

Phil Montgomery

2008 Legislative Update

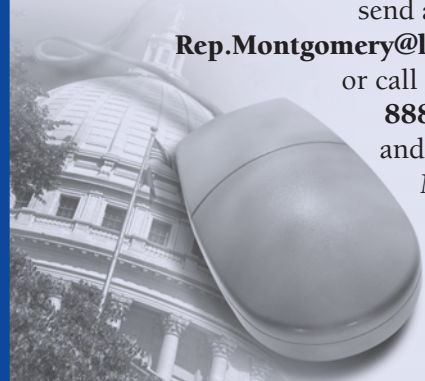
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Your State Capitol Connection!

The *Montgomery Minutes* is the weekly e-newsletter designed to keep the constituents of the 4th Assembly District up-to-date with the latest State Capitol news. If you or your neighbors would like to receive the *Montgomery Minutes*, please send an e-mail to Rep.Montgomery@legis.wi.gov or call my office at **888-534-0004** and request the *Montgomery Minutes*.



Visit the State Capitol

No trip to Madison would be complete without a visit to the State Capitol. If you are in Madison, I encourage you to visit the Capitol, take a tour, and most importantly stop by my office to say hello!

School groups and visitors are always welcome to take advantage of free Capitol tours. Anyone interested in setting up a tour in advance can call the Capitol tour desk at 608-266-0382 or my office at 888-534-0004.

Toll-Free Help Numbers

CONSUMER PROTECTION	
State Do Not Call List	866-966-2255
Consumer Protection Hotline	800-422-7128
Better Business Bureau	800-273-1002
FAMILIES	
Children's Special Health Needs	800-441-4576
EdVest College Savings Hotline	888-338-3789
Veterans Affairs	800-947-8387
BUSINESS	
Business Hotline	800-435-7287
Small Business Assistance (SBA) Hotline	800-827-5722
Tourism and Vacation Information	800-372-2737
SAFETY	
Crime Victim Center	800-446-6564
Arson Tip Line	800-362-3005
Statewide Road Conditions	800-762-3947
HEALTH	
SeniorCare Hotline	800-657-2038
Badger Care	800-362-3002
Medicare Hotline	800-638-6833
STATE GOVERNMENT	
State Legislative Hotline	800-362-9471
My Toll-Free Number in Madison	888-534-0004
Senator Cowles Office	800-334-1465

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Keep in Touch

Share your ideas by...

Postal Mail:

129 West State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Telephone:

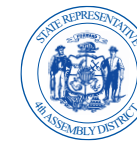
Toll Free: (888) 534-0004
Home Office: (920) 496-5953
Fax: (608) 282-3604

E-mail:

Rep.Montgomery@legis.wi.gov

2007-2008 Committees Assignments

- Energy and Utilities (*Chair*)
- Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology (*Co-Chair*)
- Special Committee on Nuclear Power (*Chair*)
- Corrections and Courts
- Elections and Constitutional Law
- State Building Commission
- Transportation Projects Commission



Phil Montgomery

Serving the Communities of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, De Pere and Green Bay

Dear Friends,

Representing the communities of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, De Pere, and Green Bay in the state legislature since 1998 has been my great honor and privilege, and I take the role of serving you in the state Assembly very seriously.

I'm thrilled to be able to share with you the many issues I've been fighting for in Madison though this legislative update. I've had the opportunity to work on many important pieces of legislation that move our state forward in education, health care quality, and job growth.

In addition to this update, I send out weekly e-mail newsletters to keep my constituents up-to-date with news from the State Capitol. To sign up, simply send an e-mail to Rep.Montgomery@legis.wi.gov or give my office a call at 888-534-0004.

As always, I value your thoughts and am here to assist you with any state government questions or concerns. Please send me an e-mail or give me a call any time to discuss your thoughts on state government.

Sincerely,

Rep. Phil Montgomery
4th Assembly District



Rep. Montgomery meets with a constituent who presented his undergraduate research at the State Capitol.

Rep. Phil Montgomery's 2008 Legislative Update

2007-2008 Montgomery Bills

Cable and Video Competition Act: Creates a streamlined state licensing process to increase cable competition. (Act 42)

Metal Theft Prevention: A much-needed new law establishing regulations to curb the public safety risks posed by scrap metal theft. (Act 64)

Medical Access Act: Allows pharmacists to dispense prescriptions at locations like nursing homes. (Act 202)

Sidewalk Safety Act: Protects public safety by allowing for the efficient heating of public sidewalks. (Act 182)

Economic Development Incentives: Budget provision allowing our communities to capture the increased value of TIF districts—encouraging investment while protecting taxpayers. (Act 20)

Clean, Green Energy: Legislation to examine and expand the role of nuclear power in Wisconsin's energy portfolio. (AB 346, 347, 348)

No New Cell Phone Tax: Bill prevents a new tax on cell phone customers by prohibiting the Public Service Commission from extending the Universal Service surcharge to wireless users. (AB 772)

International Education Resolution: Written in conjunction with St. Norbert College, the resolution encourages international education and recognizes it as an essential component of the future of Wisconsin education. (Senate Joint Resolution 72)

Expanding Public Safety Services: Secured State Building Commission funds dedicated to planning the N.E.W. Public Safety Facility which will serve southwest Brown County.

Get Serious About Crime Act: A proposal at the suggestion of several Green Bay Police Officers expands penalties for using a facsimile firearm to threaten a victim. (AB 603)

Wind-Powered Wisconsin: Creates uniform guidelines to encourage investment in wind as a renewable resource across the state. (AB 899)

Tough on Taxes

- Rejected a \$15 billion dollar payroll tax hike proposed by the state Senate to fund a government-run health care proposal. (2007 SB 40)
- Despite soaring gas prices, some state Senators proposed a new \$277 million gas tax. Assembly Republicans said no. (2007 SB 40)
- Stopped an increase in the Real Estate Transfer Fee which would have doubled the amount government takes on the purchase of a home. (2007 SB 40)

Investing in Education

- Supported record increases in school funding, special education funding, and gifted and talented programs. (2007 SB 40)
- Fought for financial flexibility for declining enrollment school districts. (2007 SB 40)
- Worked toward a bipartisan compromise to strengthen and protect Wisconsin's virtual schools. (2007 SB 396)



Enlightened Legislator

Rep. Montgomery receives the Wisconsin Federation of Co-Ops "Enlightened Legislator of the Year" award.

Energy and the Environment

- Fought for a strong Great Lakes Compact to protect the water resources and economy of Northeast Wisconsin for years to come.
- Proposed expansion of nuclear power as a safe, non-emitting, large scale resource (2007 Assembly Bills 346, 347, 348) and to increase the use of wind power as a renewable resource across the state. (Assembly Bill 899)
- Supported extension of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to preserve valuable natural areas across the state and expand opportunities for outdoor activities. (2007 SB 40)

Affordable, Quality Health Care

- Voted to make health insurance premiums and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) tax deductible (2007 SB 40 and AB 47) to bring down the cost of health care.
- Supported increasing health care cost transparency to reveal the real price of health care procedures to patients (2007 AB 872) and to allow the exchange of electronic medical records to improve health care quality and efficiency. (2007 SB 487)
- Fought to increase state Medicaid reimbursements for hospitals and dentists (2007 SB 40) and to provide workplace wellness programs for preventative care. (2007 AB 235)

Jobs and the Economy

- Authored the Cable and Video Competition Act, which is already bringing more good-paying jobs to Wisconsin as providers increase investment in their infrastructure and workforce. (2007 Act 42)
- Supported Angel Investment Tax Credits (2007 AB 557, 598) to keep and attract promising new business in Wisconsin, and Innovation Tax Credits for businesses that invest in innovative new projects. (2007 AB 696)
- Increased funding for continuing-education programs aimed at encouraging businesses to invest in their workforce. (2007 AB 67)

Did You Know?

Since the Cable and Video Competition Act was signed into law in December of 2007, twelve providers have applied for a statewide franchise, creating hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars of investment.



Class Trip to the Capitol

Rep. Montgomery meets with AP Government students from Ashwaubenon High School. The class makes an annual trip to the Capitol to learn about state government and debate current issues.

Cutting Crime

- Co-sponsored the Wisconsin Crime Alert Network, a state-wide public safety initiative providing timely information to citizens about criminal activity. (2007 AB 737)
- Voted to increase penalties for crimes against children (2007 AB 209), allow school districts to make a hiring or firing decision based on a felony conviction (2007 AB 260), and require registrants on the state sex offender registry to notify school districts when they intend to be on school property. (2007 AB 326)

Government Accountability Reforms

- Supported the creation of a Government Accountability Board, a non-partisan watchdog group to ensure compliance with Wisconsin's strict ethics, campaign finance, and election laws. (SS AB 1/SB1)
- Voted for the creation of a public website detailing all state expenditures of over \$100 so taxpayers can see exactly how their money is being spent. (2007 AB 862)
- Passed legislation creating a State Government Waste and Fraud Hotline to receive reports of fraud, waste, and mismanagement in state government. (2007 SB 86)