts in the Neenah school district, about 15 miles away.<sup>1</sup>

Yet the program has strict limitations and little publically available information for parents.

## **II. Tell Me About AB 849/ SB 789**

*What exactly does AB 849/ SB 789 do?*

The existing program provides students with limited access to courses. AB 849 and SB 789 improve the existing program by:

1. Expanding the program to allow public school students to take courses at private and public charter schools.
2. Allow private school students to use the program to take courses at public and private schools.
3. Increase transparency about this program so families know it is a resource for their students.
4. Expands the ages of students to participate to first through twelfth grade.

*So, is there a course access problem in Wisconsin?*

Yes, research shows that access to various courses, including Advanced Placement or Computer Science, are not available in every public school in Wisconsin. For example, according to code.org, only 42% of Wisconsin public high schools offer computer science courses.<sup>2</sup>

A WILL analysis of AP courses at Milwaukee Public Schools concluded that only 5% of high schools offer an AP Computer Science course, 16% offer AP Physics, 26% offer AP Chemistry, and 42% offer

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<sup>1</sup> The full study can be found on our website will-law.org or available upon request.

<sup>2</sup> Code.org. "Support K-12 Computer Science in Wisconsin." <https://code.org/advocacy/state-facts/WI.pdf>

AP Government/Civics. Northeastern Wisconsin public schools were worse; 0% of high schools offer AP Spanish, 0% of high schools offer AP German, and 0% of high schools offer AP economics.<sup>3</sup>

*Are private schools even interested in this program?*

Yes, private schools did participate in the program when permitted. But the number of private schools is unknown because program participation was not tracked by DPI. In written testimony submitted to the Assembly Committee on Education, Notre Dame Academy de la Baie, a private school in Green Bay, discussed how the school participated in the program from 2016-2018. Notre Dame Academy served students from four school districts that enrolled and took classes in Mandarin and IB German.

In an informal survey of private schools, WILL found that over 65% of private schools would be willing to allow students from public schools to take courses at their school.

*Does AB 849 / SB 789 mandate that private schools participate in the program?*

No, the bill does not mandate that private schools participate in the program. The bill allows private schools to opt into the program. If a private school opts into participating, the bill requires private schools to both allow students to take classes at their school (providing that there is space) and private school students could use the program to take classes at other schools.

Once a private school opts in, the private school can claim, like public schools, undue financial burden if the cost of the course is a burden on the school's finances.

*Why does the bill expand the age range of students able to participate in the program?*

Students of all ages have different needs for their education. This bill improves the existing program so it is a resource for more students. For example, students in middle school could benefit from the expanded program by taking foreign languages or computer science. Gifted and talented students, of all ages, could benefit from this program by accessing accelerated classes that are not available at their existing school. Education is changing and this bill is forward-thinking so that this program is a resource to students of all ages as their education needs and experience change.

*How can rural students benefit under the improvements in the bill?*

Rural public school students can benefit under current law by taking virtual classes from virtual public charter schools. But the bill expands the opportunities available to rural students.

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<sup>3</sup> The full study can be found on our website [will-law.org](http://will-law.org) or available upon request.

According to WILL research, 21% of all Wisconsin private schools are located in rural counties.<sup>4</sup> This bill will provide many students located in rural areas access to a private school that is closer than another public school.

Additionally, the bill provides a transportation aid preference to parents whose students attend school in a rural community. There is not a requirement for students to meet the free and reduced price lunch criteria to access this transportation aid.

*How is course access related to workforce development?*

Students should have access to courses that prepare them for college and career. According to ExcelinEd, students who take Algebra II in high school are more likely to enroll in college or community college.<sup>5</sup> And students who take high-quality math in high school are more likely to declare STEM majors. AB 849 / SB 789 will help more Wisconsin students customize their education so that they are prepared for college and career.

Testimony from Project Lead the Way highlighted that there is a crisis in STEM-related fields in Wisconsin. As of February 5, 2020, there were 87,154 available jobs listed on the Job Center of Wisconsin website, run by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and many require at least some STEM-related skills. While Project Lead the Way is working to address these critical skills gaps in over 400 schools, more resources like this bill can help students' access STEM courses.

*Does this bill create an additional fiscal note to the state?*

No, according to Fiscal Bureau, the bill does not require new state funding for the program. The bill expands the type of students that could benefit from transportation assistance offered by DPI to give preference to students whose full-time education institution is located in a rural community. This transportation funding assistance comes from DPI's GPR annual appropriation. The bill does not change the appropriation.

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<sup>4</sup> Flanders, Will. "The case for school choice in rural Wisconsin." April 2017. <https://www.will-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/REPORT-Rural-Schools-Need-to-Expand-WPCP.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> ExcelinEd. "College and Career Pathways: equity and access." 2018. <https://www.will-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/REPORT-Rural-Schools-Need-to-Expand-WPCP.pdf>

# Course Choice

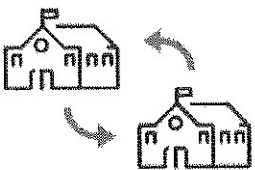
Customized education for Wisconsin students

Every Wisconsin student **deserves access to important courses** - like chemistry or computer science. But for too many Wisconsin students, particularly those in underserved regions, **there are few options to take these courses.**

## Case Study:

A review of course offerings at high schools in the Milwaukee Public Schools finds:

**5%** Offer AP Computer Science    **16%** Offer AP Physics    **16%** Offer AP Economics    **32%** Offer AP Chemistry



**Course choice**, or part-time open enrollment, allows Wisconsin students to remain in their schools while taking courses at other schools.



But Wisconsin's course choice program is **limited**.

- Parents have **no way to access information**.
- The law unfairly **prevents collaboration** between public, charter, and private schools.

## Assembly Bill 849 / Senate Bill 789

- ✓ Allow students at public schools to take courses at private and public charters.
- ✓ Expands the existing program to include students from private and public charters schools.
- ✓ Require more public information to parents and schools about the program.
- ✓ Make it easier for rural families with limited resources to participate in the program by offering more transportation reimbursement.

## Hope, Sam

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**From:** Megan Novak <MNovak@afphq.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Gibbs, Adam  
**Subject:** Course Choice Memos  
**Attachments:** Testimony in Support of Course Choice.docx; Research Brief Course Choice.pdf; FAQ AB 849 - Final.pdf; Course Choice FINAL 2.11.png

Adam –

Attached are the memos on course choice from AFP and WILL. Let me know if you have more questions.

Thanks!  
Megan

Megan Novak | Legislative Director | Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin | 608.218.0580 | mnovak@afphq.org