

DANIEL LEMAHIEU CAPITOL UPDATE

Spring 2008

'07-'08 Assembly Legislative Highlights

This legislative session has been somewhat harder for the passage of legislation due to the split houses. However the Assembly has been able to address some issues.

We passed 10 bills to help grow the economy and create jobs. These bills focused on stimulating the economy with incentives and tax credits aimed at improving the economy from the ground up.

We passed more than 25 bills dealing with tax cuts and credits for families, seniors, homeowners and veterans. These bills also made health care more affordable and the agricultural economy going strong.

We passed 9 health care bills dealing with everything from health savings accounts and tax deductibility of health insurance premiums to cost transparency so consumers know the true cost of health care before they receive the care.

The Assembly also passed bills dealing with photo ID for voting, eliminating the Frankenstein Veto plus many others. If there are any bills that you were concerned about please contact my office and we will give you the final outcome of any legislation.

Largest Tax Increase in History Defeated

One of the issues facing the Assembly this session was an attempt to raise taxes in Wisconsin by over \$18 billion. This would have been the largest percentage tax increase in the history of this country.

The State Senate introduced and passed a budget that included this tax increase and a government run health care plan called Healthy Wisconsin. The State Assembly passed a budget that the taxpayers of Wisconsin could afford.

The budget then went to a conference committee that came up with a compromise after several months of negotiations. That compromise was still too costly and I voted no on that budget but it didn't include Healthy Wisconsin and the \$18 Billion increase.

The compromise budget was better but still problematic. It contained too much spending and also a \$200 Million raid of the Patients Compensation Fund. Because of the spending and now decreased revenues we have to now return to the budget five months after we passed it to repair it.



Rep. LeMahieu addressing members of the Assembly.

District Activities

Not all of my time is spent in Madison. When the legislature is not in session or my committees meeting, my wife Rosemary and I enjoy spending time going to events within the district.

Some of the groups I meet with on a monthly basis are the Sheboygan County School Administrators and Board members, Sheboygan County Board and Department heads and the Sheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce.

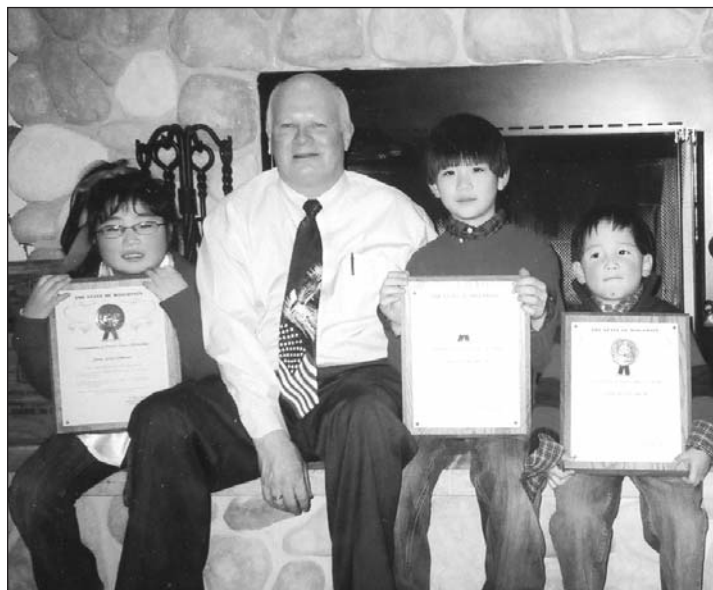
I meet less frequently but at least several times a year with the Washington and Fond du Lac County Board Legislative Committees, area town associations, municipal associations and individual town and village boards as issues occur.

I have also met with a number of school boards individually and have toured several schools within the 59th Assembly District.

Individuals that have questions or concerns also take up time. The best time to catch me in the district is on Mondays and Fridays.

My district is made up of parts of 5 counties (Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, and Dodge) 19 separate townships, 12 municipalities and 6 school districts. In addition, students from my district attend 6 schools just outside of the district.

Therefore, its easy to keep busy dealing with a broad range of issues all the way from the Lake Michigan shoreline to Fond du Lac and Dodge counties.



Representative LeMahieu recently gave State of Wisconsin plaques and flags to three new U.S. citizens at their citizenship party.

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DANIEL LEMAHIEU
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
59TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

As I write this newsletter the long record setting winter has come to an end and spring has finally come. The floor session in the legislature has also ended which means my third term in the Assembly is also nearing the end.

This has been the most challenging term for me because of the split legislature with the Democrats holding a majority in the Senate and the Republicans holding a thin majority in the Assembly. Everything from the budget to major legislative issues became much more difficult or impossible to pass.

What didn't change this session was my ability to continue to work on constituent issues while serving the residents of the 59th Assembly District. I also was able to again visit a number of local town, municipal and school boards and talk to many local officials about their concerns.

Many of you talked to me at community events, parades and picnics. I continue to hear about taxes, health care availability and cost and the loss of jobs in Wisconsin.

I remain committed to strengthening the traditional family, preserving the sanctity of life, creating more and better jobs, preserving educational opportunities, and making government at all levels affordable for the families of this great state.

It is truly an honor to serve as your Representative to the Wisconsin State Assembly. I, and my office, remain committed to helping individuals within the 59th Assembly District succeed in all they do. May God continue to bless you and your family as He has blessed mine, and may God bless Wisconsin and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Daniel LeMahieu

Daniel LeMahieu
Wisconsin State Representative
59th Assembly District

OFFICE INFORMATION

Legislative Committee Assignments

Joint Committee on Review of Administrative Rules, *Chair*
Urban & Local Affairs
Aging & Long Term Care
Courts & Corrections
Natural Resources

Awards

Wisconsin Builders Association
Friend of Housing, '05-'08
Wis. Counties Assn.
Outstanding Legislator Award, '03-'06
Wis. Grocers Assn.
Friend of Grocers Award, '03-'04
Friend of the Dairy Industry Award, '03-'06
Wis. Pro-Life Legislator of the Year, '05
MMAC
Champion of Commerce Award, '05-'06

Madison Office

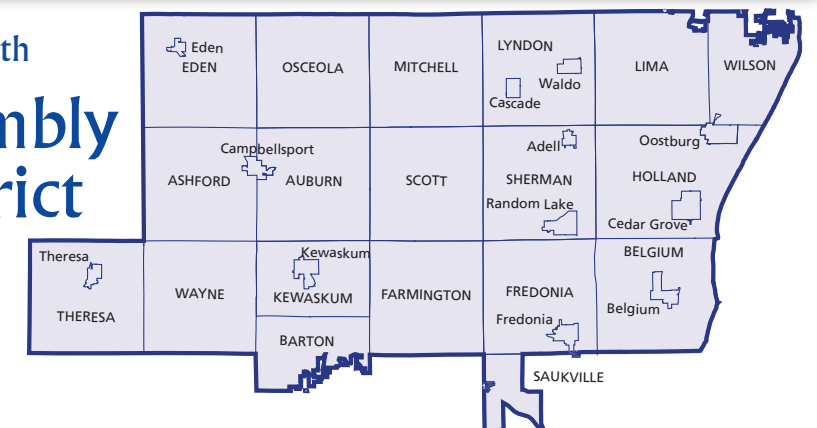
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59th Assembly District



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Rep. LeMahieu speaking at the virtual schools rally.

LeMahieu's Legislative Highlights

As legislators one of the ways we have of changing laws in Wisconsin is to introduce legislation that hopefully is passed by both houses and signed by Governor Doyle. This session I introduced 9 different pieces of legislation.

AB149 – This bill deals with the elimination of the State Estate Tax. The Estate Tax has temporarily expired but if the Federal Government reinstates the Estate Tax Wisconsin would follow suit. This bill would have permanently ended this double taxation. AB149 died in the Joint Finance Comm.

AB410 – Dealt with the time period a standing committee of either house or the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules has to review an administrative rule promulgated by a state agency. This bill passed both houses and was recently signed by Governor Doyle.

AB411 – Deals with the penalty for knowingly being in possession of a stolen firearm. The penalty would increase from a misdemeanor to a felony. AB411 passed the Assembly with a unanimous vote but the Senate Judiciary Committee would not allow it to come up for a vote.

AB678 – Deals with the collection of fines and forfeitures by counties. This bill passed both houses last session but was vetoed by Gov. Doyle. I made some modifications this session but knowing that the bill would not get a hearing in the Senate I let the bill die in the Assembly Urban & Local Affairs Committee to further work on the bill.

AB703 – Deals with the makeup of the DNR Board. Right now the only requirement to be appointed to the DNR Board is that members have to be from different parts of the state. This bill would mandate that 3 of the 7 members must have a sportsmen's background (purchased a hunting, fishing or trapping license 7 of the last ten years) and 1 member would have an agriculture background. AB703 passed the Assembly

but the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee refused to hold a public hearing, and thus it died.

AB719 – Dealt with Utility Aid Payments paid to counties and municipalities by energy producing companies. This bill only dealt with energy produced by wind turbines or wind farms. It would have allowed townships to keep a larger percentage of the payment just for wind farm generation. AB719 received a public hearing but was not voted out of committee.

AB759 – Allows county correctional officers in county jails to use electronic weapons (tasers). Prior to passage of AB759 only correctional officers in state facilities could use tasers. This bill was passed by both houses and signed by Governor Doyle.

AB852 – Dealt with the Medical Assistance Family Demonstration Project which funds organizations like Planned Parenthood to give family planning counseling to girls from the ages of 15 to 18 without parental consent or knowledge. This bill would not have allowed this for 15, 16 and 17 year olds. This bill did not get a vote in either house.

AB870 – Dealt with Virtual Charter Schools. Virtual Schools, like WIVA at Northern Ozaukee School District were threatened with closure because of an Appellate Court ruling. This bill places into state statutes language that authorizes Virtual Schools and their funding. This bill was signed into law by Gov. Doyle. This issue will probably have to be addressed again in the future because of an enrollment cap in the bill but all virtual online schools in Wisconsin will be able to operate for the next few years until that cap is reached.

I also co-sponsored numerous other bills that dealt with a variety of issues.

- Photo ID for elections
- Elimination of the Governor's Frankenstein Veto
- Several bills dealing with transparency in the health care industry
- A number of Economic Development bills to create jobs in Wisconsin
- Health Savings Account deductibility
- Ban of Partial Birth Abortions
- A number of Tax cutting and Tax credit legislation for Wisconsin families and Businesses.



Rep. LeMahieu and Sheboygan County Detective Jerry Urban testifying on AB 411.

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Rep. LeMahieu speaking to a school group visiting the Capitol.

Speaking Engagements

During my third term in the Wisconsin State Assembly I have spoken to a number of groups and organizations on issues involving state government and giving legislative updates. I always look forward to speaking to local service groups within my district. I will always be happy to speak to church groups or at community events as this gives your group a chance to learn more about state government and gives me a chance to meet more constituents around the district.

If you are interested in setting up a speaking engagement, please contact my office in Madison toll-free 1-888-534-0059, or my home in Cascade at 920-528-8679. Please feel free to contact me for any upcoming events! I look forward to meeting you.

Capitol Tours

Free tours of the Capitol are offered daily throughout the year. Groups of ten or more should call (608) 266-0382. Reservations can also be made online by accessing the State of Wisconsin website at www.wisconsin.gov

Email Newsletter

During this session I started to send out an E-mail Newsletter. I don't have a predetermined frequency but when I have issues I think you would be interested in I put out a newsletter.

If you are interested in receiving my e-mail updates contact my office at Rep.LeMahieu@legis.wi.gov and we will add your e-mail address to our list. This summer and fall there will not be a lot of updates because we will not be in session and it will be campaign season but as we finish a few issues like the Budget Repair Bill and the Great Lakes Compact I will e-mail you with the outcome of those issues.

Two Issues Remain

The 2007 – '08 legislative session has ended but two issues still need to be resolved. One is a Budget Repair Bill and the other is the Great Lakes Compact.

Budget Repair Bill – State budgets are built on projections on the amount of dollars Wisconsin will probably receive over a two year period from income taxes, sales taxes, corporate taxes and other fees for services the state charges.

When those revenues drop the state is required to pass a budget repair bill to deal with those shortfalls in revenues. This year we are facing a projected \$650 million shortfall. The Senate Democrats want to **raise taxes** and **increase spending**, as they did in our original 2007-2009 Wisconsin State Budget. As your elected member to the Assembly, I will continue to fight as I did during our state budget to cut spending and not raise taxes. It appears this issue will go to a conference committee just like the original budget bill.

When we don't have enough money to spend we should not be raising taxes and spending even more. We need to cut spending just like you do in your homes if times are tough.

Great Lakes Compact – Much has been said about this compact over the past few years and we are very close to reaching an agreement in the legislature on this legislation. The bill dealing with the Compact is over 150 pages long. Only one-third of the bill is the Compact. The last 100 pages are filled with enabling language that deals with the implementation of the Compact in Wisconsin.

The DNR is given control of ground water (wells) state wide as they do now with surface water. The DNR is also given authority to make rules dealing with water conservation in all of Wisconsin not just in communities diverting water from Lake Michigan. These are some of the concerns still being dealt with.

Once an agreement is reached Governor Doyle will have to call us into special session to deal with the Great Lakes Compact. Hopefully both of these issues will be finalized before you read this newsletter.



Rep. LeMahieu testifies in favor of legislation he coauthored.