

# REP. J.A. "DOC" HINES

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Representative Hines meeting with children from the Pardeeville School District.

# REP. J.A. "DOC" HINES



**J.A. HINES**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the 2007-2008 legislative session is already wrapping up. I am proud that this session I was able to accomplish some major victories for the 42nd Assembly district, ranging from providing affordable health insurance to all children in Wisconsin to helping removing the tax burden on our senior citizens.

After a long debate on the budget, I was able to support a compromise that brought Republicans and Democrats together. The budget that was signed eliminated nearly 98% of all the tax increases that were originally proposed by the Governor and the Senate. The final compromise included \$188 million worth of permanent tax cuts for the middle-class, while investing record amounts of funding for K-12 education and providing \$22 million worth of job-creating tax credits. The budget also improves access to needed healthcare for our most vulnerable children and seniors.

Despite the budget, I was able to advance several key pieces of legislation. I once again authored a bi-partisan proposal with Senator Breske (D-Eland), AJR-34, which would stop the state government from raiding funds to pay for unrelated programs. This proposal passed the Assembly with large bi-partisan support 91 to 6. I was also able to pass follow-up legislation that updated Wisconsin's public health statutes as well as AB 291, which was designed to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians throughout the state who are on the front lines of protecting and ensuring a safe food supply for our state and nation.

It has been a continuing privilege to work for you in Madison. None of my legislative accomplishments would be possible without the advice and suggestions of the citizens from the 42nd Assembly District. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office. Additionally, I would like to encourage you to sign up for my new email update service to keep you up to date on my activities in Madison; instructions can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

**J.A. "Doc" Hines**  
State Representative  
42nd Assembly District

## STATE HELP NUMBERS

- Aging and Long Term Care . . . . .(800) 242-1060
- Arson Tip Line . . . . .(800) 362-3005
- Business and Industry . . . . .(800) HELPBUS
- Consumer Protection . . . . .(800) 422-7128
- Crime Victim Services . . . . .(800) 446-6564
- Drug Tip Hotline . . . . .(800) 622-9784
- EdVest Hotline . . . . .(888) 338-3789
- Farm Crisis Hotline . . . . .(800) 942-2474
- Firearms Hotline . . . . .(800) 262-4867
- Insurance Complaints . . . . .(800) 236-8517
- DNR Information Center . . . . .(608) 266-2621
- Dept. of Revenue . . . . .(608) 266-1611
- Road Conditions . . . . .(800) 762-3947
- Social Security . . . . .(800) 772-1213
- Dept. of Tourism . . . . .(800) 372-2737
- Unemployment Compensation . . . . .(608) 266-2722
- Veterans Hotline . . . . .(800) 947-8387
- Worker's Compensation . . . . .(608) 266-1340

If you would like to be kept informed on my thoughts and legislation, please email [Rep.Hines@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Hines@legis.wi.gov) to be included on the list.

You can also stay informed by visiting Representative Hines' Web site: [www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm42/news/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm42/news/)

## HOW TO CONTACT REP. HINES

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(608) 586-5999

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Public Health (Chair)
- Aging & Long-Term Care (Vice Chair)
- Tourism, Recreation & State Properties
- Homeland Security & State Preparedness

# REPRESENTATIVE J.A. "DOC" HINES

## 2007-2008 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

## "DOC" HINES AT WORK FOR YOU



Representative Hines presenting a citation to Terry Wise, Chief of the Baraboo Ambulance District, to congratulate him on receiving the statewide "Stars of Life" award.

bi-partisan legislation was introduced to help protect students enrolled in these programs. This bill helps preserve parental choice by allowing Wisconsin's virtual schools to remain an option for those children that have a special medical need or are gifted and talented.

### ETHICS/CLEAN GOVERNMENT

**Ethics Reform**—SS AB1  
SS AB1 helped create a stronger, truly independent, non-partisan board that can professionally interpret the laws and properly fund investigations and prosecutions it undertakes.

### AGRICULTURE

**Dairy Manufacturing Tax Credit**—AB 763  
The dairy industry in Wisconsin contributes over \$20 billion a year into our state's economy. This bill would expand the tax credit to dairy cooperatives; helping spur even greater economic growth in our dairy industry.

### CRIME

**No Felons in Schools**—AB 30  
AB 30 would say that it is not employment discrimination for an "educational agency" to deny employment based on a felony record because our schools need to be a place where children can learn in a safe environment.

### John Doe Reform

—AB 671  
AB 671 would end the frivolous lawsuits that criminals are using to clog up our local courts and costing taxpayers thousands of dollars a year. This pre-Civil War era law requires judges to hold a hearing on complaints filed against correctional workers from prisoners.

### EDUCATION

**K-12 Education Funding**—State Budget  
I voted to invest over \$524.8 million in new money into public education, for a total of more than \$12.29 billion over the next two years. This included increases for special education, additional aids for rural districts, and increased financial flexibility to declining enrollment school districts.

### Virtual Schools

—SB 396  
After a court ruling against virtual schools,

allowing employees stay competitive in the global marketplace.

### TAXES

**Property Tax Freeze**—State Budget  
During the state budget, the Assembly was able to successfully negotiate another property tax freeze to be put into place. This freeze included a 2% freeze in property taxes over the next two years and a 4% freeze on Technical College Districts.

### SENIORS

**Senior Care**—State Budget  
I voted to make sure Wisconsin fully funded the popular SeniorCare program, so that over 107,000 Wisconsin seniors could continue to have access to affordable prescription drugs.

**Retirement Income**—State Budget  
In addition to helping those on fixed income, I voted to create a new income tax exclusion on retirement income for over 35,500 seniors.

### ENVIRONMENT

**Stewardship Funding**—State Budget  
The legislature reauthorized the Stewardship program through 2020 at \$86 million per year starting in 2010 and restored the much-needed legislative oversight of Stewardship purchases through a Joint Finance Committee 14-day passive review process.

**DNR Secretary Appointment**—AB 504  
This bill would restore the ability of the Natural Resources Board to appoint the secretary of the DNR. Since 1995, the DNR Secretary has been appointed by to the Governor, which has led to this position becoming extremely partisan and political.



Representative Hines talks with the Governor and Senator Robson (D-Beloit) about his bill to reduce fires caused by unattended cigarettes.

### FORCING THE STATE TO STOP RAIDING FUNDS FROM ONE PROGRAM TO PAY FOR ANOTHER

One of the largest problems I have had with state government since I was elected is the power the Governor and the Legislature have in raiding funds from one program to pay for something completely unrelated. Last session, and again this recent session, the legislature once again chose to steal from one fund to pay for another.

Once again, this practice is causing future governors and legislatures to have to find ways to plug holes for the actions of the past. I worked with Senator Roger Breske (D-Elderon) to introduce AJR 34, which would prevent the future raiding of segregated funds to pay for unrelated projects. With all the talk about fiscal responsibility, this is the perfect place to start.

AJR 34 passed this Assembly this session with bi-partisan support, 91-6.

### PROTECTING WISCONSIN'S FOOD SUPPLY

In recent months there have been a large number of food recalls throughout the nation, which has placed a greater emphasis on the safety of our food. Wisconsin needs to make sure that we have an adequate number of food animal veterinarians on the front line monitoring and addressing any possible situations. Over the past few years there has been a shortage of these veterinarians throughout the Midwest, including Wisconsin. If the current trend in the veterinary community to shy away from food animal practice continues, it will be devastating for Wisconsin's food supply and agricultural community.

This year I introduced legislation that is simply about getting veterinary graduates to become food animal vets and providing them with an incentive to stay and practice in Wisconsin. This program would forgive 10% of a veterinarian's loan principal a year for the first four years, then 20% the fifth year and sixth year if they devote over 75% of their practice to large animals and stay in Wisconsin.

Representative Hines and Senator Taylor (D-Milwaukee) working together to reduce HPV rates in Wisconsin.

### REDUCING CERVICAL CANCER RATES IN WISCONSIN

In the recent years, studies have surfaced that have linked the HPV virus to an increase in cervical cancer rates in women. As Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Public Health, I have always believed that the key to Wisconsin's successful public health system is prevention. One of the best things we can do as a state is to make sure people have the information they need to make smart decisions about protecting their health, whether we're talking about the avian flu or cervical cancer.

That is why I joined with a group of bi-partisan legislators to author a bill to require schools to provide information to parents regarding this virus. By providing parents with information about the HPV virus, how it spreads, and information on the availability and effectiveness of a vaccine, we can eventually prevent thousands of women from suffering the awful consequences of cervical cancer.

### ENHANCING LOCAL FIRE SERVICES

In recent years, the state has been working with local municipalities to find ways to increase the quality of local fire departments while at the same time reducing costs. One of the ways to accomplish this was to



The Governor signs Representative Hines' bill that would aid local joint fire departments with Tim Houslet, Oxford Fire Chief, and Steve Sell, President of the Fire Department.

encourage neighboring municipalities to combine their fire services.

A ruling by the Department of Revenue earlier this year actually made it cost prohibitive for municipalities to combine services if they needed to construct or upgrade a new fire station. Working with local joint fire departments in the district and Senator Lassa (D-Stevens Point) and Senator Olsen (R-Ripon), we were able to fix this loophole. The state should always work to encourage cooperation between neighbors, because increasing cooperation lowers costs and increases services for all of us.

