



# KIM HIXSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE  
43RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## Your opinion matters to me!

Help me represent *you* in Madison by letting me know what you think about these important state issues. Please complete this quick survey, refold and mail back to me. If more than one person in your household answers, please use different colored inks. *Thank you!*

- In an effort to reduce the influence of special interests on state government, do you support full public financing of elections?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
- Legislation has been proposed to ban smoking in all public buildings in Wisconsin. Do you agree with this proposal?  
 Yes  No  Undecided  
 Yes, but exempting taverns
- Wisconsin has some of the highest health care costs in the country and roughly 500,000 Wisconsinites go without health insurance every year. Do you believe the state should enact comprehensive health care reform that would lower costs and ensure all Wisconsin residents have insurance coverage?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
- Currently teacher salaries and benefits are limited by the QEO (Qualified Economic Offer). Should the state continue to limit teacher salaries and benefits?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
- Should Wisconsin encourage the search for potential medical cures using embryonic stem cell research?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
- Should the state continue to limit school spending with state imposed revenue caps?  
 Yes  No  Undecided
- Would you support a proposal that would allow homeowners to exempt the first \$60,000 of their home's value from property taxes in order to save an average of \$500 on their property tax bills? This legislation would be funded by closing tax law loopholes big companies exploit – like setting up P.O. boxes in Nevada to get out of paying taxes.  
 Yes  No  Undecided
- The governor has proposed that big oil companies be taxed 2.5% per barrel on profits from sales in Wisconsin. This tax could not be passed on to consumers at the pump. Do you support this proposal?  
 Yes  No  Undecided

Please fold in thirds, letter-style. Make sure return panel is showing. Tape at top.



MADISON, WI 53708  
P.O. BOX 8952  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KIM HIXSON**



PLACE  
FIRST  
CLASS  
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HERE



Hello folks,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you in the State Assembly.

This newsletter provides you with a brief update of my work on your behalf and a constituent survey to ask your opinions. For more detail, please visit my website at the address on this page. There you can subscribe to my e-newsletter and you can complete a constituent survey.

As your representative, your opinions and views on state issues are always important to me. I hope you'll contact me with any questions or concerns. By working together, we can insure that our voices are heard and that Wisconsin remains the great state that it is.

Warmest regards to you and your family,

KIM HIXSON  
State Representative  
43rd Assembly District

*Serving Rock, Walworth, Jefferson  
and Dane Counties*

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE KIM HIXSON

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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## There's HOPE for Lower Property Taxes

Earlier this summer I joined with Rep. Andy Jorgensen (D-Fort Atkinson) to re-introduce a bill that would help relieve some of the property tax burden on homeowners in Wisconsin.

The Home Owners Property Tax Exemption (HOPE) would exempt the first \$60,000 of your home's value from school property taxes. This exemption would help all homeowners but particularly retirees and others on fixed incomes. It also would help lower-income folks and our young people realize the American dream of owning their own home.

Schools would not suffer under this bill; the state would replace the lost property tax revenue.

How would HOPE work? Currently, tax loopholes exist in Wisconsin that allow corporations to dodge paying more than \$3 billion, according to the Wisconsin Tax Expenditure Survey. The HOPE bill would direct the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions to identify these loopholes in corporate income and franchise taxes so that this money can be used to fund the property tax credit.

HOPE would put fairness back to the tax system, and money back in homeowners' pockets. According to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, over the past thirty years the percentage of total property taxes paid by homeowners has increased from 50% to 69%, while the share paid by businesses has decreased from 50% to 31%.

Dozens of corporations in Wisconsin pay no income taxes at all. That's not fair to hardworking taxpayers like you.

Below, you can see how much homeowners in the 43rd Assembly District would save on average on their property taxes. How much would you save with HOPE?

### YOUR SAVINGS UNDER HOPE

Beloit	\$703	Milton	\$512
Edgerton	\$607	Orfordville	\$604
Footville	\$604	Whitewater	\$575

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## Affordable Health Care Available for Farm Families

Across the Badger State people are clamoring for health care reform. Nowhere is this frustration greater than on the family farms of Wisconsin.

While rising costs have created a statewide crisis over the past ten years, farm families have struggled to afford health care for decades. The situation has deteriorated to the point where 41% of farm families cannot afford to insure the whole family and 18% cannot afford any insurance whatsoever.

Since April 1st, however, the Farmers' Health Cooperative of Wisconsin has been signing up farmers for one of six different plans. In addition to basic health care coverage and preventative care, the co-op will offer workers' compensation benefits, something not currently available to most farmers.

Family farms still form the bedrock of our state and in order for us to truly move our rural economy forward we need to have a reliable, affordable health care system for farm families.

To learn more about plans to provide health care to our farm families, call or e-mail my office.

## Good News for SeniorCare

I am proud that one of my first acts in the legislature was to circulate a letter among my colleagues at the Capitol asking our congressional delegation in Washington to try to extend SeniorCare, the wonderful program Wisconsin has to provide low-cost prescription drugs for our seniors. Almost all senators and representatives from both parties signed on to endorse the idea.

I also circulated petitions that many of you signed to keep SeniorCare going. Many of you sent letters and made phone calls to newspapers, talk radio and government officials



I visited Rollie Cooper and discussed farm and land use value issues. Making health care affordable for farmers will help family farms prosper and be successful.

expressing your support.

Through our work, and the efforts of Governor Doyle and Senators Feingold and Kohl and other legislators, we were able to get SeniorCare extended through 2010.

Now, I'm joining with my colleagues to have an advisory referendum on the ballot to extend SeniorCare indefinitely. You'll then have the opportunity to vote and show Wisconsin's support for this valuable program.

Thank you for your help. Together, we've kept SeniorCare going.

## Working for the 43rd District...



Forrest Van Schwartz, a world-renowned railroad consultant, rode with me through the 43rd District on a train designed for rail inspection, so we could see and feel the condition of the state-owned track. Two derailments have occurred recently at the same spot in the town of Fulton endangering the folks who live nearby. One railcar ended up only ten feet from a child's bedroom.

With today's increased rail traffic and heavier rail cars, this stretch of track with 90-year old rails is in dire need of upgrade. I'm working to acquire funding to make the track safe for everyone and protect this valuable economic resource.



In May, I made a fact-finding visit with Dept. of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi (center) to the I-90/I-39 Bridge over the Rock River near Edgerton and Milton to talk with DOT staff about structural repairs to the twin-span. This project was completed in late spring. I'll work to protect our vital infrastructure of highways and bridges in the coming years to keep them safe and reliable.

## Making Laws for You

I've authored, co-authored or co-sponsored more than 50 bills since joining the State Assembly in January. Below are a few of those bills.

### AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED BILLS

**AB 452** This bill benefits all homeowners but especially those on low or fixed incomes by exempting the first \$60,000 of a home's assessed value from the school levy. Schools would not be shortchanged, however, as the state would make up the difference.

**AB 417** This bill helps children with autism and their families by requiring insurance companies to cover autism spectrum disorder enabling these children to get the help they need.



Senator Judy Robson (D-Beloit) and I introduced a bill to provide insurance coverage to children with Autism. Above, I'm explaining the need for this bill at a press conference in the Capitol.

**AB 267** This bill protects us from identity theft by prohibiting retailers from keeping your PIN (Personal Identification Number) after the transaction has been completed.

**AB 272** This bill will help us have more ethical, fairer and cleaner elections by making organizations that do negative issue ads against candidates disclose who is paying for those ads.

**AB 452** This bill protects us as consumers by prohibiting the sale of consumer goods or certain farm products that contain radio frequency identification tags, unless the tag is made inoperable before we take possession of the product.

### CO-SPONSORED BILLS

**AB 83** This bill helps protect family farms as it creates an Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council that will improve agricultural education in our state.

**AB 85** This bill helps the environment and us as taxpayers as well as our local economy by providing an income and franchise tax credit to those that own a motor vehicle using gasoline or a mixture of gasoline and at least 85 percent ethanol fuel (E-85).

**AB 225** This bill enhances our local economy by creating a Border Incentive Grant Program to help persuade companies to locate in Wisconsin border counties instead of adjacent counties of bordering states.

**AB 211** The bill protects us as consumers from payday loans by prohibiting lenders from assessing a finance charge on a consumer loan that exceeds 36 percent per year.



Students at Parkview High School in Orfordville took the Wisconsin Covenant pledge in September. The Wisconsin Covenant guarantees students all the financial aid they need to attend college in Wisconsin if they agree to be good citizens and maintain at least a "B" average in high school. I visited with more than 250 students at Parkview and at Whitewater High Schools to tell them about the Covenant. Almost all the students agreed to take the pledge.



I was happy to talk with Linda Marshall and the Rock County 4-H when they visited the Capitol. School groups and other organizations are always welcome to visit me and tour our beautiful Wisconsin State Capitol. We always have a photo made with each group's visit and each person is given a copy, a nice memento of your visit. My office will be happy to arrange a visit and tour for your group. Please call us at 1-888-534-0043.