



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **ANDY JORGENSEN**

A voice for the 37th Assembly District, serving Jefferson & Dane Counties

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JORGENSEN CAPITOL REPORT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **ANDY JORGENSEN**

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Wisconsin State Assembly! My first term as your Representative has been, and continues to be, an incredible experience. It is an honor and privilege to serve as a voice for the people of the 37th Assembly District.

I am passionate about the issues important to the people of the 37th – making health care affordable and accessible, ensuring a quality education for our kids, controlling taxes, and creating and maintaining family-supporting jobs. These are the issues affecting people's everyday lives and I have made addressing them my top priority.

With this newsletter, I am providing an update of the work I have been doing at home and in the Capitol, as well as highlights of some important proposals before the Legislature in the 2007-08 session.

Your input is always important to me. I invite you to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your State Representative.

ANDY JORGENSEN
State Representative
37th Assembly District

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Rep. Jorgensen meets with Deerfield Elementary School students, parents, and teachers during their field trip to the Wisconsin State Capitol.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JORGENSEN

Returning Government to the People

Great ideas for legislation often come from you. As I travel throughout the district attending community events, holding listening sessions, or going door-to-door, I learn about your ideas for addressing state needs.

Whether offering advice on major policy initiatives or providing simple suggestions to clear up our state statutes – many of you have shared your ideas for legislation. I want to thank you for taking such an active role!

Here's a look at some of the bills you've supported and I've championed in the past legislative cycle:

Making Health Care Affordable and Accessible

Catastrophic Care Pool: Health care costs are growing for Wisconsin's small business owners, farmers, and workers – in fact, we pay 31% more than the nationwide average. This bill (AB 738) will create a health care council to develop recommendations for establishing a statewide catastrophic care pool, and with that action, will lower overall coverage costs.

Autism Coverage: The Centers for Disease Control now estimates that one in every 150 children has autism, or a similar cognitive disorder. Sadly, many parents struggle to pay for their children's vital treatments, because most insurance companies refuse to cover the costs of treatment. My legislation (AB 417) would require insurance companies to treat autism like any other disease, and cover patients' expenses.

Supporting Quality Public Education

School Finance Reform: This legislation (AJR 35) requires the state legislature to revamp the school finance formula by 2009, so that our kids continue to get the quality education they deserve, and so that districts aren't forced to raise local property taxes to make ends meet.

Protecting Our Kids

Sex Offenders e-Disclosure Act: This legislation (AB 562) would require that individuals already on the state's Sex Offender Registry provide their parole or probation officer with their e-mail addresses and the names of websites they maintain for personal use. With this extra information, we may be able to prevent crimes against children online.



Rep. Jorgensen testifies on his bill, the Sex Offenders e-Disclosure Act, before the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing, in January. Shortly thereafter, the bill was passed out of the committee, to the Senate floor.

Promoting Consumer Protection

Payday Lender Legislation: This proposal (AB 511) would arm consumers with more information about the real costs and risks associated with payday loans. The bill requires that payday lenders disclose information on APR and rollover penalties to customers before they sign on the dotted line.

Reducing the Property Tax Burden

HOPE: The "Home Owners Property Tax Exemption" bill (AB 452) would reduce your property taxes by an average of \$600 each year, by requiring that large corporations pay their fair share of the tax burden.

Jorgensen Delivers for His District

In October, State Representative Andy Jorgensen was proud to travel the 37th Assembly District to announce significant budget benefits for Fort Atkinson, Sumner, and Albion.

"I'm grateful that my colleagues were so open to listening to my concerns during the budget debate, the concerns of the communities I represent," said Jorgensen. "We were able to work together to add grants and improvements that will have a positive impact in the district. These investments will make our communities even better places to live, work, and raise a family."

At the Fort Atkinson Police Department, Rep. Jorgensen stood with Police Chief Tony Brus and City Manager John Wilmet to reveal a \$60,000 grant for the City of Fort Atkinson to purchase mobile data computers for squad cars.

"The faster lines of communication these computers will provide will help keep our community and our officers safe," said Jorgensen.



Chief Tony Brus, Rep. Andy Jorgensen, City Manager John Wilmet, and others stand next to a squad car, due to be outfitted with a computer for officer communications. Andy's son, Jens, takes the wheel.

Jorgensen also noted that the Town of Sumner will receive a grant of \$10,000 to purchase an emergency generator.

"This need was brought to my attention by Sumner's town clerk, Dan Schlittler. He and the rest of the town board saw the damage tornadoes caused a couple of years ago, and wanted to be as ready as they could be for that kind of catastrophe," said Jorgensen. "I applaud their concern, and agree that purchasing a generator is a vital step in emergency preparedness, not only for Sumner, but also for surrounding communities."

Also included in the budget was a requirement that the Department of Transportation install traffic signals at the dangerous crossing of Highway 51 and Albion Road in the Town of Albion.

"A volunteer firefighter, John Dohner, was the first one who told me



Sumner Town Board Chairman Don Carroll, Jefferson County Emergency Management Coordinator Donna Haugom, and Town of Sumner Clerk Dan Schlitter stand with Rep. Andy Jorgensen, as he announces a grant, allowing them to purchase an emergency generator.

about problems at this intersection. Then, folks came out of the woodwork, and I just kept hearing more and more stories of crashes at this intersection," said Jorgensen. "Well, then I knew that we had to get lights installed at the crossing as soon as we could."



Rep. Jorgensen meets with constituents at the dangerous crossing of Highway 51 and Albion Road, to share the news that he was able to secure budget dollars to install traffic signals.

2008 CAPITOL REPORT

Andy is IN

Rep. Jorgensen has held more than 30 listening sessions in local libraries and municipal buildings in the 37th Assembly District in the past year.

In addition, Jorgensen holds monthly office hours in a number of local restaurants to give his constituents an easy and accessible way to share their opinions on hot legislative topics or ideas for new legislation. Jorgensen's program is called "Andy is In," and he will be "in" at the following locations and times:



Second Monday of Each Month:
Andy's Family Restaurant
1031 S. Main St. in Jefferson
9:00-10:00 a.m.

and

Stockade Restaurant & Pub
855 Lexington Blvd. in
Fort Atkinson
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Second Friday of Each Month:
The Cambridge Curve
207 Main St. in Cambridge
3:00-4:00 p.m.

Third Monday of Each Month:
Café on the Park
131 N. Main St. in Lake Mills
9:00-10:00 a.m.



Rep. Jorgensen listens to constituents at one of his meetings at The Cambridge Curve.

No appointment is necessary to meet with Rep. Jorgensen; the program is designed to make contacting him convenient. If you have any questions, always feel free to call the Jorgensen office, toll-free, at (888) 534-0037.

Rep. Jorgensen plans to add to his schedule of "Andy is In" office hours in the months ahead. If you are a business owner and would like to participate in the program, please also use the toll-free number to call in and schedule a meeting time.



Getting the Word Out

If listening is the number one job of a state representative, sharing what's going on in Madison might come in at number two. Rep. Jorgensen does his best to communicate with his constituents, submitting monthly columns and regular press releases to local newspapers. You might also hear him on WFAW. He regularly visits the radio station to provide legislative updates.

(Left) Rep. Jorgensen shares news from Madison with host Michael Clish on WFAW's "Morning Magazine."

The Next Best Thing...

When Rep. Jorgensen just can't be in the district, he tries to bring the district to him! Here's a look at a few of the special visitors we've hosted in Madison this past year:



In January, Rep. Jorgensen arranged for Pastor Bill Beyer of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Atkinson to lead the Assembly in prayer at the start of the session.



The "Bubbly Babbly Badger Beauties of Fort Atkinson," a chapter of the Red Hat Society, came to visit Madison in September. Rep. Jorgensen was happy to field their questions, and to help coordinate their trip.



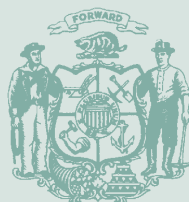
In November, Rep. Jorgensen honored Sergeant Douglas Messman and Officer Jon Richardson as "Hometown Heroes," for their quick action in saving the life of a young mother. Lake Mills Police Chief Kathleen Hansen and family members looked on, as the men were presented with their award in front of the entire State Assembly.



11-year-old Jens Jorgensen watches his Dad work, on one of his many visits to the Capitol. He's one of our favorite guests!



Rep. Jorgensen meets with students from the district, during their tour of the State Capitol. He always enjoys the opportunity to encourage young people to be an active part of the political process!



Newspaper Readers Vote for Andy...In a Different Way!

In July, the *Daily Jefferson County Union*, *Cambridge News/Deerfield Independent*, and *Lake Mills Leader* announced the results of their first-ever "Best of the Area" poll. The ballot included a question for readers about the "Best Area Politician" – and Rep. Jorgensen won! Here's what he had to say:

I want to thank everyone who gave me this pat on the back, and I hope you'll allow me to do the same for you.

I have to tell you that I'm extremely proud to represent the "best of" the State of Wisconsin. This is true in many respects: in the area's natural beauty, in the friendliness of its people, and in the economic opportunities it holds. I want you to know that it's special in another way, too.

I've heard from thousands of people in the time I've held office – thousands. At listening sessions, through letters and e-mails, and in your visits with me at the Capitol, I have received great ideas and important feedback. I think our district stands out because of your level of involvement in state government, through your communication with me.

When you share your thoughts and I listen, government works "best" – let's keep it up!



SeniorCare Corner: Pressure from Lawmakers and Citizens Prompts Federal Extension

One of the biggest challenges before the state this year was the need to find a way to continue SeniorCare, the program that provides low-cost medications to more than 110,000 Wisconsin seniors. Replacement programs were proposed, but in the end, Rep. Andy Jorgensen was happy to announce that, under pressure from Wisconsin lawmakers and citizens, the federal government committed to extending its waiver on SeniorCare through the end of 2009.

"This means that Wisconsin seniors don't have to worry about their prescription drug discount disappearing," says Jorgensen. "The two-and-a-half year federal extension will give me time to work with my colleagues at the state level to come up with a wraparound program. We want to pass a plan to make sure that seniors don't lose their benefits – and aren't forced to choose between prescriptions and groceries."

Rep. Jorgensen notes, the extension at the federal level could not have happened without the dedicated work of people at the local level, like those who circulated and signed his "Save SeniorCare" petition, earlier this year.

"I would like to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the thousands of seniors and concerned families who joined my petition drive and helped make this a reality," says Jorgensen. "With so many voices raised, the politicians in Washington, D.C. had to listen. Together, we made them deliver this vital extension to SeniorCare."

If you or someone you know would like information about SeniorCare benefits or enrollment, call Rep. Jorgensen's office at (888) 534-0037 today!



Local Students Intern with Rep. Jorgensen



University of Wisconsin student, Kyle Fahsel, discusses upcoming legislation with Rep. Andy Jorgensen.

Thanks go to Alexander Brower of Fort Atkinson, Mary Starkweather of Fort Atkinson, Kyle Fahsel of Lake Mills, and Nathan Ranguette of Cambridge, who served as interns in Rep. Jorgensen's office, this past year. These bright students helped research legislation, respond to constituent contacts, monitor current events, and they added a lot of spirit to the office! In the process, they also learned valuable lessons about the legislature and about the needs of the people of Wisconsin.

Rep. Jorgensen encourages area students to contact his office if they are interested in an internship!

Visit my website!

Online, you'll find information about the bills I have authored, my news releases, and a list of upcoming events in the district. Also, take a minute to fill out the survey I've posted.



Let me know what's important to you!

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm37/news/>