

Spring 2008 Legislative Questionnaire

(continued)

Some states have restricted cell phone use by drivers. Wisconsin has not. Which of the following approaches do you support?

- Place no restrictions on the use of cell phones while driving
- Allow only hands-free cell phone use while driving
- Ban all cell phone use while driving
- Undecided

Do you support the Earned Release Program, which allows judges to provide certain non-violent offenders an incentive (reduced prison time) to actively participate in a six month intensive alcohol and drug treatment program designed to reduce future criminal behavior?

- Yes No Undecided

CAMPAIGN & ELECTIONS REFORM

Do you support proposals which would encourage the public financing of elections by limiting the amount of campaign contributions political candidates could receive from private donors?

- Yes No Undecided

Do you support banning campaign contributions to Wisconsin legislators and the governor while the state budget is being debated?

- Yes No Undecided

Should the state constitution be amended to require every registered Wisconsin voter to show a passport, Wisconsin driver's license or state ID card (with a current address) at the polling place before voting?

- Yes No Undecided

OTHER

What one source do you use to get most of your Wisconsin news and information from? (Choose one.)

- Daily Newspaper
- Weekly Newspaper
- Network Television
- Cable Television
- Radio
- Internet
- Other

In your opinion, how should the Legislature prioritize the following issues? Please number in order from 1 to 10 (or 11, if you fill in the "other" line) with "1" being the most important and "10" the least important to you personally.

- Support for Education
- Health Care Reform
- Crime Prevention
- Environmental Protection
- Tax Reduction
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Privacy Rights
- Economic Development
- Government Ethics
- Energy/Utility Consumption and Cost Increases
- Other

How would you rate the job performance of these elected officials?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Undecided
Representative Louis J. Molepske Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Senator Julie Lassa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor Jim Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attorney Gen. J.B. Van Hollen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

71st Assembly District Update

Returning Government to the People

Constituent opinions are the most valuable source of information and ideas I have available to me. The following section contains several examples of bills that I drafted, introduced, and in many cases, were signed into law because of your suggestions. I want to thank all of the individuals who took the time to work with me on their ideas.



Rep. Molepske and district residents witness Governor Doyle sign AB 500 into law.

liquor license, making it a crime to do business with a liquor license holder or applicant. This extremely broad Prohibition-era regulation appeared to make sense, but my constituent took the time to share his experience with this law and alerted me to the unintended impact it could have on businesses within communities across Wisconsin.

In response to his situation and many calls from across Wisconsin, I introduced Assembly Bill 500 to address the issue by replacing current law with a revised version of the well-established Code of Ethics for local public officials. Assembly Bill 500 was signed into law by Governor Doyle.

Keep "Old Glory" American

Since the birth of our Nation, the American flag has been one of the most identifiable symbols of our country and its values. Unfortunately, the majority of American flags are not made in America, but rather are imported from abroad. A local veteran asked me to change this practice, so we went to work and did just that.

I introduced and the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 450, legislation that requires each state agency and local governmental unit in Wisconsin to display United States flags that are made in America.

Supporting Children of Crime Victims

Under Wisconsin's Crime Victims Compensation Act, the Department of Justice is authorized to provide financial assistance to persons who are victimized by certain crimes. A local family was denied help because of a child support technicality. In order to rectify this injustice, I introduced Assembly Bill 536 which eliminates the prohibition on assistance in cases where child support is owed.

Prohibition Finally Ends

Last year, a constituent contacted me regarding an outdated state law pertaining to service on municipal governing bodies. Under this law, no member of a local government was permitted to sell goods or services to any person holding or applying for a retail

Representative Molepske's Town Hall Listening Sessions

Almond Thursday, June 24th 5:30-6:30 p.m. Almond Village Hall 122 Main Street, Almond	Pine Grove Thursday, June 24th 7:00-8:00 p.m. Pine Grove Town Hall 5444 Main Street/ Cty Road W, Bancroft	Stockton Wednesday, June 11th 7:00-8:00 p.m. Stockton Town Hall 7252 6th Street, Custer	Lanark Tuesday, June 17th 7:00-8:00 p.m. Lanark Town Hall Corner of County Road TT and HW 54, Amherst	Plover Wednesday, June 11th 5:30-6:30 p.m. Plover Municipal Center (Multi-Purpose Room) 2400 Post Road, Plover
Amherst Wednesday, June 18th 5:30-6:30 p.m. Morning Star Coffeehouse 102 South Main Street Amherst	Belmont Tuesday, June 10th 7:00-8:00 p.m. Belmont Town Hall 9110 16th Road, Almond	Deerfield Wednesday, May 25th 2:30-3:30 p.m. Deerfield Town Hall County Trunk CB Deerfield	Oasis Thursday, June 23rd 7:00-8:00 p.m. Oasis Town Hall Highway 73, Plainfield	Stevens Point Thursday, May 26th 5:30-6:30 p.m. Portage Cty. Annex Bldg (Conference Room 1) 1412 Strongs Avenue Stevens Point
New Hope Wednesday, June 18th 7:00-8:00 p.m. New Hope Town Hall Town Hall Road Amherst Junction	Buena Vista Tuesday, June 17th 5:30-6:30 p.m. Buena Vista Town Hall 8864 County Road BB Plover	Hancock Wednesday, May 25th 1:00-2:00 p.m. Hancock Town Hall 420 Jefferson Street, Hancock	Plainfield Thursday, June 23rd 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tri-County High School Auditorium 409 South West Street Plainfield	Rose Tuesday, June 10th 5:30-6:30 p.m. American Legion 500 Front Street Wild Rose



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE Louis J. Molepske, Jr. 71ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

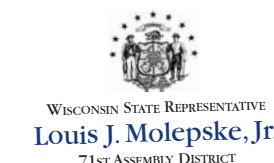
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71ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT UPDATE



Dear Neighbor,

Greetings from the Wisconsin State Capitol! For the past five years I have had the tremendous opportunity and privilege to serve as your state Representative for the 71st Assembly District. Together, we have made substantial progress on issues regarding education; the local economy; maintaining our natural resources; and returning government to the citizens of Wisconsin. However, there will continue to be challenges that we will have to overcome together in order to ensure that Wisconsin remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Therefore, I hope you will take a few moments to read this annual newsletter and fill out the legislative survey. This is my opportunity to inform you of the important issues affecting our community and for you to give me your opinions. It is my job to ensure that your needs and concerns are being met by our state's government, and I hope you will contact me about any ideas, questions, or concerns that you may have. I am confident there is no challenge that we cannot overcome together.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts and I wish you the best in the year to come!

Sincerely,

Louis J. Molepske, Jr.

Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
State Representative
71st Assembly District



Rep. Molepske and Senator Lassa meet with McKinley Elementary School students, parents and teachers during their field trip to the Wisconsin State Capitol.

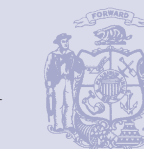
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Solutions to Issues Facing the 71st Assembly District

EDUCATION

A sound education equalizes all students' chances to succeed. I introduced and supported several bills last session in the interest of advancing this important goal:

The WHEG Modernization Act - Within the past four years tuition costs have increased by over 50%, and by the year 2025, it is estimated that four years at a public university will cost approximately \$150,000. In order to help alleviate this problem, I introduced the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG) Modernization Act, which would tie increases in tuition to increases in financial aid. (AB 252)

School District Safety - In response to a tragic bus accident in Plainfield, the Tri-County School District implemented changes to its school bus seating policy. I introduced AB 937, which mirrors the school district's policy, in the interest of improving safety for school children statewide.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Protecting our state's pristine natural resources has been one of my top legislative priorities since taking office. We must take the common-sense measures necessary to protect Wisconsin's natural world.

Invasive Species - The regulation of ballast water is an imperative measure that is long overdue. Currently, over 180 invasive species like the zebra mussel and sea lamprey are decimating our Great Lakes. Unless we take immediate action to address this critical issue, we place this irreplaceable resource and our multi-billion dollar tourism, recreation

and commercial fishing industries at risk.

I introduced Assembly Bill 86, which requires anyone operating an oceangoing vessel that uses a port in the state of Wisconsin to obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To obtain this permit, the vessel's operator must demonstrate that the vessel will not introduce aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes as well as the lakes and streams of Wisconsin.

Great Lakes Compact - The state of Wisconsin borders the greatest natural resource in the Nation – The Great Lakes. For the past five years, legislators, governors, conservationists and business leaders have been meeting to forge a "compact" between the eight Great Lake States, the Canadian Government and the United States federal government regarding the use of this resource. I worked with my colleagues to protect the Great Lakes from massive out of state water diversions.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship - I supported a budget provision that reauthorized the stewardship program and allocated \$15 million towards renewable energy grants.

Water Body Health - I supported legislation which prohibits the application of phosphorus to lawns, golf courses and other mowed, grassy areas to protect water quality. (SB 197)

Open Burning - Open burning is the leading cause of wildfires as well as the largest source of toxic dioxins in Wisconsin. It is currently illegal to burn solid waste such as insulation, plastics and used oils. Unfortunately, some individuals choose to



Rep. Molepske debates the Great Lakes Compact on the floor of the Assembly.

ignore this law, creating health and safety problems for their neighbors. I introduced Assembly Bill 546, which creates an educational program to reduce this health and property concern.

Electronic Waste - Electronic waste is the fastest growing component of waste generated in the United States. In order to address this issue, I sponsored Senate Bill 397, which requires manufacturers of video display devices sold in Wisconsin to assume responsibility for their collection and proper disposal.

Appointment of the Secretary of the DNR - I supported Assembly Bill 42, which removes the governor's politics when appointing the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and returns the power of appointment to the Natural Resources Board.

Management of Greenhouse Gases - Provides for the management of specified greenhouse gases by requiring the DNR to set a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit for 2020 that is equivalent to the 1990 level. (AB 157)

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Last year Wisconsin residents witnessed one of the longest budget delays in our Nation's history.

In response to the state budget stalemate, I introduced Assembly Bill 552, "The Budget Accountability Act," which proposed budget benchmarks and accountability for legislators who create unnecessary delays in passing a budget. Under current law, legislators are in no way held accountable for their failure

(Continued next page)

71st Assembly District Update

Creating New Opportunities: *Moving Our Economy Forward*

The health of the economy has been a major focus of mine. In response, I have been working with a number of area businesses and workers to explore ways in which we can keep our economy strong. For example:

Wisconsin First Act - Requires the Department of Administration (DOA) and other units of government to ensure that no less than 2% of their total spending in each fiscal year is dedicated to products from Wisconsin-based businesses. (AB 829).

New Films=New Jobs - Wisconsin is on the verge of becoming a film industry magnet with the passage of 2005 Wisconsin Act 483, which creates tax incentives to encourage film production companies to invest money in our local communities.

Downtown Wisconsin Act - Encourages rehabilitation, preservation and investment in our downtowns. (AB 599 / SB 331)

Energy Independence Act - Creates income and franchise tax credits for renewable energy-related purchases and expansion. (AB 378)

Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin - Requires the state to increase awareness and consumption of locally produced foods and products, like our potatoes, milk and beans, and to increase the production and distribution of foods and products for local consumption. (SB 89)

Jobs for Veterans - Veterans would be included as a targeted employment group, allowing a business that is located in an area designated by the federal government as an economic revitalization area to claim up to \$8,000 in tax credits for each veteran that the business employs in a full-time position. (AB 222)

Dairy Co-op Manufacturing Facility Investment Credit - Allows the members of a dairy cooperative to claim a credit for the dairy manufacturing modernization or expansion expenses paid by the cooperative. (AB 763)

Support for Local Manufacturers - I supported a budget initiative that contained funding for economic development programs for municipalities that experienced devaluation in manufacturing properties in Stevens Point, Plover and Whiting.

(Solutions to Issues, continued)

to agree upon a budget, which is their primary responsibility. The "Budget Accountability Act" is designed to correct this practice.

Campaign Finance Reform - I supported comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation designed to limit the influence of interest groups. (AJR 60 / SB 12)



Rep. Molepske speaks to constituents in Plover about SeniorCare renewal and healthcare policies in Wisconsin.

HEALTH CARE

Wisconsin citizens must have access to affordable health care. Health care costs have spiraled out of control, and even those with health insurance often times find medical care to be cost-prohibitive. In the interest of trying to find some workable solutions to the problem, I conducted a Citizen's Forum on Health Care in Plover last summer. This forum provided me with valuable insights on the state of the health care system in Central Wisconsin.

SENIORCARE

Last year, Wisconsin's popular and easy to use SeniorCare program, a program that 108,000 of our senior citizens rely upon to pay for their prescription drugs, was at risk of being discontinued by the federal government. 94% of Wisconsin's eligible seniors end up saving more money and time by enrolling in SeniorCare than they would by signing up for the Medicare Part D plan. Fortunately, my colleagues and I succeeded in convincing the federal government to provide continued funding for this essential program.

INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

During last year's budget deliberations, I supported expanding BadgerCare so that

98% of Wisconsinites would be covered by health insurance. I also worked with my legislative colleagues and the Governor to achieve 100% health insurance coverage for all children in Wisconsin. However, further work remains to be done on this critical issue.

As many of you know, the state of Wisconsin is currently experiencing a significant health care provider shortage. In an attempt to address this problem, I introduced Assembly Bill 497, which would allow advanced practice nurses to more efficiently deliver health services within their scope of practice.

In addition, I introduced Assembly Bill 868 to bring Wisconsin's Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protections up to date with the standard provided by federal law.

UWSP - I also secured funding for a new Health Sciences Major at UWSP in last year's biennial budget. This new program will help to ensure that new generations of highly qualified medical providers will be available to tend to the medical needs of Central Wisconsin.

Mental Health Parity - Requires that insurance policies provide the same coverage for mental health and mental illness as they do for physical illness or injury. (SB 375)

Please take a moment to fill out this legislative survey and return it to me. Your opinions are important to me, and I may be asked to vote on many of these issues in the future.

If more than one member of your household would like to complete the survey, please use different colored inks.

To return the survey to me, simply refold with my address visible, tape the top and attach a stamp.

Thank you for your participation!

HEALTH

Are you covered by health insurance?
 Yes No Undecided

Which statement best reflects your position on health insurance reform?

Establish a universal health care system that covers everyone with affordable health insurance

Improve transparency by fully disclosing all prices and establish tax-free savings accounts only

Ensure all children have health insurance by expanding BadgerCare, the state's low-income insurance program

Nothing should be done

Do you support allowing the University of Wisconsin to continue using embryonic stem cells for medical research aimed at finding therapies or cures for diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, spinal cord injuries and other chronic illnesses?
 Yes No Undecided

On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself to be "pro-life" or "pro-choice"? (These are the two phrases that are more commonly used to describe abortion views. They are not intended to be all-inclusive terms.)
 Pro-choice Pro-life Undecided

Legislation has been proposed to regulate smoking in all public buildings in Wisconsin.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Yes No Undecided

Yes, but exempting taverns

Yes, but with a phase-in period for taverns

EDUCATION

Historically, the state of Wisconsin has paid two-thirds of the costs of public education to lessen the burden on local property taxpayers. Do you believe the state should continue this commitment?
 Yes No Undecided

Many school districts in Wisconsin face recurring referendums every year to fund operating costs. Are you supportive of funding schools through the referendum process?
 Yes No Undecided

UWSP is one of the largest employers in the 71st Assembly District and the only four-year university. Should consideration be given to expanding UWSP with the knowledge that it might require residential home and business relocation?
 Yes No Undecided

ECONOMY

The paper and manufacturing industries have experienced downsizing. Many of these businesses receive financial assistance such as tax credits and income tax deductions. Are you supportive of the economic assistance provided to these companies by the state and federal government?
 Yes No Undecided

ECONOMY

The paper and manufacturing industries have experienced downsizing. Many of these businesses receive financial assistance such as tax credits and income tax deductions. Are you supportive of the economic assistance provided to these companies by the state and federal government?
 Yes No Undecided

The rising price of gas is a concern to all of us. Currently, Wisconsin law requires gas station owners to mark-up the price of gas a minimum of 6% over their cost as a way to guard against predatory competition by big companies who might try to drive smaller stations out of business. Others argue that repealing this markup requirement would result in lower costs to consumers. Would you favor repealing the state's minimum mark-up law?
 Yes No Undecided

Some would argue that national chains like Lowe's, Wal-Mart and Starbucks harm a small community like ours by making it more difficult for local businesses to compete;

while others feel the addition of these chains provide increased jobs, consumers choices, lower prices and attract other national chains to locate in our community. Do you believe that for us the impact of national chains is:

More good than bad

More bad than good

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

The state of California passed a comprehensive law that would lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 to the levels of 1990. A similar proposal has been introduced in our state. Should Wisconsin join California in leading the effort to reduce greenhouse gases?
 Yes No Undecided

Would you be supportive of legislation requiring green standards for state buildings?
 Yes No Undecided

Currently, the minimum age for hunting is 12. Legislation has been introduced to lower the age to 10 if an adult is present with only one firearm. Do you support this legislation?
 Yes No Undecided

New nuclear power plants must meet certain waste and rate requirements. Would you support legislation removing these requirements to allow the construction of new plants?
 Yes No Undecided

Legislation has been introduced to require that 10% of all electricity used in Wisconsin comes from renewable sources (such as wind and solar) by 2015. Do you support this legislation?
 Yes No Undecided

TRAFFIC & PUBLIC SAFETY

Currently, under Wisconsin law .08 blood alcohol content is the point at which a driver is considered to be intoxicated. How do you feel about our current set of penalties and the enforcement of laws relating to drunken driving?
 Too harsh About right Too lenient

(continued on back)

MYSTERY READER

Last year I had the privilege to be the "Mystery Reader" at Bannach Elementary School in Stevens Point. It was a great opportunity to connect with some of my youngest constituents, a group whose opinions are often overlooked in our democratic process. By introducing the children of our district to democracy at a young age we equip them to be more informed citizens in their adult lives.



Students at Bannach Elementary listen as Rep. Molepske reads from one of his favorite childhood books about John F. Kennedy, Jr.

