



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE CORY MASON

*A Voice for the 62nd Assembly District, Serving the Greater Racine Community*

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## MASON CAPITOL REPORT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**CORY MASON**  
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY  
62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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 62nd Assembly District.

I am passionate about the issues important to the people of the 62nd – making health care affordable and accessible, creating and maintaining family-supporting jobs, ensuring a quality education for our kids, a safe and healthy environment, and controlling property taxes. 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.

CORY MASON  
State Representative  
62nd Assembly District

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

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE CORY MASON

## 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

**BadgerCare Plus:** I hosted a town hall meeting on February 25th to help increase public awareness about the BadgerCare Plus program. The newly expanded BadgerCare Plus program offers affordable insurance to make sure that all kids in Wisconsin have health care. Every Wisconsin family, regardless of income, can purchase comprehensive coverage for their children. To find out if you are eligible for BadgerCare Plus, please visit [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov) or call 1-800-362-3002.

**Autism Coverage for Children:** 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. I strongly support Assembly Bill 417, which would require insurance companies to treat autism like any other disease, and cover autism for children.

### Creating Family-Supporting Jobs

**I-94 Labor Project:** I am co-chairing a committee to ensure jobs for local residents when the Department of Transportation rebuilds I-94 in Kenosha and Racine Counties. The project will begin next

summer and will potentially generate hundreds of jobs and numerous opportunities for job training in Racine for several years. For more information on this program, please call my office at 1-888-534-0062.

**Job Training:** Workers who have lost jobs struggle to find new employment. Businesses that do have openings often cannot find the skilled employees they need in order to grow and thrive. At the same time, there are long waiting lists for job training programs at our technical colleges. That's why I introduced Assembly Bill 947. AB 947 will reduce the current waiting lists for job training, assist companies that are looking for skilled workers, and help employees obtain good jobs with family-supporting wages and benefits.

**Raising the Minimum Wage:** The first bill I introduced as a newly elected official was to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour and then raise it every year thereafter at the rate of inflation (Assembly Bill 274). If AB 274 passes, it would mean a raise for 225,000 families in Wisconsin. I am pleased to let you know that my bill passed the Wisconsin State Senate and made real progress this session in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Working families in Wisconsin deserve a fair minimum wage that will at least keep up with rate of inflation in the state. Fighting for a fair minimum wage will remain at the top of my agenda as I move forward.



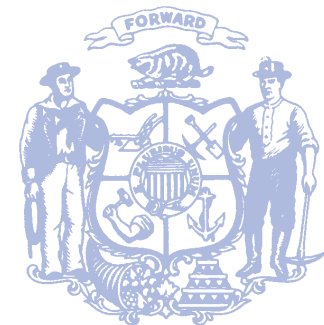
Rep. Mason testifies in committee to raise the minimum wage.

### Access to Quality Public Education for All Children

**School Finance Reform:** School districts across the state are facing bankruptcy and resorting to referenda due to an inadequate, flawed school funding formula. I have signed on with some of my colleagues to a resolution that would require the State Legislature to adequately fund K-12 education, as mandated by our State Constitution. For too long we have been pitting students against property taxpayers. It is time to find a viable solution to make sure kids get the education they deserve.

### Protecting the Environment

**Great Lakes Compact:** I strongly support ratification of the Great Lakes Compact, an historic compact that was agreed upon in 2005 to protect Great Lakes water from being diverted to other parts of the country not in the Great Lakes basin. The Compact passed the Wisconsin State Senate and may be brought to a vote in the Wisconsin State Assembly before the year is over.



## Mason Fights for Racine

In the last year, State Representative Cory Mason was proud to work with members of the Racine Community to deliver significant benefits for area residents.

"I am grateful that I was able to build a bipartisan consensus to address some of the concerns of our community. We were able to work together to add grants that will have a positive impact on health care for infants, giving consumers more choices, and restoring the Root River to be an economic asset for Racine."

### Cable Competition

In many parts of the state, there is only one cable television option. This creates a monopoly situation with customers seeing increases in their monthly cable bills. The video franchise legislation, which was signed into law a few months ago, makes it easier for cable companies to enter the market and compete in Wisconsin. This will result in lower cable bills for Wisconsin consumers and create new jobs in Racine and across the state.



Representative Mason meets with local Communication Workers of America activists before voting for the cable competition bill.

### Root River

Representative Mason was excited to announce last May that the state will be awarding Racine \$30,000 to redevelop the Root River. "This project is critical to revitalizing Racine's role as a Great Lakes tourism, business, and recreational center. The grant money will go a long way in combining the efforts and resources of the City of Racine and other interested organizations to create a master plan for Root River," said Mason.



Representative Mason is joined by DNR Secretary Scott Hassett and State Senator John Lehman as he announces a \$30,000 grant to redevelop the Root River.

### Infant Mortality

One of the challenges Racine faces is the number of babies who die before they are a year old. Racine has the highest infant mortality rate in Wisconsin. Representative Mason was able to work with his colleagues to include a \$250,000 annual grant in the state budget for the City of Racine to combat infant mortality.



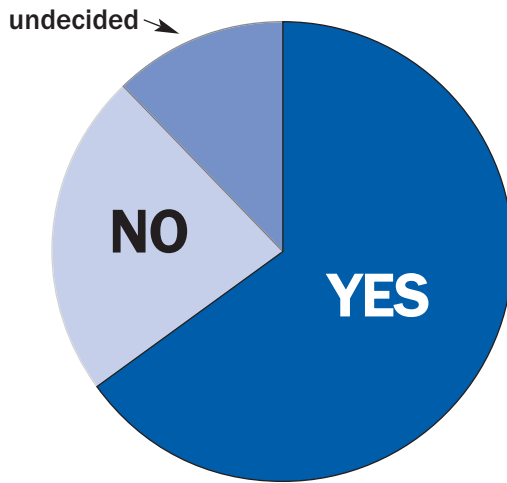
# 2008 CAPITOL REPORT

## The Results are In!

As a Legislator, I am asked to vote on hundreds of issues. I believe I am a better Representative if I know what my constituents think about key legislative issues. I have spent the better part of last year distributing thousands of surveys door to door.

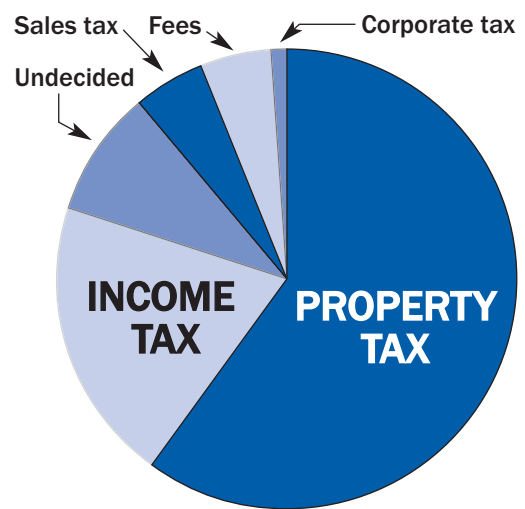
Thank you to the hundreds of constituents who took the time to fill out the survey and send it in. Here are some of the highlights from the results:

**KRM Commuter Rail**  
65% yes; 23% no; 12% undecided



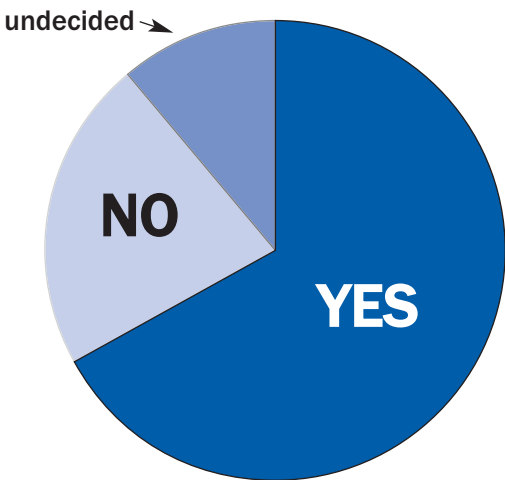
Do you support connecting Commuter Rail from Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee?

**Reducing Taxes**  
Property tax 60%; Income tax 20%; Undecided 9%;  
Sales tax 5%; Fees 5%; Corporate tax 1%



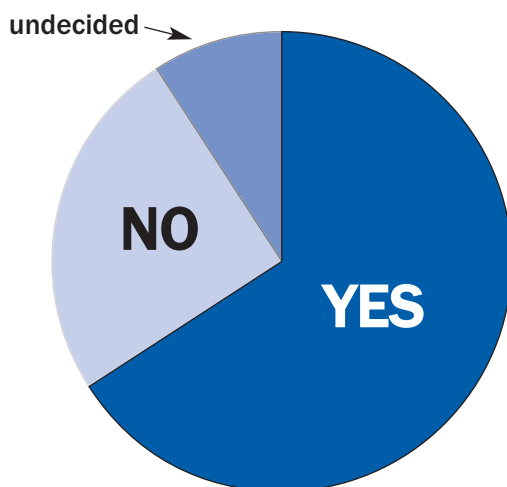
Which tax is the most important to reduce in your opinion?

**Comprehensive Health Care Reform**  
67% yes; 22% no; 11% undecided



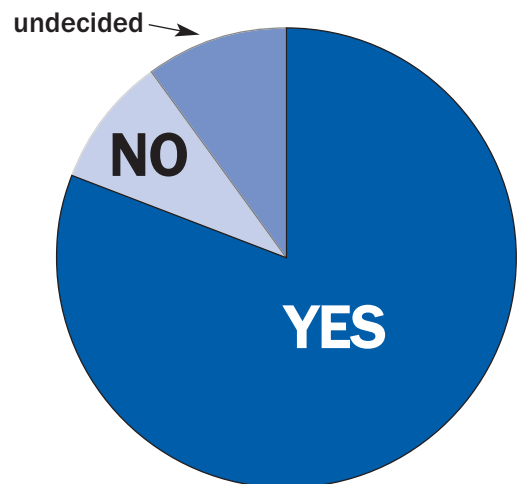
Do you support a health care reform proposal that would give your family access to the same benefits as State Legislators, reduce costs by putting everyone in the same big purchasing pool, and requiring all employers and employees to participate?

**Raising the Minimum Wage**  
66% yes; 25% no; 9% undecided



Do you support increasing the minimum wage to \$7.25 and then raising it every year at the rate of inflation?

**Campaign Finance Reform**  
81% yes; 9% no; 10% undecided



Should the state do more to limit the influence of special interest money in campaigns and elections?



## 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 a number two. Rep. Mason does his best to communicate with his constituents by holding town hall meetings and submitting regular press releases to newspapers. You might also hear him on WGTD or WRJN. He regularly visits the radio stations to provide legislative updates.

*Rep. Mason shares news from Madison with Yolanda Adams and Morris Reese on WGTD's "Community Matters."*



## Around Town...

I have knocked on thousands of doors, attended over 200 meetings, and met with scores of constituents one-on-one. I've even paddled down the Root River to hear what Racine residents want for the future of our river.



(Above) Representative Mason meets with constituents at Wilson's Coffee and Tea.

(Left) Representative Mason and his wife Rebecca in a canoe, paddling down the Root River at the 1st Annual Root River Paddle.

(Right) Representative Mason and his wife Rebecca wave to neighbors while in the 4th of July parade.

## Please Say Hello...

My wife and I often attend events around town. You may also see us shopping at the grocery store, at Wilson's Coffee and Tea, or just walking down the street. Feel free to stop us anytime to share what's on your mind!



## The Next Best Thing...

When Rep. Mason 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:



Rep. Mason is joined by Racine activist Terry Lynch and other AARP members to introduce legislation that ensures state employees the same civil rights protections enjoyed by employees in the private sector.



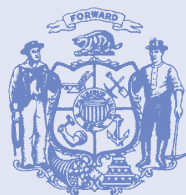
In February, Rep. Mason honored Corinne Owens in the Assembly Chamber as a "Hometown Hero" for her activism and contributions to Racine as a civil rights leader. Ms. Owens was joined by Reverend Beverly Hicks and many of her close friends as she received the award.



Rep. Mason meets with UW-Parkside students in the Capitol Rotunda. They are joined by Chancellor Jack Keating, faculty, and staff.



Rep. Mason 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!



## SeniorCare Corner:

### Pressure from Lawmakers and Citizens Prompts Federal Extension



One of the biggest challenges before the state this session 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. Cory Mason 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 Mason. "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. Mason notes the extension at the federal level could not have happened without the dedicated work of people at the local level, like those who contacted his office to save SeniorCare.

"I would like to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the seniors and concerned families who helped make saving SeniorCare a



Representative Mason meets with constituents concerned about the high cost of prescription drugs.

reality," says Mason. "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. Mason's office at (888) 534-0062 today!

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## Visit my website!

Online, you can find more information about how to contact me and the bills I have authored this legislative session!

Please visit

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us>.

To reach my homepage, you will have to click on the Assembly tab and then choose my name...

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us>

