



### Capitol Tours

Free tours are offered daily, year round, of the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison. (Monday through Saturday at 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm. Sunday at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.) Groups of ten or more are encouraged to make a reservation by calling 608-266-0382 or visiting [www.wisconsin.gov/state/captour](http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/captour). For tour information at the Wisconsin Historical Museum call 608-264-6557 or visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum).

*Rep. Pope-Roberts joins a 4th grade class from the 79th District on a Capitol tour.*

### Wisconsin Eye - Watch Your State Government in Action

May 16th, 2007 live coverage of the State Legislature became available on the Wisconsin Eye website and by mid-July of 2007 live coverage was also available on cable. Wisconsin Eye is a non-partisan, non-profit resource aimed at engaging Wisconsin citizens in legislative proceedings at the Capitol. Here you can also watch recorded committee hearings, informational hearings, archived Assembly and Senate session days and oral arguments in the State Supreme Court. For more information on Wisconsin Eye or to view legislative activity please visit [www.wisconsineye.com](http://www.wisconsineye.com)

#### State Government Service Contacts:

- BadgerCare Plus .....1-800-362-3002
- SeniorCare .....1-800-657-2038
- Tobacco Quit line .....1-800-QUIT NOW
- Department of Tourism .....1-800-432-8747
- Veterans Hotline .....1-800-WIS VETS (947-8387)
- Consumer Protection Hotline .....1-800-422-7128
- Road Conditions/Construction .....1-800-762-3947



### Student Art

Every semester I have the privilege of displaying specially selected art pieces from elementary, middle and high schools from around my district. Currently, projects from the Middleton-Cross Plains School District hang in my Capitol office and last semester we had art from Mt. Horeb.

### FREE FOR THE ASKING

The following items are available at no charge from my office. I have a limited supply and these are available on a first come, first served basis.

- Wisconsin Blue Book
- State Highway Map
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Large, laminated Wisconsin map



Please contact my office or check the appropriate box and return this to: Rep. Sondy Pope-Roberts, State Capitol  
PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# SONDY POPE-ROBERTS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1749  
Madison, WI

Wisconsin State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison WI 53708

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

### Pope-Roberts Secures Advanced Placement Funding for Low-Income Students

*Legislation brings federal dollars to local schools to cover costs*

Key legislation that I introduced to allow Federal funding to cover the costs of Advanced Placement tests for low-income students was signed into law on December 17, 2007 as Wisconsin Act 40.

With a deadline looming for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to apply for Federal funding, I drafted legislation to authorize the critical transfer. On the last day of the 2007 legislative session – just days before the deadline – Assembly Bill 404 (SB249) passed both houses of the legislature unanimously. The bill secures more than \$150,000 in federal money to cover the costs of Advanced Placement exams for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

I was pleased that we were able to get this bill passed in time for our school districts to get some much needed relief for the spring 2008 semester. Currently districts must cover these costs themselves – and with budgets growing tighter each school year, these funds will help to prevent further cuts to vital programs.

The Department of Public Instruction needed to complete the application process by December 28, and should know how many Advanced Placement tests will be covered in early 2008. School Districts with students who qualify for payment assistance for their AP exams will receive notification from the Department of Public Instruction on the process for obtaining these funds.



#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Education, *Ranking Member*
- Education Reform, *Ranking Member*
- Corrections and Courts
- Aging and Long Term Care

## Education

A solid education is the most valuable resource we can provide to families in Wisconsin and it is the very issue that brought me to the legislature. I strongly believe we need a funding system based on the educational needs of our students instead of the property values in their area.

While we haven't seen a lot of movement in school funding reform, I am pleased with the ever-increasing interest my colleagues and other groups statewide have taken in this critical issue area. In April of 2007 more than 200 concerned parents, teachers, administrators and students from across the state gathered for a press conference to introduce my School Funding Reform Resolution, AJR 35. And in November, with a standing room only crowd, I testified before the Senate Education Committee on the urgent need for a bi-partisan effort to reform how we fund our schools. After more than six hours of testimony and another 62 registrants in-favor, only one person in attendance registered against.

I am optimistic we will see even more discussion and movement on school funding next session and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure all students, no matter where they live, receive a sound education.



Rep. Pope-Roberts speaks to more than 200 supporters at a school funding reform press conference.

## Environment

**GREAT LAKES COMPACT:** I strongly support ratification of the Great Lakes Compact and believe it is time for Wisconsin to join the other Great Lakes Governor's and two Canadian Premiers in protecting our precious waters. Considering 20% of the earth's fresh water surfaces are located within the great lakes, they are an invaluable resource and support a \$15 billion economy. I am optimistic in the passage of Senator Miller's Great Lakes Compact proposal and hopeful Wisconsin will once again be a leader on this issue.

**STEWARDSHIP FUND:** Maintaining funding for the Stewardship fund is one of the things I fought hardest to keep in the 2007-09 Biennial Budget because preserving our state's natural resources, parks, lakes and wildlife is one of my top priorities in the legislature. I was pleased that we were able to pass a compromise budget that included the reauthorization for this critical preservation fund.

**GLOBAL WARMING:** I am a proud co-author of the Global Warming Solutions Act authored by my colleague Rep. Black (D-Madison). Global warming has come to the forefront of discussions related to the environment and is a growing concern to citizens, environmentalists and scientists in my district and across the globe. It is imperative that legislative efforts be made soon to combat global climate change both on a state and national level.

## Representative Pope-Roberts' Bills

**AJR 35 / SJR 27** – Resolution calling on the legislature to repair the broken school funding system by July 1, 2009

**AB 377 / SB 129 – Compassionate Care for Rape Victims** – Guarantees that victims of a rape have access to information regarding Plan B

**AB 834 / SB 150 – Smoke Free Workplace Act** – Statewide ban on smoking in the workplace, including bars and restaurants

**AB 417 / SB 178** – Mandates insurance companies to provide coverage for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Asperger's Syndrome

**AB 879 / SB 486 – Quality Teachers Act** – Ensures that teachers in Milwaukee Parental Choice Program schools have the same teaching certifications and licensing as public school teachers

**AB 391 / SB 349 – Transcript Protection Act** – Ensures that the transcripts of students participating in Milwaukee Parental Choice Program are properly maintained and available upon request

**AB 157 / SB 81 – Wisconsin Safe Climate Act** – Requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in an attempt to combat the effects of global climate change

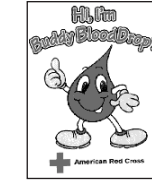
**AB 715** – Prohibits schools from purchasing instruments and equipment that contain mercury

**AB 404 / SB 249 – 2007 Wisconsin Act 40** – Allows the usage of federal funds to assist low-income students with the payment of Advanced Placement testing fees

**AB 661 – Truth in Lobbying Act** – Prohibits any group or organization from falsely representing the views of constituents when contacting a legislative office

## Pope-Roberts Leads One-a-Week Club

**Coordinating Blood Drive Efforts for the American Red Cross**



According to the American Red Cross, nearly every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood and only 5 percent of the population that are eligible to donate actually do. Blood is not only needed in emergency situations, but also for transplant recipients, premature babies, cancer patients and new mothers who had difficulty delivering their baby. With summer beginning and families and donors leaving for vacation, May is a critical time for blood collection for the Red Cross, which is the largest blood supplier in the nation.

As a coordinator for a One-A-Week Club I will be responsible for recruiting 52 donors this year, the equivalent of one donor per week. I have been donating blood regularly for many years and I will be encouraging my colleagues and their staff in the Capitol to donate here in Madison or at home in their districts. With each donation having the potential to save three lives, I may have helped save 360 lives as a regular donor. As a coordinator for a One-A-Week Club I hope to recruit enough donors to save



Pope-Roberts makes a donation at the State Capitol Blood Drive.

as many as 156 people this year. Giving up just one hour is a small price for knowing you could potentially save three lives, especially in the summer months when blood supplies are needed most and donations are down.

To make an appointment or more information on other donation locations contact my office or the Red Cross at 1-800-Give-Life or go to [www.givebloodgivelife.org](http://www.givebloodgivelife.org).

## Free or Affordable Healthcare for All Wisconsin Children

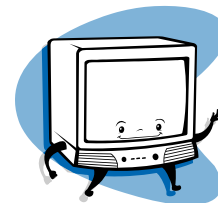
February 1, 2008 was a historic day for Wisconsin's residents. It was the first day that every child in Wisconsin, regardless of their family's income, became eligible for free or affordable healthcare. Enrollment for the highly anticipated expansion of BadgerCare opened on Friday, February 1st. **BadgerCare Plus** not only offers affordable healthcare to children, but also to working families and pregnant women without coverage.

Even if you have been denied for BadgerCare benefits in the past, you can still qualify now due to the expansion. Many children will qualify for free coverage while other

families with higher incomes may still qualify but will have to pay a small monthly premium.

To find out if you are eligible for BadgerCare Plus, you can visit [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov) and click on "Am I Eligible". You can also apply online by clicking on "Apply for Benefits". If you aren't able to access these tools online you can call 1-800-362-3002 to get a list of local organizations that are assisting children and pregnant women with enrollment.

To get more information on BadgerCare Plus you can visit: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus) or contact my office.



## Will Your TV be in the Dark in 2009?

On February 17, 2009, the nationwide conversion to digital television will be complete. Any analog television not connected to cable, satellite, or a television company service provider without a DTV

(Digital Television) converter box will not receive any television signal at all - not even with the use of an antennae.

This switch comes from Congress through the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 which requires free local broadcasts must turn off their analog channels and only broadcast digitally.

What this means for most televisions viewers is no change at all. However, for those who rely only on the use of an antenna to get a television signal, your televisions will no longer work to get local television channels or programming currently

available for free. More than 19.6 million households in our country fall into this category.

What can you do?

- Purchase a DTV converter box. These will be available February 17, 2008 at retail stores that carry electronics.
- Purchase a new television set.
- Subscribe to cable or satellite television services.

The federal government will be providing coupons that can be used towards the purchase of the DTV converter box if you are unable to purchase a new television or don't wish to subscribe to a more expensive television service. These coupons can be found at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or by calling the DTV coupon program hotline at 888-388-2009.