

PLAN FOR SUMMER

TOUR THE STATE CAPITOL

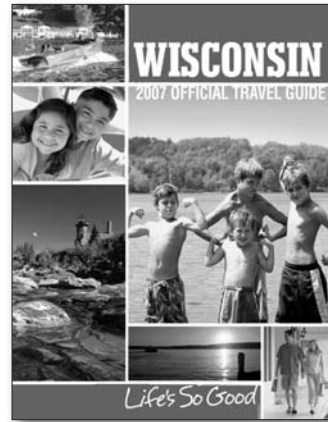
The Wisconsin State Capitol, completed in 1917 at a cost of \$7.2 million, is an enduring symbol of our past, present, and future. The State Capitol was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2001, ensuring future generations the opportunity to enjoy the building's majesty and charm. I encourage you to take a tour and experience the building for yourself. While you are here, please feel free to drop by my office in Room 320-East and say hello.



Anyone interested in arranging a guided tour of the State Capitol can contact the tour desk at (608) 266-0382. You can also book a guided tour online by visiting: http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/capfacts/tour_select.html

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

As summer approaches, Wisconsin offers ample opportunities for recreation and travel. To assist you with your plans, the Department of Tourism provides a variety of free guides, including: Event and Recreation Guides, a State Parks Visitor's Guide, Campground Directories, Lodging Directories, Heritage Traveler Guides, Wisconsin Attractions Guide, ATV Guides, and Biking Guides. To have a free guide sent to your home, contact (800) 432-8747, or visit the Department of Tourism's website at <http://www.travelwisconsin.com>



Kestell

2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE KESTELL
27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to provide you with a legislative update to summarize the 2007-08 regular session. I appreciate your personal visits, phone calls, letters, and e-mails weighing in on the important issues affecting the 27th Assembly District and Wisconsin as a whole. My responsibility as an elected official is to represent your voice in the decision-making process at the State Capitol.

In 2007, I began serving in a new capacity as a member of the budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance. The Finance Committee has the responsibility of reviewing all legislation relating to the appropriation of money; in particular, the state budget. During the budget deliberations, we experienced multiple attempts to raise taxes and spend well beyond our projected revenue. While interests in Madison wanted an even larger share of your paycheck to grow the size of state government, I cast dozens of votes to control spending and protect taxpayers.

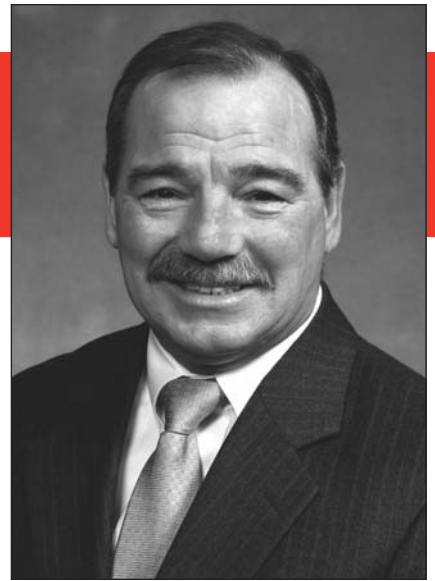
This session, the Legislature passed a comprehensive ethics reform bill to re-establish Wisconsin at the forefront of clean, responsible government. I supported legislation to strengthen our child protection laws, benefit consumers through the video competition act, crack down on human trafficking, and require photo identification to vote. Recently, I voted to address the state's revenue shortfall by cutting government spending and protecting taxpayers from shouldering the burden. The Legislature has completed its review of the Great Lakes water compact and we have reached an agreement that will protect the Great Lakes and preserve property rights.

As Wisconsin citizens, we all share in the responsibility to make our state a great place to live, work, and raise a family. The communities of the 27th Assembly District are proof-positive that we are ahead of the curve. As summer approaches, it is my hope that you take advantage of everything that Wisconsin has to offer.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to represent you in the Wisconsin State Assembly. I welcome the opportunity to discuss state government issues at your local meeting or in the classroom, please contact my office if you would like to schedule a visit. With your ideas and suggestions we can work together to keep Wisconsin moving forward.

Best wishes,

Steve Kestell
State Representative
27th Assembly District



Capitol Office:

320 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Toll-Free:

(888) 529-0027

Home:

W3829 State Hwy. 32,
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
(920) 565-2044

E-mail:

Rep.Kestell@legis.wi.gov

Committee Assignments & Memberships:

- **Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families** (Chair)
- **Joint Committee on Finance**
- **Committee on Financial Institutions**
- **Committee on Corrections and Courts**
- **NCSL Workgroup on Childhood Development**
- **Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators**
- **Wisconsin Aerospace Authority Board Member**

HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Wisconsin Farm Center (800) 942-2474
 EdVest College Savings Hotline . . . (888) 338-3789
 State Park Reservations (888) 947-2757
 SeniorCare Hotline (800) 657-2038
 Veterans Information (800) 947-8387
 Identity Theft Helpline (800) 422-7128
 Telemarketer Do Not Call List . . . (866) 966-2255

WISCONSIN ON THE WEB

Visit the Wisconsin State Legislature Homepage
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us>
 Visit the State of Wisconsin Homepage
<http://www.wisconsin.gov>
 Visit the Federal Government Homepage
<http://www.usa.gov>

Representative Kestell greets state officials at the 2008 State of the State address.



2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kestell

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
*****EGRWSS*****

Madison, WI 53708-8952
P.O. Box 8952

PPSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1749
Madison, WI

Kestell 2008 Legislative Update



Rep. Kestell addresses the State Assembly.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STRENGTHENING WISCONSIN FAMILIES

I had the honor of serving as chair of the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families. The committee recommended legislation to improve coordination among state programs and modify exiting laws to focus our efforts on helping Wisconsin families become successful. The committee produced legislation to provide more accountability and flexibility for child abuse and neglect grants in order to better serve families throughout the state (AB 663-passed Assembly) and legislation to utilize county coordinated services team (CST) to coordinate systems of care for families, children, and children with disabilities (AB 700). The committee was successful in getting legislation to enhance the way that participants in a divorce action consider their parenting responsibilities signed into law (Act 187). By moving the parenting plan to the forefront of the proceeding, we will help ensure that decisions are made with the best interests of children in mind.

AGRICULTURE

Wisconsin is renowned for its strong agricultural heritage and agri-business innovation. Agriculture generates more than \$51 billion in economic activity; every new dollar from the sale of agricultural products generates an additional \$0.80 of activity in other sectors of our economy. Nearly 420,000 working men and women are employed in agriculture, accounting for 12% of the state's workforce. As a strong supporter of Wisconsin's use value law, it is encouraging to report that the loss of farmland has slowed in recent years. The Wisconsin

Agricultural Statistics Service states that 23,969 acres were converted to other uses in 2006, compared to 90,971 acres in 1993. The state budget included an income tax credit for investments made to modernize or expand a dairy manufacturing facility. The Legislature also passed legislation to create the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (AB 83). Supporting agriculture and keeping farmland in production are key components to ensuring Wisconsin's economic success.

STEWARDSHIP

The state budget reauthorized the Stewardship program and extended funding until at least 2020. To maintain Wisconsin's strong outdoor traditions and ensure access for future generations, I supported a provision in the budget to require lands purchased with Stewardship dollars to be open to the public for hunting, fishing, and trapping (Act 20).

EDUCATION

Education is a top Wisconsin priority and the Legislature worked hard to ensure that our public schools, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the University of Wisconsin System received the resources they needed. The state budget provides a 4.4% increase in

state aid for K-12 education, fully funds the SAGE program, increases special education funding, and increases reimbursement rates for certain transportation costs. The budget also expands the individual income tax deduction on college tuition to include mandatory student fees and increases the maximum deduction to \$6,000. I voted in favor of compromise legislation to protect Wisconsin's virtual schools. Virtual schools offer a viable educational option for kids making use of internet technology. The agreement creates new accountability measures, while increasing the permanent enrollment cap and retaining the authorization to operate.

HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY

Families and individuals, not politicians or government, should be able to control their health care decisions and dollars. Health Savings Accounts (HSA), like those benefiting the employees of Manitowoc County, offer an alternative to traditional health insurance and empower consumers to make choices and save for future medical expenses. I co-sponsored Assembly Bill 47 (approved by the Assembly on a bi-partisan vote, no Senate action) to make HSAs tax deductible, adding an additional incentive for employers to offer their employees HSAs. To assist with the cost of insurance, beginning in tax year 2008, individuals who pay for a portion of their health insurance through their employer will be able to deduct those costs on their state income tax (Act 20).

HEALTHCARE PRICE DISCLOSURE

In our efforts to control the rising cost of healthcare, we must empower patients and families with information on the real cost of the care they receive. An on-line system provides valuable pricing information (www.wipricepoint.org), but we can do much more. I co-sponsored Assembly Bill 872 (approved by Assembly on a bi-partisan vote, no Senate action) that requires healthcare providers to give a good-faith estimate for a treatment or procedure upon request of the patient. To assist with the up-front cost of converting patient records from paper to electronic files, the state will provide investment incentives to facilities and clinics to expedite the process (Act 20). In addition, the e-Healthcare Quality Act (Act 108) will benefit patients by allowing healthcare professionals to access medical records quickly and accurately, particularly useful in cases of emergency.

SENIOR ISSUES

To provide tax relief to seniors age 65 and older; beginning in tax year 2009, the state budget creates a \$5,000 per person exemption from state income taxes on retirement/pension income for those earning less than \$30,000 (Act 20). SeniorCare is the prescription drug program for Wisconsin citizens who are 65 years or older and meet the eligibility requirements. The budget fully funds this program that provides access to affordable prescription drugs for over 107,000 Wisconsin senior citizens. For more information, please contact (800) 657-2038.



Rep. Kestell is recognized for his seven years of service on the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wisconsin's rich history comes alive through the efforts and programs of the Wisconsin Historical Society. As a member of the Board of Curators, I have the opportunity to assist in keeping our state historic sites vibrant and sustainable for future generations to learn from and enjoy. For more information on tours, events, photographs from Wisconsin's past, and much more, please visit www.wisconsinhistory.org



Kids participating in History Day Camp at Wade House. Wisconsin Historical Society.

Where Your Money Goes:	
Major Provisions in the 2007-09 State Budget (2007 ACT 20)	
Health and Family Services	\$13,634,133,000
K-12 Education	\$12,578,631,100
University of Wisconsin System	\$9,042,993,100
Transportation	\$5,404,288,200
Shared Revenue and Tax Relief	\$4,122,470,500
Correctional System	\$2,453,251,100
Natural Resources	\$1,152,534,900
Children and Families	\$1,105,565,200

For the complete list, please visit the Legislative Fiscal Bureau at www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb

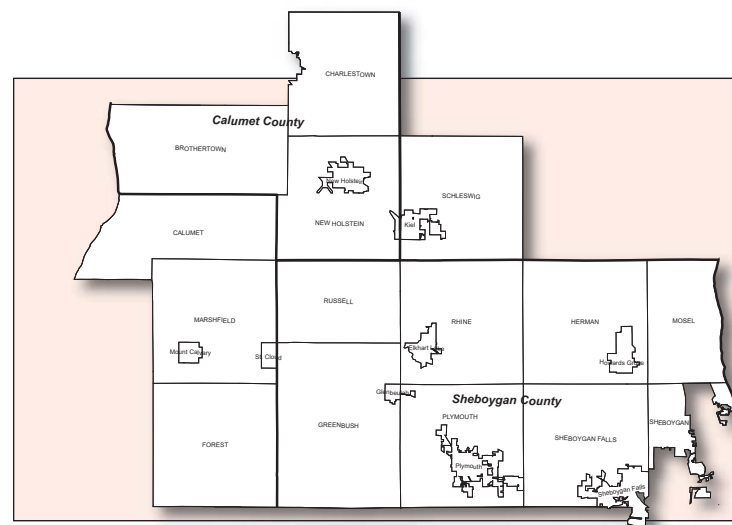
27th Assembly District

Sheboygan County: Townships of Greenbush, Herman, Mosel, Plymouth, Sheboygan (part), Sheboygan Falls, Rhine, Russell, the Cities of Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls, and the Villages of Howards Grove, Elkhart Lake, and Glenbeulah.

Calumet County: Townships of Brothertown, Charlestown, and New Holstein, and the City of New Holstein.

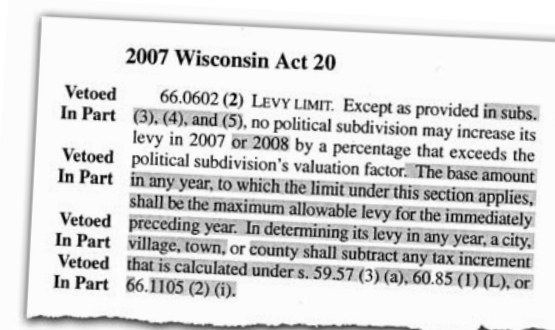
Fond du Lac County: Townships of Calumet, Forest, Marshfield and the Villages of Mt. Calvary and St. Cloud.

Manitowoc County: Township of Schleswig and the City of Kiel.



ELIMINATING THE GOVERNOR'S PARTIAL VETO

I voted in favor of the constitutional amendment to repeal the governor's "Frankenstein veto" power. This power allows a governor to eliminate specific words and numbers in a bill to form new sentences, ideas, and figures never approved by the Legislature. In 2005, Governor Doyle used his veto pen to erase 752 words to create a sentence that raided \$427 million from the segregated Transportation Fund and spent the money elsewhere. In 2007, he used this power to raise the limit on the property tax levy to increase spending. On April 1, Wisconsin voters unanimously approved the decision to amend the state constitution and eliminate the partial veto authority.



Example of the creative use of the veto to increase spending