



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Joan Ballweg

'08 Spring Update

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DIRECTORY OF STATE HELP NUMBERS

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Badger Care & Badger Care Plus.....	800-362-3002	Insurance Complaints	800-236-8517
Business Helpline	800-435-7287	Legislative Hotline	800-362-9472
Consumer Protection Hotline.....	800-422-7128	Road Conditions/Detours.....	800-762-3947
DNR Hunting/Fishing Licenses.....	877-945-4236	Senior Care Prescription Drug Plan	800-657-2038
Do Not Call List.....	866-966-2255	Social Security Office	800-772-1213
EdVest (College Savings Program).....	888-338-3789	Tourism/Travel Information	800-372-2737
Farm Center	800-942-2474	WHEDA (Housing Related Issues).....	800-334-6873



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Joan Ballweg

41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- **Chair, Homeland Security & State Preparedness**
 - **Vice Chair, Colleges & Universities**
 - **Insurance**
 - **Joint Legislative Council**
 - **Public Health**
 - **Small Business**
- OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
- **Chair, Legislative Council Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning**
 - **FEMA V Regional Advisory Council**
 - **PK-16 Leadership Council**
 - **Wisconsin Women's Council**

Dear Friends and Neighbors in the 41st District,

As the 2007-08 legislative session winds down, I would like to let you know about the work I have been doing in Madison on your behalf.

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to be your representative. I hope you have found my office responsive to your calls and inquiries. My job in Madison is to represent your interests and help you navigate and understand the various state agencies.

Each spring, I schedule listening sessions around the district to provide an open forum for people to share their thoughts and opinions on various state issues. Inside you can find a list of the eleven listening sessions I am holding this spring.

The following pages explain some of the legislation I have authored. I also focus on legislation I have been heavily involved with in the area of homeland security and state preparedness. Last session I chaired a special committee that studied the state's disaster preparedness planning. My work on the special committee led to the formation of a committee I chair this session dedicated to examining homeland security and state preparedness issues.

The Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness provides legislative review of the state's emergency response system and evaluates the state of readiness in Wisconsin. In the process I have become familiar with the individuals and agencies responsible for responding to natural and manmade disasters.

My involvement in improving state preparedness has been interesting and rewarding. While a lot has been accomplished, more work is needed, especially the coordination of local, state and national assets and response plans. I will continue to study this important issue to help ensure the safety of all Wisconsin citizens.

When I am not working on legislation in the Capitol, I really enjoy traveling around the district, attending local events and speaking to area groups. If your group or organization would like me to visit and discuss a particular area of interest or just hear about what is happening in Madison, I welcome your invitation.

It is important to me to maintain a close relationship between state and local government. I continuously visit with local governments and have attended town, village, city and county meetings throughout the district. To date, I have attended or am scheduled to attend over seventy meetings with local officials in the fifty-one local government units that make up the 41st Assembly District.

In addition, I have visited classrooms from Fremont to Markesan and Coloma to Ripon to give presentations on Wisconsin government. Over the course of the 2007-08 legislative session, I have made or will make presentations in more than thirty area classrooms. I believe it is important for these youngsters to know their representative is approachable and interested in their future and the future of Wisconsin.

The thought I would like to leave you with is that my staff and I are always available to help and serve. Please call my office anytime with questions or to let me know your thoughts on issues facing Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Joan Ballweg

Joan Ballweg



Joan Ballweg

'08 Spring Update

Joan Ballweg Leadership Scholarship



Rep. Ballweg with Nicholas Bartol, scholarship recipient from Berlin High School.

The Joan Ballweg Leadership Scholarship was established in April 2005, and will continue as long as I am an elected representative. The purpose is to encourage and reward students who have taken a role in leadership during their high school years. Hopefully these young adults will continue their leadership roles in college, and after they graduate. Their leadership skills will be valuable to their future employers in the workplace and the community where they live.

Eligibility is open to all graduating seniors continuing their education in a 2-year Technical College program or a 4-year baccalaureate degree program. Students must be graduating with at least a 3.0 average on a 4.0 point scale, and must reside in the 41st Assembly District of the Wisconsin State Legislature. They must demonstrate leadership by participation in groups and organizations as officers, captains or other roles of authority.

Scholarship packets are available at area high school guidance offices. You can also contact my office for a scholarship application packet toll free at (888) 534-0041.

Deadline for applications is April 11, 2008.



Rep. Ballweg with Lindsey Kobiske, scholarship recipient from Weyauwega-Fremont High School, along with Principal Scott Bleck and Guidance Counselor Tabitha Rohde



Rep. Ballweg with constituents visiting the Capitol for Wisconsin Library Association Legislative Day.

Spring 2008 Listening Sessions

Rep. Ballweg will be holding community listening sessions on the following dates and times:

APRIL 2nd

10:30 a.m. Redgranite Village Hall, Meeting Room, 161 Deerborn St., Redgranite

3:00 p.m. Wild Rose Community Center, 500 Wisconsin Ave., Wild Rose

APRIL 8th

10:00 a.m. Coffee Cabin, W7829 State Hwy 21 & 73, Wautoma

1:30 p.m. Anna Follette Community Center, 155 Front Street, Coloma

3:30 p.m. The Flame Family Restaurant, 215 Ripon Rd., Berlin

APRIL 10th

5:00 p.m. Green Lake Co. Courthouse, Demonstration Room, 492 Hill St., Green Lake

APRIL 15th

5:00 p.m. Fremont Village Hall, Council Room, 317 Wolf River Dr., Fremont

APRIL 17th

9:00 a.m. The Wayside Restaurant, N1894 State Road 44 and 73, Markesan

APRIL 21st

12:00 p.m. Neshkoro Library, 132 S. Main St., Neshkoro

4:30 p.m. Ripon City Hall, Council Chambers, 100 Jackson St., Ripon

MAY 8th

6:00 p.m. Princeton City Council Chambers, 438 W. Main St., Princeton

Rep. Ballweg Invites You to Visit the State Capitol

Individuals, school and civic groups are welcome to visit the State Capitol. Free guided tours are offered daily, year round. Tours depart from the ground floor information desk Monday through Saturday at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m.; and Sundays at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m. An additional 4:00 p.m. tour is offered weekdays (Monday-Friday), excluding holidays, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The sixth floor museum and observation deck are open during the summer months, ask your guide for directions.



Fourth Grade class from Neshkoro Elementary visiting the Capitol.

Groups of ten or more can make an online reservation by visiting: www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/wisconsin_state_capitol_tour.html or calling (608) 266-0382.

Joan Ballweg

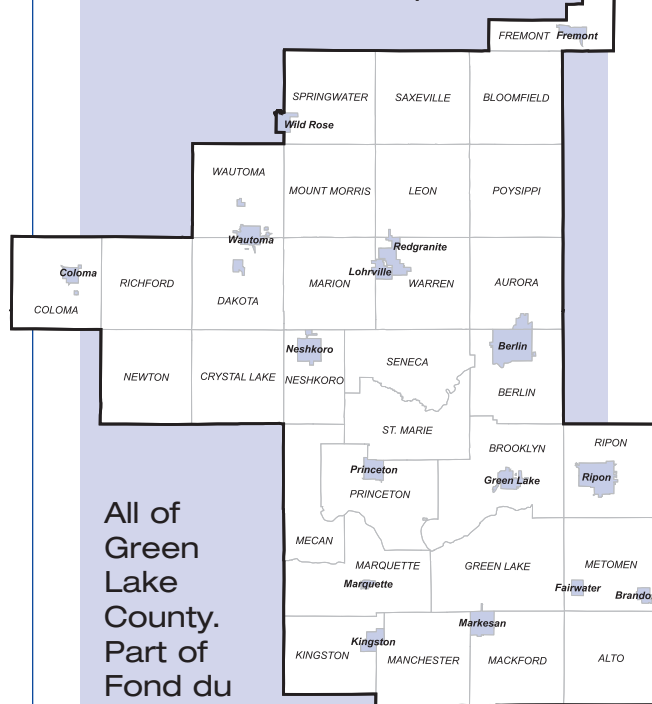


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DISTRICT 41

The 41st Assembly District consists of the following counties and municipalities:



All of Green Lake County. Part of Fond du Lac County including the towns of Alto, Metomen, and Ripon; the villages of Brandon and Fairwater; the city of Ripon. Part of Marquette County including the towns of Crystal Lake, Mecan, Neshkoro, and Newton; the village of Neshkoro. Part of Waupaca County including the town and village of Fremont. Part of Waushara County including the towns of Aurora, Bloomfield, Coloma, Dakota, Leon, Marion, Mount Morris, Poysippi, Richford, Saxeville, Springwater, Warren, and Wautoma; the villages of Coloma, Lohrville, Redgranite, and Wild Rose; the cities of Wautoma and Berlin.



Rep. Ballweg presenting a Wisconsin flag and Blue Book to Ken Bates and students from Green Lake School District.

Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning, *Chair*

In the fall of 2006, as a freshman legislator, Joan was appointed to chair a Wisconsin Legislative Council Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning. The special committee was directed to study and make recommendations in the area of public and private cooperation in preparedness planning for emergency responses to natural and man-made disasters, including pandemics.



Rep. Ballweg listening to testimony before her Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness.

The Committee made a number of recommendations, which eventually became Assembly Bill 321.

AB 321 Key provisions:

- Expands the current law that provides state agent status for specified types of volunteers at health care facilities during emergencies to also provide state agent status for the facilities.
- Adds counties to the statute that specifically authorizes local units of government to declare emergencies, thereby providing state agent status to certain volunteers during county-declared emergencies.
- Expands the current law that provides immunity from liability for certain food donated to a charitable organization or food distribution service to also include food donated to a governmental unit. The bill also includes donations of emergency household products during declared emergencies.
- Creates a statutory Interoperability Council, which would replace the current council established by executive order.
- Requires schools to conduct tornado or other hazard drills at least twice each year.
- An amendment would give state agent status to volunteers at a mass clinic run by DHFS or a local health department during a public health emergency.
- A second amendment restores reporting requirements for schools to submit records of fire and other hazard drills to their local fire departments.

Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness, *Chair*

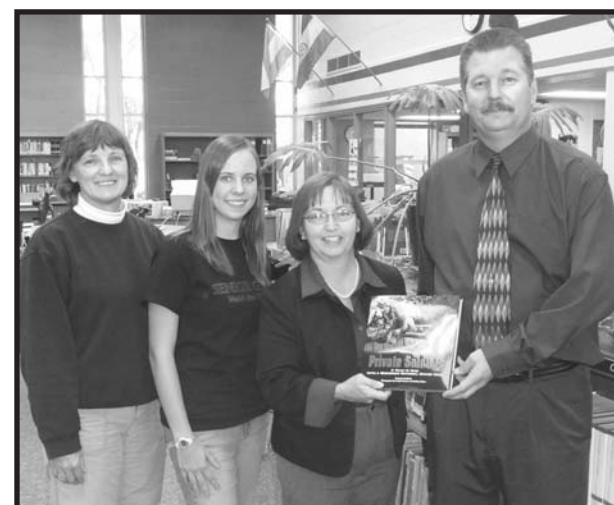
The Speaker of the Assembly created the Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee, and appointed Joan as Chair, to build on the work that she started as Chair of the Disaster Preparedness Planning committee. Homeland security and state preparedness encompasses so much more than foreign terrorist plots. The committee will investigate issues related to food safety, pandemic preparedness, emergency management and both natural and man-made disasters.

FEMA Region V Advisory Council, *Member*

The purpose of the Council is to advise the Regional Administrator on emergency management issues specific to the Region; identify any geographic or demographic issues specific to any State, local, or tribal government within the Region that might make preparedness, protection, response, or mitigation more challenging; and advise the Regional Administrator on any weakness or deficiencies in preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation within the Regional area of responsibility.

Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Created by an Executive Order of the Governor, the Homeland Security Council is charged with terrorism preparedness efforts in Wisconsin. While Joan is not an appointed member of the council, the Adjutant General has invited her to attend the meetings. The Council is charged with coordinating outreach and directing state homeland security operations. The members work together with federal and local agencies to prevent and respond to any threat. Additionally, this body advises the Governor as to what additional steps are needed to further enhance Wisconsin's homeland security.



Rep. Ballweg donating the book *Private Soldiers: A Year in Iraq* with a Wisconsin National Guard Unit to Ripon High School. Rep. Ballweg donated copies of the book to each area high school.

Legislation Introduced by Representative Ballweg



Rep. Ballweg giving a speech on the assembly floor in support of her organ and tissue donation bill.

■ AB 442

Donate Life Wisconsin License Plates

These optional plates would be available in Wisconsin for motorists that want to support organ and tissue donation. After the Department of Transportation recovers the cost of creating the plate, all proceeds go to Donate Life Wisconsin. This coalition is dedicated to saving lives and improving quality of life by collectively increasing organ, tissue, eye, blood and bone marrow donation through public awareness and education.

In the Senate

■ AB 484

Dealing with Disruptive Students

This bill would allow educational support personnel to send an unruly student to the principal's office, whether the observed behavior occurred inside or outside the classroom.

In the Assembly

■ AB 577

Eligibility for appointment as a student member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents

Current law prohibits the governor from appointing a student member, to the Board of Regents, from the same institution in two consecutive terms. What it does not address is which institution is excluded, if the student changes schools during the student's term on the board. If this bill passes, only the school that the student regent was attending when they were first appointed would be ineligible for consideration of the next appointment.

In the Assembly

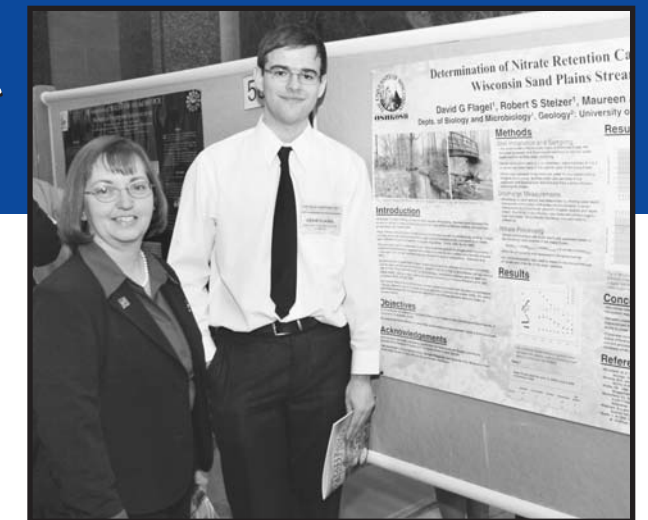
■ AB 579

Small Claims Jurisdictional Limit

This bill would increase the limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The current limit



Rep. Ballweg tours the UW Microbial Science Building to learn more about undergraduate and graduate research on public health issues and the biotech companies that turn the research into economic development opportunities.



Rep. Ballweg with her constituent from Markesan, David Fligel, who had his research project on display at the Capitol.

has not been raised in over 13 years, and should be adjusted, if for no other reason than inflation. Small Claims Court is a fair and efficient means for two parties to resolve disputes without having to hire an attorney.

In the Assembly

■ AB 658

Eligibility for Wisconsin's Academic Excellence Scholarship

Currently, if the student that has the highest GPA turns down or is not eligible for this scholarship (because they don't go to college in Wisconsin), then the student with the next highest GPA is eligible, if the school district weights GPAs differently for different courses. However, if the district does not weight GPAs differently, then the next student in line is not eligible. This bill encourages Wisconsin's brightest students to stay in Wisconsin.

In the Assembly

■ AB 736

Public Works Mutual Aid Agreements

Public Works directors requested this bill, which is intended to promote cooperation between Public Works Departments from different jurisdictions when there is a large scale emergency that requires mutual aid.

In the Assembly

■ AB 759

Tasers for County Jail Officers

Electronic weapons known as Tasers are illegal in Wisconsin with certain exceptions. Wisconsin Department of Corrections' Correctional Officers are allowed to use Tasers in Wisconsin's prisons. Peace Officers which included police officers and sworn deputies are also allowed to use them. The problem that was brought to my attention by Waushara County Sheriff David Peterson is that some county jails are run by civilian jail officers. This bill simply gives jail officers access to the same non-lethal tool that their counterparts in other jails and prisons are authorized to use.

In the Assembly