

# Representative Steve Nass

Capitol Views 2008

## Assembly Passes Nass' 4% Tuition Cap for UW Students

I heeded the calls of students and parents unable to keep up with spiraling tuition increases by proposing a 4% Tuition Cap on Resident Undergraduate Tuition, starting in 2007-08 and running through 2010-11. Under my proposal, the University of Wisconsin System would have been able to collect an increase of \$72 million in resident undergraduate tuition.

The 4% Tuition Cap would be a significant change in policy from recent history as Wisconsin students have dealt with average yearly tuition increases of 8.5% over the last ten years (1996-97 to 2006-07). The average annual increase in inflation has been 2.5% during the same period.

### UW System tuition levels in the 2006-07 academic year were:

UW-Madison	\$6,000
UW-Milwaukee	\$5,868
Comprehensive Campuses (Other four year campuses)	\$4,568
UW Colleges (Two year campuses)	\$4,268

While the tuition cap didn't survive opposition from Governor Doyle, the mere fact that it passed the State Assembly forced the UW System Board of Regents to limit the 2007-08 academic year increase to 5.5%. That increase was one of the lowest jumps in 10 years and well below the average of 8.5% annually.

I will continue to fight for enactment of a tuition cap that prioritizes the ability of students and families to afford attending the UW System.



Representative Nass meets with members of the NCAA Division III National Champion UW-Whitewater Warhawks football team.

### Committee Assignments:

- Committee on Colleges and Universities (Chairman)
- Committee on Education
- Committee on Education Reform (Vice Chairman)
- Committee on Labor and Industry

### Helpful State Numbers

Consumer Protection	1-800-422-7128
Road Conditions & Detours	1-800-762-3947
Vacation & Travel Information	1-800-432-TRIP
Crime & Victim Services	1-800-446-6564
Housing & Economic Development	1-800-334-6873
Aging & Long Term Care	1-800-242-1060
BadgerCare	1-800-362-3002



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## BIG GOVERNMENT vs. THE TAXPAYERS

This legislative session will be remembered for years to come as the resurgence of Big Government in Wisconsin. The taxpayers were under assault from day one with numerous proposals to raise taxes and expand government power. Many of these bad ideas were bipartisan in nature, but bipartisanship didn't change the fact that Wisconsin families would be forced to pay for Bigger Government.

I joined with other fiscally conservative members to fight for the taxpaying middle-class families of this state. Some of our successes included:

- Restored Property Tax Freeze at 2% for 2009 (December 2008 bills)
- Enacted Health Insurance Premium Tax Deduction – Saving You \$149 million
- Enacted Child Care Tax Deduction – Saving You \$16 million
- Blocked Mandatory Government-Run Healthcare – Saving You \$15.2 Billion
- Blocked Real Estate Transfer Fee Increase – Saving You \$142 million
- Blocked new gas tax (Oil Franchise Fee) – Saving You \$277.3 million
- Blocked new iPod tax – Saving You \$3.4 million
- Blocked Streamlined Sales Tax – Saving You \$150 million (full implementation)



Representative Nass discusses legislation during an Assembly floor debate.

## THANK YOU VETERANS!

County Veterans Service Offices

### Jefferson

Yvonne Duesterhoeft  
(920) 674-7240

### Walworth

Christine Jordan  
(262) 741-4222

### Waukesha

John Margowski  
(262) 548-7732

### Department of Veterans Affairs

(800) WIS-VETS

Web Resources:

### State & Federal Veterans Benefits:

[http://dva.state.wi.us/PA\\_Benefits\\_booklets.asp](http://dva.state.wi.us/PA_Benefits_booklets.asp)



Representative Nass speaks at the Wisconsin Fallen Soldiers Project Remembrance Ceremony.

## Status-Quo Budget Still Fails Taxpayers

I voted against the Conference Committee version of the 2007-2009 Biennial Budget. The General Fund (tax dollar supported) portion will expend \$28.2 billion, a 6% increase over the last budget. The All Funds budget will expend \$57.2 billion, a 6.6% increase over the last budget. It also contains bonding authorization of \$2.7 billion. This budget, crafted by Governor Doyle and legislative leaders, has a structural deficit of \$892 million and growing.

I noted last October that this budget wasn't worth the paper it was printed on and the taxpayers would unfortunately be held hostage to pay for it. As the economy continues to soften, this state is facing a massive fiscal crisis requiring at least \$650 million in spending cuts by this summer.

The budget, passed in October 2007, increased taxes by \$420 million, increased state imposed fees by \$343

million, and raided \$200 million from the Patients Compensation Fund.

**The tax increases and fund raids are absolutely unnecessary. The Governor and legislative leaders decided to place special interest spending over the ability of taxpayers to afford that spending.**

A majority of Republicans, in the State Assembly, voted against this budget, which was crafted behind closed doors. The budget passed with only 23 Republicans and 37 Democrats voting for it in the Assembly. A majority of the Republican caucus, 29 members, voted for the taxpayers by voting no.

**It's sad that a minority of Republicans voted with nearly all of the Democrats to pillage the wallets of middle class families. This budget package avoids making real decisions and jeopardizes the future economic strength of Wisconsin.**

Representative Nass discusses legislation at a committee hearing.

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## Nass Measure Protects 34,000 Adult Students

One of my main goals as Chairman of the Assembly College and Universities Committee is to prioritize accountability in postsecondary education. The issue of accountability isn't just a priority in terms of public higher education, but equally vital for students attending private for-profit postsecondary institutions.

**The State of Wisconsin has recognized the need to protect the investment of students in private for-profit postsecondary education for working adults and nontraditional students since the passage of the GI Bill in 1944. The state agency now known as the Educational Approval Board (EAB) had its beginnings in 1944 under Governor Walter Goodland.**

While many aspects of postsecondary education have changed dramatically since 1944, the statutes enabling the EAB to protect Wisconsin students from fraud and abuse by private for-profit postsecondary institutions have changed little in the last couple of decades. This has left the agency without the proper statutory authority to regulate private postsecondary schools.

**That's why I agreed to author 2007 Assembly Bill 281, which modernizes the authority of this small but important agency. This modernization legislation is very important to the 34,000 adults in 600 programs provided by 144 for-profit and non-profit post-secondary institutions.**



Representative Nass speaks with students from Oconomowoc's Park Lawn Elementary School.



Representative Nass leads a group of legislators on a visit to the Wisconsin Air National Guard.



Project Lead the Way students guide Representative Nass through their pre-engineering project.