



STATE REPRESENTATIVE



KEVIN *Petersen's Press*
PETERSEN 2008

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2007-2008 PETERSEN'S AGENDA

- **Creating Jobs & Growing Our Economy**
- **Controlling Government Spending**
- **Making Health Care Affordable**
- **Investing in Our Children's Future**
- **Tax Relief for Families, Seniors, & Small Businesses**
- **Protecting and Honoring Our Veterans**

Growing Our Local Economy

Retooling Our Workforce – As a small business owner, I understand how communities depend on our technical schools for workforce training. Our state's technical colleges will receive an additional \$3 million to fund skills training and education programs related to the needs of our local businesses.

Keeping Our Local Agricultural Economy Strong – In the bipartisan budget agreement, we created a new incentive to encourage local dairy farmers to modernize their operations so that they can compete with farmers across the nation.

Reforming Wisconsin's Economic Development Programs – State auditors issued a report last year that raised serious questions about the effectiveness of the state's economic development efforts. Working with my colleagues, we eliminated programs, consolidated others, and put in place new reporting requirements to ensure our state's investments in economic development are not being wasted.



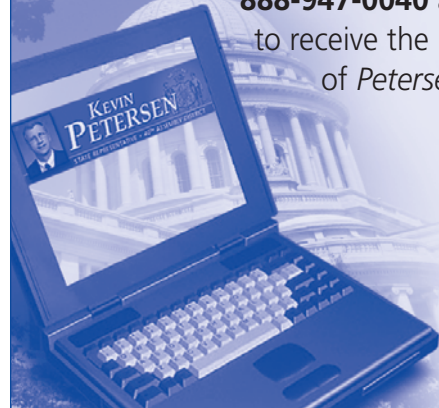
Representative Kevin Petersen alongside Ryan Delaney and his family, during the groundbreaking of Spirit Implements' new 120,000 square foot manufacturing plant.

PETERSEN'S E-PRESS

...from the Capitol to You!

Petersen's E-Press is my free weekly e-newsletter designed to keep constituents of the 40th Assembly District informed on current state legislative issues and activities.

If you would like to receive my e-newsletter, please send an email to Rep.Petersen@legis.wisconsin.gov or call my office toll-free at **888-947-0040** and sign-up to receive the next edition of *Petersen's E-Press*.



PETERSEN'S PRESS • SPRING 2008

Representative **KEVIN PETERSEN**

SERVING THE 40TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

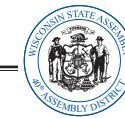


KEEP IN TOUCH

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KEVIN PETERSEN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your voice in the state Assembly, my job is to put your needs ahead of the wants of state government. I have focused on listening to my constituents and then worked with legislators, both Republican and Democrat, who want to get things done.

The first bill I voted for was comprehensive ethics and elections reform. The new non-partisan Government Accountability Board will have the full authority to investigate criminal and civil violations of the state's ethics, campaign finance, and elections laws.

My votes on the Assembly floor have never been based on newspaper rhetoric or on political partisanship. Instead, they are cast on the wording within the bill, and how that bill will affect families, seniors, businesses, and taxpayers both in my district and throughout the state.

I am currently working with my colleagues to close a budget shortfall resulting from the state's economic slowdown. Just like families do when times are tough, our plan cuts government spending and dips into the state's rainy day account. Most importantly, our plan does not include any increases in taxes.

I appreciate and value the trust you've shown me, and I am honored to be your State Representative. I look forward to continuing our work together in making Wisconsin a better place to live, work, raise a family, and retire.

Respectfully,
Kevin

Kevin Petersen
State Representative
40th Assembly District

Capitol Tours

No trip to Madison would be complete without a visit to the State Capitol. Contact us to visit the Capitol, take a tour, and most importantly, stop by Kevin's Office to say hello!



Representative Kevin Petersen with the 2007-2008 Leadership Waupaca County class in the Assembly Chambers

This program, offered by the Waupaca County UW Extension, helps develop informed, civic minded volunteers, leaders, and public officials who are committed to the future of Waupaca County.

KEVIN PETERSEN: Working Hard for the Heart of Wisconsin

Looking Out for Seniors

Reducing Taxes on Retirement Income – Beginning next year, senior couples with income less than \$30,000 will be able to exempt up to \$5,000 of retirement/pension income from their state taxes.



Representative Kevin Petersen discussing senior issues with residents at the Iola Living Center.

Affordable Prescription Drugs through SeniorCare – The state's SeniorCare program currently provides more than 100,000 Wisconsin seniors with access to the prescription drugs they need at a price they can afford. I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, along with the state's congressional delegation in Washington D.C., to extend SeniorCare to the year 2010.

Encouraging Long Term Care Insurance – Last year, I co-authored legislation to enroll Wisconsin in the federal Long-Term Care Partnership Program. This legislation was included in the bipartisan budget agreement and encourages individuals to purchase Long Term Care Insurance. Every dollar the insurance pays towards long term care can be subtracted from financial assets when determining Medicaid eligibility. In other words, you will be able to leave more assets behind for your surviving spouse and children.

Making Health Care Affordable

Tax Breaks on Health Insurance Premiums – The rising cost of health care continues to put a strain on family budgets. Last year I voted for legislation to make health insurance premiums paid by workers state income tax deductible. The legislation was eventually included in the state budget. When fully implemented, this tax break will put an extra \$150 million a year in the pockets of Wisconsin families.

Patients Right to Know – If patients and their families are truly going to be in charge of their health care, they need to know the real costs and quality of their care. Under the Health Care Price Disclosure proposal I co-

sponsored, health care providers in Wisconsin would be required to give patients a good-faith cost estimate of a medical treatment or procedure.

Health Care Insurance Small Businesses Can Afford – Most Wisconsin families receive their health care insurance through an employer. Unfortunately, small businesses can not always provide coverage at an affordable price. I voted for the Professional Employee Organization Bill, recently signed into law, which helps small businesses pool together to access "Fortune 500" health care coverage at prices hometown businesses can afford.

Investing in Our Children's Future

School Aids, Our State's Top Funding Priority – Over the next two years, classrooms across Wisconsin will see the largest funding increase in our state's history, totaling more than \$12.3 billion in state aid.

Increased Funding for Special Needs Students – Special needs students need extra help in school. Local school districts will receive an extra \$53 million in special education aid from the state.

Helping Area School Districts with Declining Enrollment – In our area, we have school districts that are adding students, but we also have school districts that are losing students. To help them out, the state will provide additional resources to ease the often dramatic financial loss associated with declining enrollment districts.

No Felons in Schools – Children can not learn and teachers can not teach if they do not feel safe in their classrooms. I joined with my Assembly colleagues in passing legislation to allow school districts to deny employment to convicted felons.

Tracking Down Dangerous Child Predators – Working with Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, the state's two-year budget includes additional funding for investigators to track down sex predators who use the Internet to prey on unsuspecting children.

Local Issues

Bringing Cable Competition to Local Communities – With my full support, we now have in place a new law that will provide local cable customers with more choices at better prices. States across the country that have adopted similar laws have seen cable rates decrease by 23% on average. The Video Franchise law provides the prices and options families want when it comes to their phone, internet, and video services.

Honoring Veterans – Generations of men and women served in the United States military, both during war time and in peace. A bridge named in their behalf will represent a permanent monument in Waupaca County honoring our country's heroes. Recently, the State Assembly unanimously approved legislation to designate and mark the planned STH 22/54 bridge across the Waupaca River in the City of Waupaca the "Waupaca County Veterans Memorial Bridge" as a living memorial to and in honor of veterans who served in the armed forces of this nation.



Representative Petersen discussing local issues with Waupaca County elected towns officials. Meeting with local officials in the district enables me to know what issues are important to your community.

Checkbook Savings for Families

Helping Parents Pay for their Child Care Expenses – Parents already can deduct child care expenses on their federal tax returns. Beginning next year, parents will also be able to deduct a certain portion of their child care expenses from their state taxes.

Making a College Education More Affordable – To help parents offset the costs of putting their children through college, we expanded the income tax deduction to include mandatory student fees and increased the maximum deduction to \$6,000.

Holding the Line on Property Taxes – Many local homeowners are paying too much in property taxes. Working together, we renewed the Property Tax Freeze for another two years to help keep local property taxes in check.



Representative Petersen visits with the Clintonville Middle School eighth grade class.