

Representative Gundrum Deployed to Iraq

A few months ago, Rep. Gundrum and his Army Reserve unit were deployed to Iraq, where they are presently serving. Fortunately, due to the timing of the deployment, Rep. Gundrum was still here during the entire budget debate last fall and only had to miss the final few weeks of floor session. He is expected to return later this fall, prior to the start of next session, and looks forward to continuing his service in the Legislature on behalf of the citizens of the 84th Assembly District. While Rep. Gundrum is serving his constituents in Iraq, his office remains fully operational, serving constituents with state issues.



Representative Gundrum's staff is eager to assist the 55,000-plus residents of the 84th Assembly District. Please feel free to call (from left to right) Steve Knudson, Anthony Carver or Lance Burri with any questions or concerns.

Keep in Touch!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARK GUNDRUM

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Toll Free: (888) 534-0084

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Rep. Gundrum, who also serves as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, commemorates our fallen heroes and thanks our veterans for their service during the 2007 Memorial Day ceremony at Highland Memorial Park Cemetery in New Berlin.



Representative Gundrum at the hospital in March of 2007, welcoming the newest addition to his family, Philomena Therese Gundrum.

Wisconsin
Legislative
Hotline

1-800-362-9472

Capitol Update from
Rep. Mark Gundrum



Keep in Touch!

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Dear 84th Assembly District Constituents,

As Representative Gundrum's 10th year as your state representative winds down, we wanted to take an opportunity to inform you of some of this Session's highlights. Throughout this Session, Representative Gundrum tried to keep the State Assembly focused on keeping our tax burden down, keeping our communities safe and making our government more honest, open and ethical for the benefit of all Wisconsin citizens.

On a personal note, Representative Gundrum and his wife were excited to welcome a new addition to their family this Session, Philomena Therese, born March 26, 2007.

If you would like to receive more frequent updates, please consider adding your name to our e-newsletter list by e-mailing us at Rep.Gundrum@legis.wisconsin.gov and indicating that you would like to receive our e-news updates.

Representative Gundrum appreciates the opportunity to serve you in the State Assembly and looks forward to continuing that service when he returns from military duty.

Sincerely,

*The Staff of State Representative
Mark Gundrum's Office*

Gundrum Reports

Spring 2008

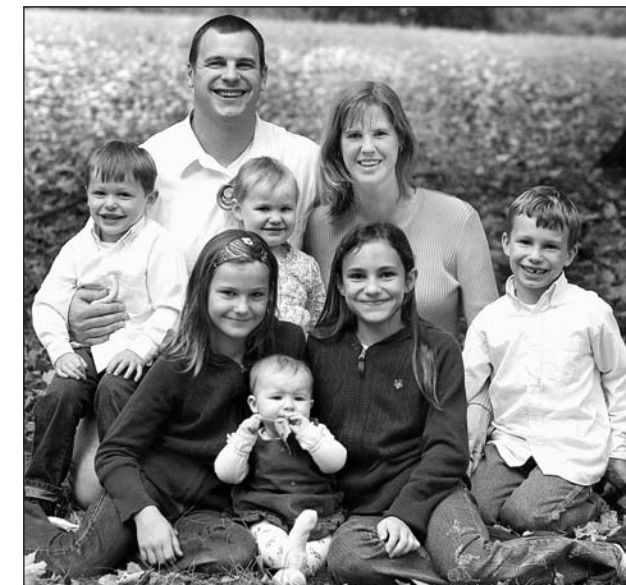
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During debate on the 2007-2009 biennial budget, Representative Gundrum fought to eliminate all of the tax increases proposed by Governor Doyle and Senate Democrats.



Representative Gundrum with wife Mary and their children, Jacinta (10), Bernadette (8), Mark Jr. (6), Augustine (4), Cecilia (3) and Philomena (1).

Gundrum Reports

Spring 2008

Gundrum Fights Against Budget Tax Increases

In February 2007, Governor Jim Doyle introduced his proposed 2007-09 state budget, which included tax increases of \$1.75 billion. The Senate Democrats subsequently passed a budget which included Doyle's proposed tax increases and added another \$15 billion in tax increases with a new payroll tax to pay for the Senate's proposed government takeover of Wisconsin's health care system. About two weeks later, the Assembly Republicans passed a budget that did not raise any taxes. Since the Senate and Assembly budgets differed so dramatically, a conference committee was convened to try and work out a final budget.

After months of discussion

regarding the level of taxation and spending in the budget, a final compromise deal was agreed to which passed the Senate and Assembly. In the end, Representative Gundrum voted *against* this final version of the state budget for multiple reasons, but primarily because it increased taxes \$400 million, raided \$200 million from the Injured Patients' Compensation Fund (which was an unethical and possibly illegal move), and included numerous inappropriate policy items. Overall, this budget did nothing to address state government's failure to control spending and live within the taxpayers' means, nor did it do anything to help prepare the state for, or stave off, a potential economic downturn.

Gundrum Moves Up in Assembly Leadership

Last Session, when former State Representative Dan Vrakas left the legislature to become Waukesha County Executive, Representative Gundrum was elected by his colleagues to the post of Assembly Republican Caucus Chairman. This Session, Representative Gundrum's colleagues elected him to the position of Assistant Majority Leader of the State Assembly.



Representative Gundrum visits with New Berlin West students at the Capitol about the projects they engineered as part of Project Lead the Way. Project Lead the Way is a program aimed at getting middle schoolers interested in math and engineering.

State Crime Lab DNA Backlog Addressed



Representative Gundrum speaks at a press conference with Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen (left) and Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch (right) prior to the Assembly passing legislation designed to eliminate the DNA backlog at the State Crime Lab.

2,000 cases. The State Crime Lab is the place where forensic evidence—including DNA evidence—is analyzed to aid in criminal investigations and prosecutions. More than half of the backlogged cases—nearly 1,000—were in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties alone. Each backlogged case represents a potentially dangerous criminal that needs to be taken off the streets as soon as possible. Each case also represents a victim who is still waiting to bring closure to her or his ordeal in order to move on with her or his life.

Responding to this backlog, Representative Gundrum, as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee, led the Legislature's effort to evaluate and address the problem. As a result of his efforts, Representative Gundrum and others succeeded in shifting the necessary resources to help eliminate the DNA backlog more quickly and put these dangerous offenders where they belong—behind bars.

After taking office in January of 2007, new Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen made Representative Gundrum and other

legislators aware that the number of requests for DNA tests from the State Crime Lab had skyrocketed in recent years, resulting in a backlog of almost

Other Bills Rep. Gundrum Has Advanced This Session

• Assembly Bill 337 (Battery to a Victim or Witness)

This bill would help victims and witnesses of crimes and aid in holding criminals accountable by making it easier to prosecute persons charged with a crime who try to intimidate a victim or witness into not testifying at trial by harming or threatening to harm the victim or witness. This bill would also increase penalties for those who harm or threaten to harm a victim or witness.

• Assembly Bill 499 (Strangulation Prevention)

In many domestic violence situations, women are victimized by abusers who strangle or suffocate them severely but do not kill them. Our law presently makes it very difficult to sufficiently prosecute such dangerous offenders. AB 499, a bipartisan proposal authored by Rep. Gundrum, would increase penalties for those convicted of such strangulation or suffocation and also make it easier to prosecute abusers in such cases.

• Assembly Bill 498

(Reimbursement for Drunk Driving Costs)

When a person is arrested for driving while intoxicated, law enforcement frequently has a medical professional draw blood to confirm intoxication. Currently, the cost of the blood draw is paid for by local law enforcement agencies (and ultimately the taxpayers). Representative Gundrum advanced legislation that would require drunk driving offenders—if convicted—to pay for the cost of having had their blood drawn to confirm their level of intoxication.

• Assembly Bill 427

(The Coercive Abortion Prevention Act)

This bi-partisan legislation requires that a doctor take steps to ensure that a woman or girl seeking an abortion is not being coerced into that decision, and provides avenues of assistance to women who are the victims of domestic abuse.

New Government Accountability Board Merges Ethics, Elections Boards

In the wake of several high profile convictions of lawmakers in recent years, the issue of ethics reform received a great deal of attention early this legislative session. The Speaker of the Assembly asked



As Chairman of the Judiciary & Ethics Committee, Representative Gundrum got the committee off to a quick start this session by tackling issues like comprehensive ethics reform legislation and the DNA backlog at the State Crime Laboratory.

Representative Gundrum, an attorney and Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary & Ethics Committee, to devise an improved system of checks and balances to replace the state's partisan Elections Board and outdated Ethics Board.

Working with a bi-partisan group of lawmakers, Representative Gundrum authored legislation creating the new Government Accountability Board (GAB). The GAB merged the existing Ethics and Elections Boards and placed them under the direction of an oversight panel made up of six retired judges nominated in a non-partisan manner and confirmed in a bi-partisan manner.

The GAB became fully constituted and began operations within the last few months. The GAB promises to provide more effective oversight of government officials by substantially reducing the partisan nature of decisions, providing better guidance on ethics and elections laws for officials desiring to do the right thing, and providing the tools necessary to investigate and prosecute those who choose not to follow the law.



Representative Gundrum speaks to the news media after adjournment of an Assembly floor session.

Capitol Tours

Wisconsin has one of the most beautiful capitol buildings in the country. Experience it for yourself.

It is open to the public weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free tours are offered daily, year round except on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. Tours start at the 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. A 4:00 p.m. tour is offered weekdays (Monday — Friday), excluding holidays, during Memorial Day through Labor Day. The sixth floor museum and observation deck are open during the summer months. Groups of ten or more can make reservations by calling (608)266-0382.

In the District...



Last fall, the Village of Hales Corners dedicated and named the Village Hall the **James R. Ryan Municipal Building** in honor of long-time Village President Jim Ryan (at podium). Just weeks thereafter Jim passed away from the cancer he had been battling for a year. Rep. Gundrum was honored to have known Jim and his family for many years, served with him on the Village Board, and been included as a part of the dedication ceremony.



Representative Gundrum talks with Orchard Lane Elementary School students about the structure of Wisconsin government and civic responsibility.



Rep. Gundrum congratulates Waukesha Town Chairman Rodney Stillwell on his retirement after 39 years of service to the Town of Waukesha.



Representative Gundrum congratulates local Eagle Scouts on their significant achievement. So far during the 2007-08 Legislative Session, Representative Gundrum has had the pleasure of personally presenting 10 citations to scouts in the district who have achieved this high honor.