

# BadgerCare Plus Provides Coverage to 98% of Wisconsin Residents

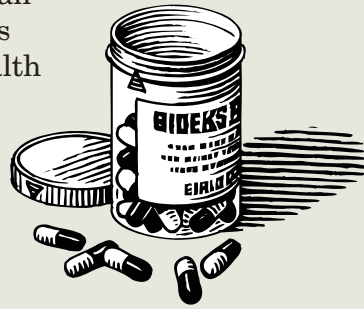
On February 1 2008, enrollment began for the new BadgerCare Plus program which will offer access to comprehensive, affordable health care to working families and pregnant women in Wisconsin. Most importantly, BadgerCare Plus will provide health care coverage to all children, regardless of income.

As a result of BadgerCare Plus more low-income families in Milwaukee will have access to affordable health care. With the economy facing a possible recession, the skyrocketing cost of consumer goods, and the fact that in 2006 more than 570,000 Wisconsin residents were uninsured for at least part of the year; it is more important than ever to find a solution to the growing health care crisis in our state.

By making sure that every child has access to quality health care that is affordable, more working families in Wisconsin will benefit. BadgerCare

Plus allows us to take an important step towards ensuring adequate health care for everyone. BadgerCare Plus was passed as a result of strong bi-partisan support. I am hopeful that we can continue to work in a bi-partisan manner next session to further expand health care coverage until all Wisconsin residents have access to medical care.

For further information about BadgerCare Plus, or to check enrollment eligibility, you can call the member service hotline at 1-800-362-3002 or check online at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/index.htm>



Rep. Young fights for the residents of Milwaukee during heated budget debate on Assembly floor.



# LEON D. YOUNG

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

## Spring 2008 REPORT

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#### 2007-2008 Committee Assignments

- **State Affairs**  
(ranking member)
- **Housing**
- **Tourism, Recreation  
and State Properties**



LEON D. YOUNG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 16TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

May 2008

Dear Constituent and Neighbor,

As another legislative session comes to an end, I would like to update you on some of the things that have been happening "under the dome" during the past seventeen months. Following a protracted biennial budget debate last year, the state legislature had only a few short months during the 2007-2008 session to deal with many important issues facing our state.

While the Senate and Assembly did come together to pass some important measures, unfortunately, much of this session was characterized by missed opportunities and an unwillingness to overcome partisan differences.

In this newsletter you will find information on a crime-fighting measure (microstamping) that I have undertaken, and an update on the Marquette Interchange and BadgerCare Plus program, which will expand health care coverage to 98% of Wisconsin residents.

As your state representative, I continue to support legislation to make health care more accessible, higher education more affordable, as well as economic development initiatives that create sustainable jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the state assembly. It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the voice for the 16th Assembly District. Feel free to contact me and share your thoughts about state government and the issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Leon D. Young  
State Representative  
16th Assembly District

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## Young Proposes Microstamping Legislation

The tragic incidences of random gun violence have been well documented in the media. For years, law enforcement agencies have grappled with the difficult, and often daunting, task of ballistic identification – matching a gun to a particular crime scene. However, a breakthrough in ballistic identification technology has produced a powerful new tool in arresting gun violence: microstamping.

Microstamping technology uses lasers to make precise and microscopic engravings on internal mechanisms of a gun, such as the breech face and firing pin. When the gun is fired, information identifying the make, model and serial number of the gun is *intentionally* stamped onto the cartridge. This represents a significant improvement over existing ballistic identification technology, which relies on *unintentional* markings that are transferred from the gun to the gun case, when a gun is fired. These unintentional markings are then compared to a database of images of “ballistic fingerprints” gathered from other crime scenes. While this information can provide



Rep. Young lends his voice to the rally marking the one anniversary of the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech.

links between crimes, it cannot lead investigators directly to a specific firearm unless that weapon is ultimately recovered. Microstamping, on the other hand, immediately identifies the particular gun which, in turn, drastically improves law enforcement’s ability to solve gun-related crimes.

Back in February, I invited Joshua

Horwitz to Madison to brief legislators on this state-of-the-art advancement in ballistic identification. Mr. Horwitz is an attorney in Washington, D.C. and is the country’s foremost expert on microstamping. I subsequently drafted microstamping legislation, but our truncated legislative session made serious consideration of this important issue impossible.

## Economic Stimulus Payment Schedule

Economic stimulus payments will be issued according to the last two-digits of the main filer’s Social Security number. People who use direct deposit also will be among the first to receive the payments starting May 2. Paper checks will be put in the mail starting May 16.

People who file a return after April 15 will receive their economic stimulus payment, but probably about two weeks later than the schedule shows. A return must be filed by October 15 in order to receive a stimulus payment this year.

DIRECT DEPOSIT will be transmitted:			
<i>Last two Social Security Number digits</i>	00 through 20 - May 2	<i>Date transmitted</i>	
	21 through 75 - May 9		
	76 through 99 - May 16		
PAPER CHECK will be mailed by:			
<i>Last 2 SSN digits - Date mailed</i>	<i>Last 2 SSN digits - Date mailed</i>		
00 through 09 - May 16	52 through 63 - June 20		
10 through 18 - May 23	64 through 75 - June 27		
19 through 25 - May 30	76 through 87 - July 4		
26 through 38 - June 6	88 through 99 - July 11		
39 through 51 - June 13			

## Marquette Interchange Project Rolls On

The reconstruction of Milwaukee’s Marquette Interchange Program continues to move forward as contractors and project engineers work in 2008 to complete the last of the bridges, earthwork and roadways. Overall 85% of the Marquette Interchange Program is complete; the program is on budget and on time. Contractors finished major construction on the project’s North and West corridors in 2006 and the South corridor in 2007. The Core contract, the only major interchange contract remaining is anticipated to be completed by November 2008.

Construction has drastically changed the landscape of downtown Milwaukee over the last three years. All of the interchange’s old bridge segments have been completely demolished and all new bridges and structures have either been completed or are in the process of being constructed. Two of four through movement bridges are complete and open to traffic and three of the eight new freeway connecting ramps are also open to traffic. Various other entrance and exit ramps and local street segments have been finished and opened for the public’s use.

The Core project has 20 bridges and 16 retaining walls. Work remains on only 8 of the bridges and 1 of the retaining walls. They are anticipated to be completed by August of 2008. Work to be performed between August and November 2008 consists of all remaining roadway elements such as median barrier walls, sign bridges, electrical, milling, final asphalt, signing, and pavement marking.

We all look forward to the completion of this project in November 2008.



Rep. Young explains his amendment in the State Affairs committee.

## Young Urges PSC to Pull Plug on Utility

Back in March, Rep. Young went on official record with the Public Service Commission (PSC) in voicing his adamant opposition to We Energies’ latest \$79 million rate hike request.

In making his argument to the PSC, Rep. Young asserted: The financially-strapped ratepayers in Milwaukee have just absorbed a \$73 million rate increase in January (2008), and now they must brace for the possibility of a \$79 million body blow in April.

Unfortunately for utility consumers, We Energies’ latest rate hike request was granted on a provisional basis – subject to review by the Commission at a later date.