



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Phil Garthwaite
 49TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**STATE OF WISCONSIN SERVICES
 That Can Help You and Your Family**

BadgerCare provides health insurance to low-income working families with children who are uninsured or who don't have access to health insurance. For more information, visit www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercare or call 1-800-362-3002.

BadgerRx Gold brings affordable drugs to the uninsured and underinsured. It has no age requirement or screening for pre-existing health conditions. For more information, visit www.badgergold.com or call 1-866-809-9382.

SeniorCare is Wisconsin's prescription drug program for residents age 65 or older who have limited income and need help paying for their medications. For more information, visit www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/seniorcare or call 1-800-657-2038.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), through the Veterans Trust Fund, provides education assistance, loans, need-based grants, long-term health care, assistance in applying for federal veterans benefits, and numerous other services to eligible Wisconsin veterans, deployed service members, and their families. To learn more or to apply, contact your County Veterans Service Officer, visit www.dva.state.wi.us, or call WDVA toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387).

State Government Fraud Hotline is a new hotline for the public to report incidents of fraud, waste and mismanagement in state government. This 24-hour hotline will be staffed by the non partisan Legislative Audit Bureau and the identity of callers will be kept confidential. The toll free fraud hotline number can be reached at 1-877-372-8317.

BadgerCare Plus

Provides Healthcare Coverage to:

- Children under age 19
- Pregnant women
- Parents and relatives caring for a child
- Parents with children in foster care
- Young adults leaving out of home care (such as foster care)
- Farmers and other self-employed parents

Out of Pocket Cost:

BadgerCare Plus has two major health insurance plans. There are several limited plans which cover different services, each with different income limits. The plan you're enrolled in depends on your family's income. Some plans will have, deductibles, premiums and co-payments. You may not have to pay at all, but if you do, the amount you pay depends on your family income. You can be sure it's a good investment in your family's health. You can apply for BadgerCare Plus at badgercareplus.org. For more information, call 1-800-362-3002 or visit badgercareplus.org

Aging & Long Term Care.....1-800-242-1060
 Attorney General.....1-608-266-1221
 Business Help Line.....1-800-435-7287
 Commerce.....1-608-266-1018
 Consumer Protection Hotline.....1-800-422-7128
 Crime Victim Service.....1-800-446-6564
 Employment Relations.....1-608-266-1731
 Farm Hotline.....1-800-942-2474
 Health & Family Services.....1-608-266-1865
 Housing Loans, Low Interest.....1-800-334-6873

Motor Vehicles Info Center.....1-800-924-3570
 Natural Resources.....1-608-266-2621
 Public Instruction.....1-800-441-4563
 Public Service Commission.....1-800-225-7729
 Revenue.....1-608-266-2772
 Road Conditions/Detours.....1-800-762-3947
 Tax Refund Information.....1-866-947-7363
 Unemployment Insurance.....1-800-494-4944
 Veterans Affairs.....1-800-947-8387
 Workforce Development.....1-608-266-3131



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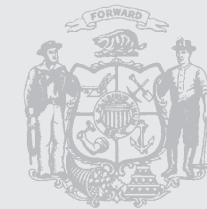
**Legislative
 Update 2008**

Dear Neighbor,

As your newly-elected state representative, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you. It is both an honor and privilege to serve you.

In the past eighteen months I have worked to expand access to affordable healthcare, fix the school funding mess, create jobs, and to provide meaningful property tax relief. It is important for me to know how people feel about issues so that I can bring your voices to Madison. Please contact me with your questions and concerns.

State Rep. Phil Garthwaite



Phil speaks to the Assembly about rural healthcare needs and the crippling property tax burden.

How to Reach Me:

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 Email: rep.garthwaite@legis.wi.gov

Committee Assignments:

- Transportation
- Agriculture
- Rural Economic Development
- Rural Affairs



Phil Garthwaite discusses equipment and training needs with Dickeyville volunteer firefighter Tom Neis.

Lower Property Taxes

Lowering property taxes has been one of my highest priorities during my first term. There has been some success, but there are other areas where we need to keep fighting for lower taxes. I'm proud to have prevented a major property tax increase by passing Senate Bill 122, without which homeowners could have seen a nearly two billion dollar increase in property taxes across the state.

I authored Assembly Bill 920 to help insure that the government never taxes anyone out of their home. I supported The HOPE plan that would have lowered many Wisconsinites' property tax bill by \$600 a year.

This past session I also authored the Corporate Tax Accountability Act. Assembly Bill 751 would help insure that corporations are paying their fair share by making them disclose how much they paid in taxes, and what exemptions if any they had claimed. This public disclosure would have simply brought the corporate tax process out into the light of day for a closer look.

Clean Government

The spectacle of money and mud slinging that has marred Wisconsin's Supreme Court races must stop. I have co-authored the Impartial Justice Bill (AB 250) that would protect our Supreme Court from the influence of big money special interests and restore public confidence. Unfortunately, the bill failed to pass this legislative session, but I will continue to support the Impartial Justice Bill next year.

I was happy to be a part of **the most sweeping ethics legislation to be passed in Wisconsin in more than 30 years, making our ethics laws among the toughest in the nation.** The newly-created Government Accountability Board now has increased power to investigate and prosecute government corruption cases, helping to restore integrity to Wisconsin's state government.

School Funding Reform

Schools and property taxpayers all over Southwestern Wisconsin have been feeling the financial pinch of our failed school funding formula. With rising fuel and healthcare costs, and declining enrollment, increasingly schools are forced to hold costly and divisive referendas just to keep the doors open. Changing the way we fund schools has been an uphill fight. While there is no silver bullet solution, we need to do something. I fought for Assembly Joint Resolution 35, that would have required the Legislature to act to fix this broken system.

The Budget that initially passed the Assembly, despite bi-partisan opposition, made major cuts to K-12 funding. The budget proposed slashing close to one million dollars in aid to school districts in the 49th Assembly District including; Boscobel, Cuba City, Lancaster, Platteville, Potosi, River Ridge, Riverdale, and Southwestern. Through months of bitter fighting I was able to preserve funding for our schools, and restore the state funding our kids deserve in the final version of the state budget.



Phil reads to students at O. E. Gray Early Learning Center while touring schools in Platteville.

Affordable Healthcare

Increasing Access to Affordable Healthcare (AB 748) - Access to affordable healthcare is a very high priority for all of us who call Southwestern Wisconsin home. I authored Assembly Bill 748 to ensure that people can get the care they need at a price they can afford. It has been a challenge to even bring the topic of meaningful healthcare reform to the Assembly floor, but I have, and will continue to fight until every man, woman, and child in Wisconsin can afford health insurance.

Badgercare Plus - No child should be without healthcare. I'm proud to have been a part of ensuring that every child

in Wisconsin has access to healthcare their families' can afford through the newly created BadgerCare Plus program. To sign up for BadgerCare plus please call 1-800-362-3002 or visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus>

SeniorCare - I fought the Bush administration's decision to end Wisconsin's SeniorCare Program. This vital program helps seniors get the medications they need at a price they can afford. For most seniors, it is a much better option than federal programs and it also saves taxpayers millions of dollars. I launched a petition drive, wrote letters, and through the help of Senator Kohl, we saved SeniorCare.



Phil and farmer Tony Timmerman talk about affordable healthcare for farm families.

Healthcare for Farm Families

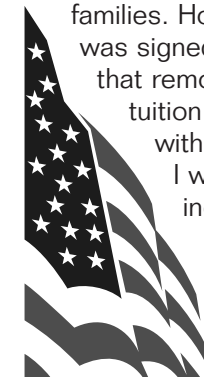
Healthcare costs have become a serious problem for many families, but farmers often have an even tougher time than most. 41% of farm families cannot afford to insure the whole family, while 18% go entirely without insurance. Since April 1st, the Farmers' Health Cooperative has been open for membership. This has helped farmers get access to the insurance coverage they deserve. But we must do more - I will continue to be your voice on healthcare and fight for common sense solutions to this problem.

Farmer's Fair Healthcare Act (AB 24) - The first bill I co-authored this session was Assembly Bill 24. This legislation would have ended years of unfair discrimination against farmers who must count their equipment depreciation as income. Ending this would make it easier for farmers to insure themselves and their families.

Standing Up for Veterans

I have had the honor of representing many veterans who live in Southwestern Wisconsin.

In the last legislative session, the state agreed to greatly enhance tuition benefits for Wisconsin soldiers and their families. However, less than a year after the new law was signed, Assembly Republicans voted for a budget that removed \$10 million in funding for veterans' tuition. This was unacceptable. I was proud to join with Governor Doyle in saying "a deal is a deal." I was happy to vote for a final budget that included full funding for everything that was promised to Wisconsin veterans in the previous session. I have always said that we owe our fighting men and women a tremendous debt. I will continue to fight for veterans' benefits



Bloomington-Glen Haven American Legion Commander Steve Lewis accepts a 100% membership award. Also pictured are Third District Vice-Commander Denise Rohan and Rep. Phil Garthwaite.