

Dear Friends,

Greetings from our State Capitol! This legislative session has been an exciting time to represent you. Fighting for you during the state budget process as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and advocating for you on the floor of the State Assembly has been a privilege.

This session I had the opportunity to fight for progressive issues such as campaign finance reform, environmental protection, health care and much more. I also had the opportunity to work in a bi-partisan fashion on other legislation. For example, I worked with colleagues from across the aisle on Ethics Reform, the Department of Corrections budget and my Compassionate Care for Rape Victims legislation.

While public policy is what gets the most coverage, I hear from over 3,000 people each year and always appreciate your perspective

on important issues. Furthermore, if I or anyone in my office can ever be of any service to you, please feel free to contact us at our Capitol office. I look forward to working with you soon!

Sincerely,



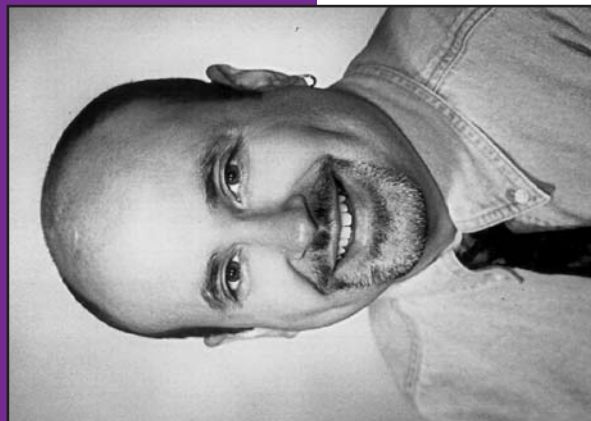
One of the most vocal progressive Assembly legislators, Representative Pocan frequently speaks about social justice issues on the floor of the State Assembly.

MARK POCAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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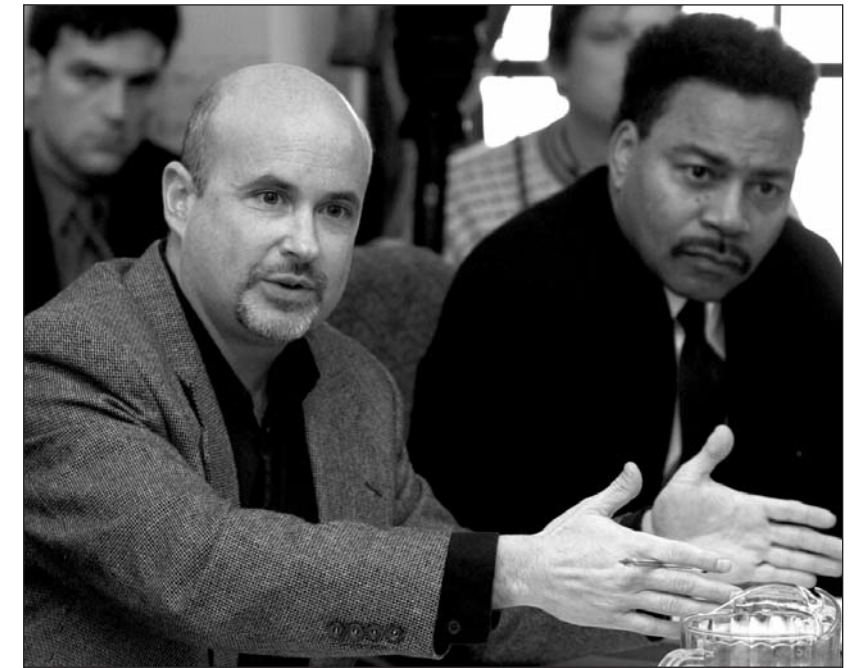


www.markpocan.net

Legislative
Update
2008

MARK POCAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



Representative Pocan serves as:

- Ranking Assembly Democrat, budget-writing Jt. Committee on Finance
- Member, Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts
- Member, Joint Legislative Council

ABOUT State Representative Mark Pocan

Elected to represent the 78th Assembly District in November of 1998, Representative Pocan succeeded former State Representative Tammy Baldwin upon her election to the 2nd Congressional District seat. Prior to being elected to the State Assembly, Representative Pocan served three terms on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. In addition to serving in the Assembly, Mark also owns a small business in Madison.

**SHARE
YOUR
IDEAS
WITH
ME**



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2007-09 State Budget Recap



Major Budget Provisions:

Protecting the Environment: In this biennium we committed \$15 million for renewable energy grants, the most in Wisconsin history. Furthermore, I successfully fought to protect our state environment by backing the reauthorization of the Stewardship Fund at \$85 million per year for 10 years.

Getting Smart on Crime: In an effort to reduce recidivism, I negotiated several key components of the Department of Corrections budget. This agreement ensured the most serious child sex

As the ranking Assembly Democrat on the Joint Committee on Finance, Representative Pocan played a critical role in negotiating several major budget initiatives.

offenders are monitored by GPS tracking and provided more funding for prison health care. The deal also eases re-entry into society by funding drug and alcohol treatment programs for ex-offenders rather than keeping the revolving door back into prison open.

Education: The budget funded for the first time the office of the Wisconsin Covenant. The covenant is Governor Doyle's promise to every 8th grade student that if they work hard and make good grades, there will be a place for them at a Wisconsin higher education institution and a financial package to pay for it. To ensure sustaining funding for this promise, I supported Governor Doyle's \$44 million financial aid increase. This will benefit students and families currently struggling to afford tuition and create a stable funding source for financial aid to future Wisconsin Covenant scholars.

Health Care Reform-BadgerCare Plus: Based on the simple premise that no child should be left without health care, Governor Doyle included this new initiative in the state budget. Through BadgerCare Plus, every Wisconsin family, regardless of their income, will have the chance to buy coverage for their children.

Middle class tax cuts: I supported a health insurance premium tax deduction, a retirement pension tax exemption, a child care tax deduction and a tax deduction on college expenses.

Homeless funding: I helped secure a \$1 million increase in homeless assistance funding. This was the first increase in 15 years and will serve emergency shelters and transitional housing in Dane County and throughout the state.

HIV/AIDS: I also helped secure \$1.2 million in new funding to provide medical care and support services for individuals with HIV.



Representative Pocan speaks about the budget with Representative Barbara Toles. Pocan left a progressive mark on the budget for many important Madison projects.

Budget Update: \$652 million shortfall projected

Because of the slowing economy, the State of Wisconsin is facing a deficit of \$652 million, which Governor Doyle has already released a plan to fix. At the time of this writing, I anticipate the legislature will address this shortfall in the coming weeks. Because I am a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, I will likely play a key role in the budget adjustment process. I will fight to safeguard important social programs and I look forward to hearing from you about any programs you are concerned about during these fiscally uncertain times.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH ME

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

BadgerCare Plus	800/362-3002	Low Interest Housing	
Business Help	800/435-7287	Loans (WHEDA)	800/334-6873
Consumer Protection	800/422-7128	Medicaid/BadgerCare	800/362-3002
Congresswoman		Madison Mayor	
Tammy Baldwin	608/258-9800	Dave Cieslewicz	608/266-4611
Crime Victim Services	800/446-6564	Nursing Home	
Dane County Executive		Complaints	800/642-6552
Kathleen Falk	608/166-4114	Road Conditions	800/762-3947
Elderly Benefits Specialist	608/224-0660	SeniorCare	800/657-2038
Governor	608/266-1212	Town of Madison	608/210-7260
Insurance Complaints	608/266-0103	Village of Maple Bluff	608/244-3048

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

State Benefit Eligibility Clearinghouse	www.access.wisconsin.gov
State of Wisconsin	www.wisconsin.gov
State Legislature	www.legis.state.wi.us
SeniorCare	www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/seniorcare
BadgerCare Plus	www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus
Affordable Prescription Drugs	www.badgerrxgold.com
Wisconsin No-Call List	www.nocall.wisconsin.gov

Pocan Bills

Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act: Requires emergency rooms to provide emergency contraceptives to rape victims at the victim's request. (2007 Act 102)

Clean Elections Fund: Campaign reform measure which creates 100% public financing of state elections. (AB-355/SB-182)

American Jobs Act: Prohibits the State of Wisconsin from doing business with companies that outsource American jobs. (AB-307/SB-163)

Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act: Creates a medical marijuana registry and provides immunity from prosecution to those who prove medical necessity. (AB-550)

Fighting Bob La Follette Day: Declares June 14 as Fighting Bob La Follette Day. (2007 Enrolled SJR-20)

Sales Tax Fairness Act: Reduces the amount of consumers' sales tax that a big-box retailer like Wal-Mart may retain for collecting the tax, saving the state \$5.5 million a year. (AB-943)

Plastic Bag Ban: Bans non-biodegradable plastic bags from being provided to consumers at retail stores. (AB-813/SB-451)

Truth in Music Advertising: Prohibits musical groups from plagiarizing the name of famous music groups. (2007 Act 15)

Instant Run-Off Voting: Creates preferential voting system that allows for automatic runoff in local elections, giving greater voice to third party opinions. (AB-888)

Check Scam Protection Act: Prohibits companies from soliciting goods or services by sending misleading checks to consumers or businesses that, when cashed, commits the person to a binding contract. (AB-416/SB-211)

Prescription Drugs: Would waive the annual enrollment fee for 2 years (\$25/person or \$75/family) to Wisconsin's new prescription drug program - Badger Rx Gold - that makes prescription medications more affordable to all citizens of Wisconsin. (AB-860)

2007-08 State Legislative Recap

Ethics Reform PASSED

Before the 2007-2008 legislative session even began, I got to work as one of the principal negotiators of a bi-partisan ethics reform package. In an effort to strengthen the enforcement of laws governing ethics, lobbying, campaign finance and elections, the ethics reform bill created the Government Accountability Board that replaced the state Ethics and Elections Boards. The deal won the praises of editorial boards and clean government advocates across the state.

The members of the board are no longer political appointees, as they were under the old State Elections Board model. The new members are nominated from a pool of retired judges to oversee the agency and are confirmed by the legislature. The board has an unlimited budget for investigations, so it is not beholden to legislators for funds to investigate them.

The package took the politics out of the state's Ethics and Elections Boards and gave the new board the teeth needed to ensure the highest standards of governing are once again adhered to in Wisconsin.



Senator Spencer Coggs and Representative Mary Williams look on as former Sha Na Na leader, Jon "Bowzer" Bauman, gestures to Pocan during a press conference unveiling their Truth in Music Advertising bill, a consumer protection measure, which recently became law.

Compassionate Care for Rape Victims

After I introduced this legislation PASSED to provide rape victims access to emergency contraception each legislative session since 2001, Compassionate Care for Rape Victims is now state law!

This session, Representative Terry Musser (R-Black River Falls) added his support as a lead sponsor, creating a bi-partisan coalition of legislators. This new law will require hospitals to provide information about emergency contraception and if asked by the patient, they must provide the medicine to them. Emergency contraception is a high concentration of birth control pills that can prevent pregnancy if taken within the first 120 hours of an assault, is 89% effective if taken within the first 72 hours and has no effect on an existing pregnancy.



Representative Pocan speaks at a press conference with Dane County Representatives Joe Parisi and Sody Pope-Roberts.