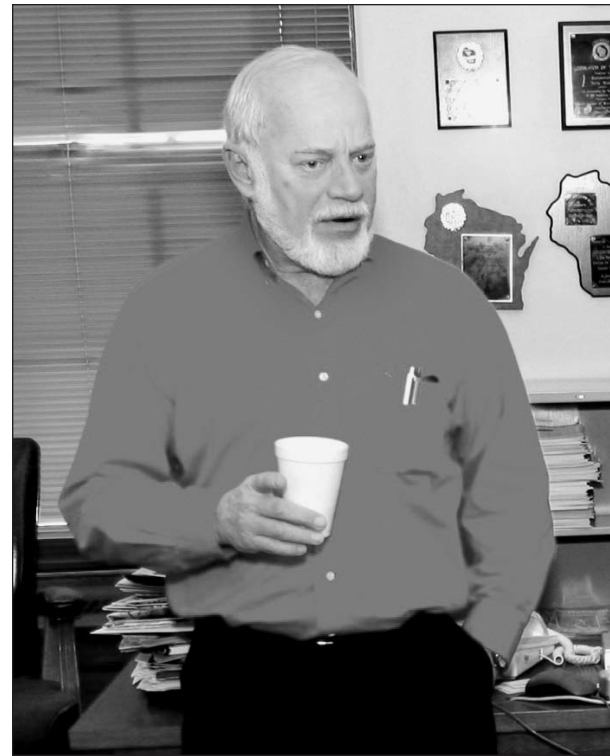


# 2008 SPRING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



REPRESENTATIVE

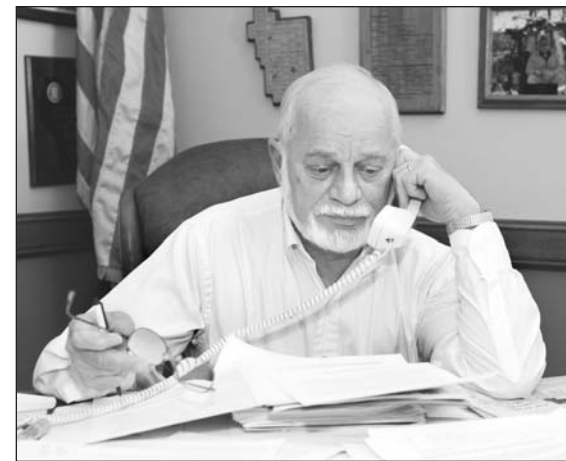
# TERRY MUSSER



Terry meets with constituents in his Capitol office.

## TAX CHANGES FOR SENIORS

Beginning with income taxes for 2008, the phase-in exemption for Social Security income will be complete, which for most people makes all Social Security income exempt from income tax. Up to \$5000 in some retirement plans will also be exempt in 2009.



Terry studies new legislation at his desk.

# 2008 SPRING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



REPRESENTATIVE

# TERRY MUSSER



Terry chairs his Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

May, 2008

Greetings!

As a WI State Representative, I represent you....the citizens of the 92nd Assembly District.... and ensure that the majority views from our district are heard in Madison. Your concerns and views about the economy, education, crime, health care, environment, and any other state government issue are important to me.

This biennium in the state legislature has been satisfying and productive. But there are more challenges ahead. I will continue to work with you to reduce taxes, limit government and foster opportunity.

Wisconsin is a great place to live, work and raise a family. I am honored to represent you in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Sincerely,

*Terry*

Terry Musser  
Your State Representative

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Chair  
Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs

Member  
Committee on Property Rights

Member  
Committee on State Affairs

Member  
Committee on Homeland Security & State Preparedness

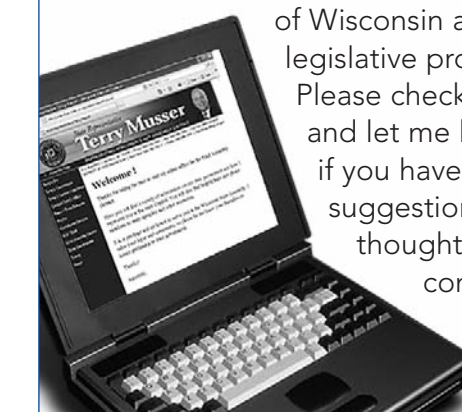
## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEES

Chair  
Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations

Chair  
Special Committee on Recodification of Chapter 21, Military Affairs

## WEBSITE

I have a new website, at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm92/news/>. You can visit here to find out what we in the legislature have been doing. There is information on my committee assignments and current legislation, as well as copies of recent press releases and photos. In addition, you will find links to your local community, federal government, and even some fun and educational information for kids about the State of Wisconsin and the legislative process. Please check it out and let me know if you have any suggestions, thoughts or comments.



## WISCONSINEYE

What is sometimes referred to as the "State version of C-SPAN", Wisconsin Eye covers government proceedings from committee hearings to Senate and Assembly floor sessions. It offers an inside look at how State Government works. Programs can be seen on the website ([www.wisconsineye.com](http://www.wisconsineye.com)), and on some cable systems. This is not only a great educational tool for students, it allows all Wisconsin citizens to be involved in state government.

## WHEN TO CONTACT TERRY:

- When you support or oppose legislation.
- When you need information on legislation.
- When you need assistance working with a state agency.
- When you want to change a state law.
- When you want to invite Terry to a meeting, other event, or as a speaker.

## HOW TO CONTACT TERRY:

**E-Mail:**  
[Rep.Musser@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Musser@legis.wi.gov)  
(please include your name and mailing address, if possible)

**Legislative Hotline:**  
Toll Free  
800-362-9472  
(leave a message for Terry)

**Phone:**  
State Capitol Office  
608-266-7461  
Toll Free:  
(888) 534-0092  
Home Office  
608-488-2955  
Fax  
608-282-3692

**Mail:**  
State Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 8953 • Madison, WI 53708

Home Office  
W13550 Murray Rd.  
Black River Falls, WI 54615



# REPRESENTATIVE TERRY MUSSER

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2008



Terry makes a point on the Assembly floor.

### BADGERCARE PLUS NOW IN EFFECT

As of February, 2008, the new BadgerCare Plus was rolled out across the state. This program allows every Wisconsin family to have access to affordable health care. Working families, pregnant women, and children can now obtain comprehensive health care coverage. There are two benefit plans, based on income — the Standard Plan and the Benchmark Plan. Co-pays range from \$0.50 to \$3.00.

Here are the premium prices based on annual income for the Benchmark Plan:

| Annual Household Income | BadgerCare Plus Premium |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$20,420 – \$23,482     | \$10                    |
| \$23,483 – \$24,503     | \$15                    |
| \$24,504 – \$25,524     | \$21                    |
| \$25,525 – \$26,545     | \$27                    |
| \$26,546 – \$27,566     | \$35                    |
| \$27,567 – \$28,587     | \$44                    |
| \$28,588 – \$29,608     | \$53                    |
| \$29,609 – \$30,629     | \$63                    |
| >/= \$30,630            | \$68.25                 |

Anyone that was previously enrolled in family Medicaid, BadgerCare, or Healthy Start would have been enrolled automatically. If you were previously denied coverage, you may now be eligible. Plans are underway to extend coverage to adults without dependent children in January of 2009. Additional information is available at <http://www.badgercareplus.org>.



Governor Doyle signs one of Terry's bills into law.

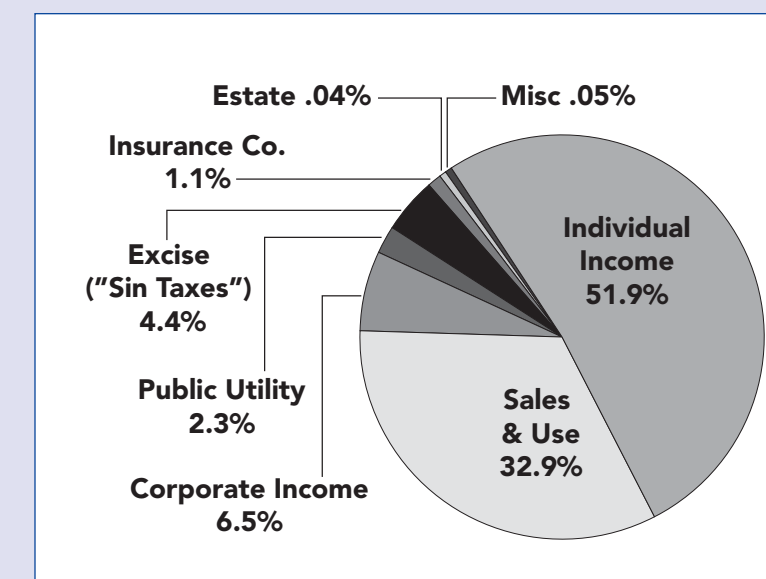


Terry testifies at a hearing for a bill he authored.

### STATE VETERANS BENEFITS UPDATE

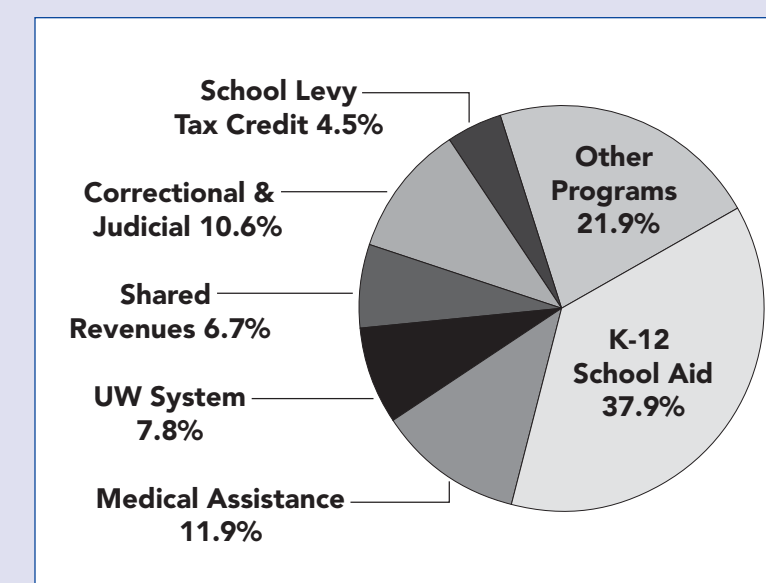
There have been a few significant changes in the recent 2008-2009 state budget relating to veterans' benefits. Here is a brief review to get you updated:

- WISCONSIN GI BILL**  
 Eligible dependent age has been lowered to 17; dependents can now do part-time study with 100% waiver for tuition; spouses' eligibility ends 10 years after the youngest child turns 18.
- ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY VETERANS GRANTS**  
 Assistance to Needy Veterans Grants have increased from \$5,000-\$7,000 lifetime cap; limits on eye, dental and hearing aids were removed.
- SUBSISTENCE AID GRANTS**  
 Subsistence Aid Grants have increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 maximum.
- PROPERTY TAX CREDIT**  
 Property tax credit extended to any age, and those on Individual Unemployability (IU); residency requirement changed to 5 continuous years in Wisconsin or resident at time of entry. The property tax credit changes will be effective January 1, 2009.



### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

This chart shows where the money for the General Fund Programs will come from for 2007-2009. "Sin Taxes" refer to taxes on cigarettes, liquor and wine, tobacco products, and beer. This information was compiled by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.



### WHERE DOES YOUR STATE TAX MONEY GO?

This chart estimates what programs your 2007-2009 taxes will go to. Within the "Other Programs" section is included categories such as Appropriation Obligation Bonds, and State Residential Institutions. This information was compiled by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

### HELPFUL STATE NUMBERS

- Aging & Long Term Care.....(800) 242-1060
- Consumer Credit Helpline.....(800) 452-3328
- Better Business Bureau, WI.....(800) 273-1002
- Commerce, Dept of.....(800) 435-7287
- Consumer Protection.....(800) 422-7128
- Do Not Call List.....(866) 966-2255
- Farm Center Hotline.....(800) 942-2474
- Insurance Complaints.....(800) 236-8517
- Lawyer Referral/State Bar.....(800) 362-9082
- Medicare.....(800) 236-8517
- Road Conditions.....(800) 762-3947
- SeniorCare Hotline.....(800) 657-2038
- Small Business Assistance.....(800) 435-7287
- Snowmobile Trail Conditions.....(800) 432-8747
- Tourism Hotline.....(800) 372-2737
- Veterans Services.....(800) 947-8387