

Scott Gunderson



STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 83RD DISTRICT

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Dear Friends,

The 2007-2008 Legislative Session has proven to be extremely challenging for the State Legislature. With both Houses of the State Legislature controlled by different parties and a national economic slowdown that has caused revenue shortfalls, fiscal issues have dominated this Legislative Session. I firmly believe that raising taxes to address these revenue shortfalls is not an option. State government must do what Wisconsin families have to do with their personal budgets; cut spending in order to live within its means.

This Session, I was, again, named the Chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, one of the busiest Committees in the entire Legislature. As the Chairman of this important Committee, I work extensively on issues related to air and water quality, wildlife management, DNR permitting, and everything in between. The most important issue the Natural Resources Committee worked on this Session was the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact. The Compact will protect the waters of the Great Lakes from being diverted to far away states. I was pleased that the Legislature was able to reach a consensus on the Compact that does not place Wisconsin at a competitive disadvantage to our neighboring states, and will preserve these ecological treasures for generations to come.

As the Legislature moves forward, I will continue working to streamline our state government, reduce the tax burden on Wisconsin's citizens, and find a solution to the ever increasing cost of health care.

It is an honor to represent you in Madison. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding state government.

Sincerely,

Scott Gunderson
State Representative
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With Scott!****District:**Post Office Box 7
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Legislative Highlights



Scott presides over the Assembly Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Great Lakes Water Compact.

State Taxes:

- No increases in the state income or sales taxes.
- Beginning in tax year 2009, provide a \$5000 per person exemption from state income taxes on retirement and pension income for senior couples earning less than \$30,000.
- Beginning in tax year 2009, expand and increase the state income tax deduction for college expenses to \$6,000 per year.

Education:

- Local school districts will receive more than \$12.3 billion in state aid over the next two years, which represents the single largest financial commitment for the State of Wisconsin.
- Increased special education funding by nearly 5.5% to ensure a high quality education for all students.
- Provided increased funding and flexibility for school districts to participate in the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program that reduces class sizes for kindergarten through third grade.

Toll-Free State Numbers

Consumer Protection Hotline	800-422-7128
Crime Victim Center	800-446-6564
Aging and Long Term Care	800-242-1060
Firearms Hotline	800-262-4867
Veterans Hotline	800-947-8387
Drug Tip Hotline	800-622-9784
Statewide Road Conditions	800-762-3947
Business Hotline	800-435-7287
Insurance Complaints	800-236-8517
Tourism	800-372-2737
Representative Gunderson	888-534-0083
Medicare	800-772-1213
Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement in State Government	1-877-372-8317

Health Care:

- Provided full funding to SeniorCare, a program that assists our state's needy senior citizens purchase necessary prescription drugs.
- Created a health insurance premium tax deduction. Beginning in tax year 2008, taxpayers who receive insurance through their employer will be able to deduct their portion of health insurance premiums on their state income tax.
- Passed legislation that encourages small businesses to join Professional Employers Organizations (PEOs) to access high quality health care coverage for their employees at a cost that is now available only to the largest corporations.

Environment and Natural Resources:

- Representative Gunderson worked to pass a strong and fair Great Lakes Compact that will protect the waters of the Great Lakes from being diverted to far away states.
- As the Chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, Representative Gunderson has worked to provide new and expanded outdoor recreational opportunities for the youth of Wisconsin.

Miscellaneous:

- Added five additional positions to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which conducts investigations of crimes involving the use of a computer to sexually exploit children.
- Representative Gunderson authored legislation to share state mental health information with the federal database that is used for background checks on firearm purchases. Wisconsin would join 32 other states in closing a loophole that has allowed individuals to purchase firearms even though they were prohibited from doing so under federal law. This legislation passed the State Assembly unanimously, but the State Senate failed to act.



Scott debates the state budget on the Assembly floor.