



PLACE STAMP HERE

E-MAIL

State Representative  
**BARBARA L. TOLES**  
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Madison, WI 53708-8935



Representatives Toles and Wasserman on a Wisconsin Air National Guard refueling flight.

12) Legislation has been proposed to ban smoking in all workplaces. Which statement most closely represents your opinion about public smoking?

- I favor an immediate ban on smoking in all workplaces.
- I favor an immediate ban on smoking in most workplaces, but there should be a longer phase-in period for bars and taverns.
- Bars and taverns should be exempt from any smoking ban.
- The state should not prohibit smoking in workplaces.
- Don't know.

13) Under current law, all 17-year-olds are treated as adults for any alleged crimes. Each year in Wisconsin, about 30,000 17-year-olds are arrested. 98% of those are for minor offenses. Legislation has been offered to allow non-violent 17-year-olds access to rehabilitative treatment that is only available through juvenile court. Violent offenders would still be sent to adult court. Do you support this proposal?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

14) Which statement most closely represents your position on health insurance reform?

- Establish a universal health care system that provides everyone with affordable, quality care.
- Improve transparency by fully disclosing all prices and establish tax-free health care savings accounts.
- Expand existing health care programs like BadgerCare so that more people are covered.
- Nothing needs to be done.

15) No one enjoys paying higher taxes, however the cost of providing public services continues to increase. Would you be willing to pay more to support any of the following services? (You may select more than one service.)

- Public schools
- Parks
- Street maintenance
- Libraries
- Health and social services
- Police and fire protection
- Court system
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- None

### Please Send Me...

- Wisconsin Blue Book
- Wisconsin Highway Map
- 2008 Art and Craft Fair Directory
- BadgerCare+** brochure
- Mortgage assistance brochure



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
17TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
**Barbara TOLES**  
*Spring 2008 NEWSLETTER*

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

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### 2007-2008 Committee Assignments

- Jobs and the Economy
- State Affairs
- Ways and Means
- Workforce Development

### How to Reach Me:

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### Fired Officers Charged With Crimes Off Payroll

Under state law, police officers in the City of Milwaukee can stay on the payroll and collect full salaries and benefits after they have been fired if they appeal their terminations. For some, this process has taken years and officers collected tens of thousands of dollars after they were fired. Since 1990, the City of Milwaukee has paid more than \$4.4 million to fired police officers. My legislation to end this practice was approved by the Senate and Assembly and signed into law by Governor Doyle.

The initial bill prohibited all fired officers from staying on the payroll during the appeals process. In January, the Assembly Committee on Corrections and Courts passed an amendment that would cut off pay only for officers who were terminated and charged with felonies.

However, misdemeanors are not minor violations, they are criminal offenses. Some of the reasons officers have been fired from the Milwaukee Police Department include exposing their genitals to children, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

I continued to work with my colleagues and we reached a bi-partisan compromise to end pay for officers who are fired and charged with criminal felonies, Class A misdemeanors, or Class B misdemeanors.



Mayor Tom Barrett, Rep. Barbara Toles, County Bd. Chair Lee Holloway, Sen. Spencer Coggs, and County Supvr. Elizabeth Coggs-Jones attend the ceremony as Governor Jim Doyle signs the Police Pay bill into law.

While this agreement does not go quite as far as I would have liked, it will deal with the vast majority of Milwaukee police officers who are fired for just cause. The Assembly passed this agreement unanimously. The Senate approved it on a voice vote.

This is a tremendous victory for Milwaukee taxpayers. I have been working on this bill since the summer of 2005. After the struggle to move the bill forward, I am elated by the final outcome. The Assembly, the Senate, and the Governor all recognized that passing my bill was the right thing to do

This new law also sets a more realistic timeline for appeals, provides that hearings can be postponed only for valid reasons, and increases the membership of the Fire and Police Commission so that hearings can be held more expeditiously.

Photo courtesy of the Milwaukee Community Journal

## Help With Health Care

In 2006, almost 100,000 children in Wisconsin went all or part of the year without health insurance. Beginning February 1st of this year, the new state budget combined three existing programs – Medicaid, BadgerCare, and Healthy Start – to form BagerCare Plus, so that more families and children can obtain medical coverage.

### Who is Eligible?

- All children who are citizens or legal residents, regardless of income
- Pregnant women with incomes up to 300% of poverty
- Relatives caring for children and parents with incomes up to 200% of poverty
- Young adults who are aging out of foster care
- Certain parents with children in foster care
- Farmers and other self-employed parents and caregivers with incomes up to 200% of poverty

Most participants will have small co-payments for most services, doctor visits, and prescriptions. Higher income participants will pay premiums between \$10 and \$68.25 per child, per month.

### How Do I Apply?

**On-line at:** [access.wi.gov](http://access.wi.gov)

**Call:** 1-800-362-3002

Those already on Family Medicaid, BadgerCare, or Healthy Start will be enrolled automatically.

## Help With Heating Bills

With oil prices hitting record highs and winter temperatures well below average, many families are having trouble paying to heat their homes. Help is available.

**Home Energy Assistance** – One-time payments per heating season (October 1 – May 15) for heating, electrical, and crisis situations. Wisconsin got almost \$18 million from the federal government to serve more households.

**Weatherization** – An energy audit will identify ways to make your home more energy efficient and save you money. Services include insulation, repairing or replacing old water heaters and furnaces, and installing energy efficient lighting.

Individuals and families with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible. Please call toll-free, 1-866-432-8947 for more information.

Over the income limits, but still need some help? Call Focus on Energy toll-free, at 1-800-762-7077 and ask about the Targeted Home Performance with Energy Star Program.

### Annual Income Limits for Assistance Programs

People in Household	BadgerCare +		Heating Assistance
	Pregnant Women	Families	
1	\$31,200	\$20,800	\$15,315
2	\$42,000	\$28,000	\$20,535
3	\$52,800	\$35,200	\$25,755
4	\$63,600	\$42,400	\$30,975
5	\$74,400	\$49,600	\$36,195
6	\$85,200	\$56,800	\$41,415

## Help With Your Mortgage

More than 2800 properties were foreclosed and scheduled for sheriff's sales in Milwaukee County in 2007 – a new record. Another 1000 homes were listed during the first nine weeks of this year, with a stunning 200 put up for sale in just one day in January.

If you are having trouble making your mortgage payments, or are facing foreclosure, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) can help. WHEDA has paired with NeighborWorks America and the Homeownership Preservation Foundation to offer the HOPE Hotline.

Call toll-free, 1-888-995-4673, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In Milwaukee, services are provided by Housing Resources, Inc. Counselors can help you develop repayment plans, negotiate with lenders, and let you know about your rights and responsibilities. They can refer you to trusted lenders who can help you re-finance your loan. If selling your home is the best option, they can recommend a real estate agent.

The sooner you reach out, the better your chances of success.

## TV Broadcasts Switch to Digital

Almost 34 million households have at least one television that receives service from “over-the-air” analog broadcasts. On February 19, 2009, network TV broadcasters must switch from analog to digital programming to free up more of the broadcast spectrum for first responders to communicate during emergencies.

If you get your TV programming from cable or satellite, you don't have to do anything. Your provider will handle the conversion.

However, if you have an old analog TV that cannot receive digital signals, you have some options.

- Purchase a digital TV
- Subscribe to cable or satellite (check with the provider to see if new equipment is required)
- Buy a converter box

Converter boxes cost about \$60. Households can apply for up to two coupons, worth \$40 each and valid for three months, to buy converter boxes from certified retailers. For more information about the transition or to request coupons, call 1-888-388-2009 or go to [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)



I sincerely value your opinions and comments on issues regarding state policy. Please take a few moments to fill out this survey and mail it back to me. If more than one person in your household would like to fill out the survey, please use different color inks. If you would like to receive a copy of the survey results, please include your e-mail address.

- 1) Wisconsin currently has a ban on the construction of new nuclear power plants until a safe site exists to store the radioactive waste that is created. Generating nuclear power does not emit greenhouse gases associated with global warming. Should Wisconsin continue to prohibit new nuclear facilities?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 2) Legislation is being considered to prohibit sending water from the Great Lakes to areas and states outside of the Great Lakes Basin. Do you support this proposal?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 3) Legislation has been introduced to legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes if prescribed by a doctor. Do you support this proposal?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 4) In an effort to reduce the influence of special interest groups in Supreme Court races, do you support full public financing of judicial elections?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 5) Legislation has been introduced to allow pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions for birth control, and to refuse to transfer the prescriptions to other pharmacists, if they are personally opposed to contraception. Do you support this proposal?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 6) Which statement most closely represents your opinion about abortion and the law?  
 Abortion should remain legal.  
 Abortion should be illegal except for cases of rape or incest, or if the mother's health is in danger.  
 Abortion should be illegal unless the mother's life is in danger.  
 All abortions should be illegal.  
 Don't know
- 7) Do you support legislation to require the minimum wage be indexed to the rate of inflation?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 8) Currently, police officers have to issue tickets to motorists who run red lights in person. Do you support changing state law to allow the City of Milwaukee to install cameras that photograph drivers who run red lights and then send tickets through the mail?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 9) Under current law, a person may be ticketed for not wearing a seat belt only if a vehicle has been stopped for some other reason. Should police be able to ticket seat belt violators even if no other offense has occurred?  
 Yes     No     Don't know
- 10) For those convicted of first degree murder, do you support:  
 Death penalty  
 Life in prison without parole  
 Don't know
- 11) Do you support extending Chicago commuter rail into Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee?  
 Yes     No     Don't know