

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



**BRETT DAVIS** *Legislative Update* 2008

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*The Davis Family: Brett, Amy, Will (3),  
Audrey (1) and Lucy (dog)*

**2007-2008  
LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Lowering the Cost of Health Care
- Growing Our Economy and Creating Jobs
- Providing Tax Relief for Families and Seniors
- Investing in Education
- Leading the Nation in Renewable Energy
- Standing Up for Seniors

## Investing in Education for the 21st Century

### Funding Education at Historic Levels

I led the fight for a \$524.8 million increase in K-12 education funding, the largest increase in aid to local school districts in history. Over the next two years, classrooms across the state will receive \$12.3 billion in state aid. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Ensuring Virtual Schools Remain an Option for Parents

Wisconsin's innovative and effective virtual schools have been a great option for students and parents. That's why I authored legislation and brokered a bi-partisan compromise that ensures virtual schools will remain open for students who learn better outside of the traditional classroom setting. (SB 396 - Act 222)

### Increasing Financial Aid for Students

Over the next two years, the state will invest an additional \$29 million in financial aid to make sure families can send their kids to college. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Protecting our Children in School

Parents and children need to be confident that their schools are safe places to learn, so I voted for school safety grants to enable school districts to be proactive against violence, ensuring our children's safety is a top priority. (State Budget - Act 20)

### More Aid for Special Needs Students

Special needs students need extra help in school and with the bi-partisan support of Governor Doyle, local school districts will receive an extra \$53 million in special education aid from the state. (State Budget - Act 20)



*Brett speaks at a rally with virtual school families on the Capitol steps.*

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## Keep In Touch

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### BRETT'S COMMITTEES IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY

- Education (Chair)
- Consumer Protection and Personal Privacy (Vice-Chair)
- Transportation
- Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
- Energy and Utilities

## BRETT DAVIS

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

80<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we mark the end of another legislative session, we have many accomplishments to be proud of. Working together, we have been able to change Wisconsin for the better.

It was my sincere hope going into this session that Democrats and Republicans could put aside their differences for the good of our state. I believe we did just that. While there is work to be done, I believe that we are moving forward and I hope you find this legislative update is a helpful tool to keep you informed on what we were able to accomplish this session.

This session my focus was on the issues that matter most to the citizens of South-central Wisconsin; working to make health care more accessible and affordable, creating jobs and promoting our local economy, reforming education, and holding the line on taxes while still funding state programs for our most vulnerable citizens.

As work continues on the serious issues facing you and your family, I want to hear from you. Please contact me with your suggestions on how we can continue to work together to make Wisconsin a better place for all of us.

Sincerely,

State Representative  
80th Assembly District

**Serving All of Green County &  
Portions of Rock, Dane & Lafayette Counties.**



# BRETT DAVIS: MAKING STATE GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU!

Legislative  
Update

2008

## Tax Relief for Families and Seniors

### Holding Property Taxes in Check

Wisconsin home owners, particularly seniors, are paying too much in property taxes. In the bi-partisan budget agreement, we renewed property tax limits for another two years to help keep home ownership affordable. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Reducing Taxes for Seniors

Two years ago, I voted to eliminate the state tax on Social Security, which has saved seniors over \$145 million. Building on that progress, next year certain seniors will be able to exempt a portion of their retirement/pension income from their state taxes, making Wisconsin an even better place to retire. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Eliminated the Proposed Gas Tax Increase

With gas over \$3 a gallon, the last thing we need to do is increase gas taxes. That's why I opposed an "Oil Tax" which would have resulted in an increase of at least 7 cents per gallon on gasoline. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Helping Parents Pay Their Child Care Expenses

Parents already receive a federal tax break for child care expenses. Beginning next year, parents will also be able to deduct a portion of their child care expenses from their state taxes. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Making a College Education More Affordable

To help parents offset the costs of putting their children through college, we expanded the income tax deduction to include mandatory student fees and increased the maximum deduction to \$6,000. (State Budget - Act 20)

## Energy and the Environment

### Investing in Renewable Energy at Historic Levels

With the high cost of gas, it's time to look to alternative energy sources such as fuel derived from plant and wood materials (biomass). We encouraged this research by investing \$15 million in renewable energy grants, which promote cutting edge technology like biomass-based ethanol production. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Ending our Reliance on Foreign Oil

Because ethanol is an environmentally-friendly and renewable alternative to foreign oil, I co-authored legislation aimed at promoting biofuels by creating a renewable fuels standard, similar to our neighbors in Iowa and Minnesota. (AB 682)

### Expanding the Stewardship Program

We were successful in reauthorizing the Stewardship fund through 2020, which protects environmentally sensitive land and promotes tourism and the economy. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Protecting the Great Lakes

Working with Governor Doyle, we were able to craft a bi-partisan agreement that will provide critical protection to one of our state's most precious natural resources.



*Brett listens to the issues facing seniors in Wisconsin.*

## BadgerCare Plus

Beginning February 1, 2008, all uninsured kids in Wisconsin will be able to get the health care they need through the state's new BadgerCare Plus program. This achievement is significant and places Wisconsin as a national leader in health care reform, as 98% of Wisconsinites are now covered by some form of health insurance.

Low-income families will be able to enroll their children into BadgerCare Plus at no cost. Families with greater means will have access to the program through reasonable premiums and co-payments.

Farmers, small businesses and women who are pregnant may also qualify for services under the new program. Furthermore, if you have applied for BadgerCare in the past and have been denied, you may now be eligible to enroll in BadgerCare Plus.

If you are interested in applying for BadgerCare Plus, you can log onto [www.badgercareplus.org](http://www.badgercareplus.org) and fill out an online application. You can also call 1-800-362-3002 for more information.

## Better, More Affordable Health Care

### Covering 98% of all Wisconsin Residents through BadgerCare Plus

In Wisconsin we are committed to leading the nation in providing health care to children, families and our most vulnerable citizens. That is why I voted in favor of BadgerCare Plus, which will ensure that 98% of Wisconsin's residents will have access to high quality health care (for more info, see lower left).

### Extending Income Tax Deductions for Health Insurance Premiums

The increasing cost of health insurance is a drain on family budgets. Thanks to a provision in the state budget, the tax deduction for insurance premiums has been expanded. When fully implemented, this tax break will put \$150 million back in Wisconsinite's pockets. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Making Healthcare More Affordable for Small Businesses

A key piece of the health care puzzle is making coverage more affordable for small business owners. I introduced legislation that creates incentives for small businesses to use "cafeteria plans," which make healthcare more affordable for both employers and employees by allowing them to pay with pre-tax dollars. (AB 894)

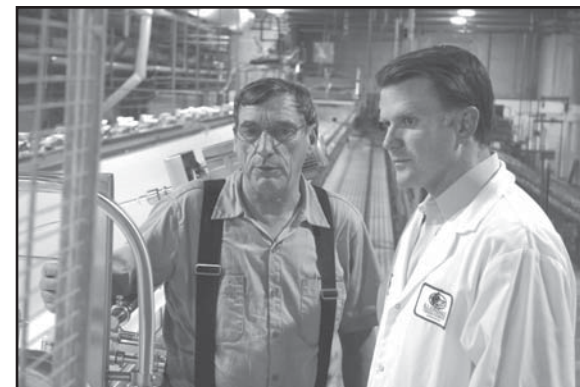
### Putting Patients in Charge

If patients and their families are truly going to be in charge of their health care, they need to know the real cost and quality of their care. Under the Health Care Price Disclosure proposal I voted for, health care providers in Wisconsin would be required to give patients a good-faith estimate of a medical treatment or procedure. (AB 872)

### Protecting SeniorCare

I worked with Governor Doyle and legislators on both sides of the aisle in Washington, D.C. and Madison to renew SeniorCare, the state's landmark prescription drug assistance program that currently serves over 100,000 seniors. (bi-partisan effort)

## Growing the Economy & Creating Jobs



*Brett and Ron Buholzer of Klondike Cheese discuss how the Dairy Facility Tax Credit will help our local economy.*

### Soybean Crushing Facility Grant

Wisconsin should be a national leader in renewable energy innovation. I was successful in getting a \$4 million dollar grant in the state budget for a soybean crush facility in our district. This facility will enhance the soybean market for farmers, create 40 new jobs, and reduce transportation costs. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Stopped Tax Increases that Would Hurt Small Business

In a time when we are facing a slowing economy, we must keep Wisconsin competitive; so fortunately we were able to fight back a proposed \$18 billion tax increase, the largest tax increase in state history. (State Budget - Act 20)



*Brett discusses ways to lower the high cost of prescription drugs through SeniorCare with a local nursing home resident.*

### Promoting Modernization of Dairy Facilities

I authored legislation that would promote investments in dairy plants and cooperatives that keeps Wisconsin agriculture competitive in a global economy. (AB 763 and State Budget - Act 20)

### Investing in Worker Training

In the state budget we were able to increase funding for the successful Workforce Advancement Training Grants, which help employers pay for workforce training. (State Budget - Act 20)

### Supporting the University of Wisconsin System

Working with Governor Doyle, we made sure that the UW System remains one of the finest institutions in the world. By investing an additional \$183 million over the next two years, we will aid the UW in its mission to turn out high-quality graduates.