

Jerry Petrowski

2008 Legislative Update



Jerry Meets with Pastor Jim Verkest at the Community of Hope Welcome Center in Mosinee.

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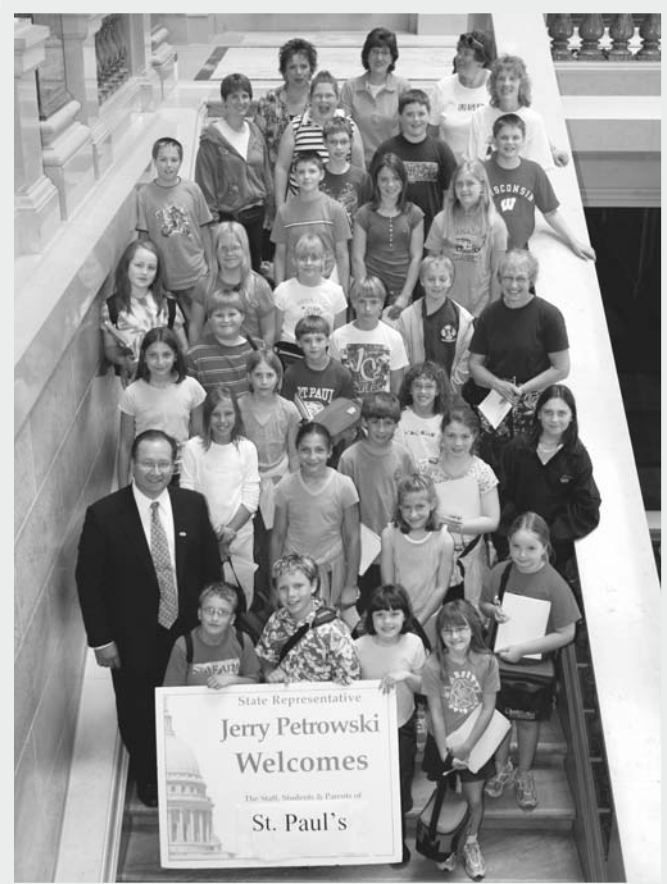
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Contact Jerry and His Staff

My staff and I are always willing to be of service to you. If you have questions, need legislative updates, maps and Blue Books, or would like me to speak in front of your group or function, please contact my office toll free at **1-888-534-0086** or by email at Rep.Petrowski@legis.wi.gov

Unclaimed Property, Are You on This List?

The Office of the State Treasurer has published new names of unclaimed property in the state. There are over a thousand people from my district alone! For more information call **1-800-462-2814** or on the Web www.ost.state.wi.us.



Jerry welcomes students from St. Paul's School from Mosinee to the Capitol.

Helpful Toll-Free Numbers

- Aging and Long-term Care(800) 242-1060
- Business Development Center Hotline(800) HELP BUSIness
- EdVest College Savings Hotline(888) 338-3789
- State Park Reservations(888) 947-2757
- Telemarketer Do Not Call List(866) 9NO-CALL
- Veterans Information(800) WIS-VETS
- WI Farm Center(800) 942-2474

Helpful Websites

- The Wisconsin State Legislature: www.legis.state.wi.us
- Wisconsin State Agencies: www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/agency_index
- State Capitol Tour: www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/wisconsin_state_capitol_tour
- History of the Capitol: www.wisconsin.gov/state/capfacts/history
- The State of Wisconsin: www.wisconsin.gov
- The Federal Government: firstgov.gov
- USDA Farm Service Agency: www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/
- U.S. Small Business Administration: www.sba.gov/index.html
- The Wisconsin Business Wizard: www.wisconsin.gov/state/app/wizard/LoadIntro
- The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation: www.wbic.com
- The Women's Business Center: www.onlinewbc.gov/

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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86TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Dear Central Wisconsin Friends:

It is an honor to represent you in Wisconsin's State Assembly. I am here to serve you, a role that I take very seriously.

Wisconsin really is a beautiful state. We have the best of everything in Wisconsin: pristine lakes, great parks, a magnificent State Capitol, spectacular wildlife, walking trails, ski hills, farms and markets. Activities for everyone: hiking, swimming, skiing, hunting, and fishing.

We here in Wisconsin have a great deal to be proud of and we are truly blessed.

At your State Capitol, the Legislature has been working hard. We passed a budget that **ensures health care coverage for every child in Wisconsin**; we supplemented veterans' benefits; **provided the largest increase in education funding in Wisconsin history**; and we are continuing to build our road projects safely and on time. In addition to this, we put in protections to help keep kids safe from predators, enacted property tax limits and **fought to fully fund SeniorCare**.

I am proud of what we've accomplished, and I hope you are as well.

Now that the 2007-08 legislative session has come to a close, I am pleased to take this opportunity to provide you with a legislative update on the work that I have been doing at the State Capitol. I now serve as the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Transportation, in addition to serving on a number of other committees and councils. Because of this, I am able to be involved in a wide variety of important issue areas that shape our governing policies.

It is a great honor and privilege to represent the 86th Assembly District and to serve as your voice in state government. I enjoy visiting with many of you in and around my district. As always, feel free to contact me at any time regarding your comments, questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Jerry Petrowski
State Representative



Jerry meets with workers from 3M after passing a law to help grow jobs at their Wausau facility.

Keep in Touch

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Stay updated by visiting my Website:

[www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/
asm86/news/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm86/news/)

*Check out the latest news,
press releases, and photos.*

JERRY'S 2007-08 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES & COUNCILS

- Chair of the Transportation Committee
- State Affairs
- Veterans and Military Affairs
- Rural Affairs
- Governor's Council on Highway Safety
- Department of Transportation's
Law Enforcement Advisory Council

Rep. Jerry Petrowski's 2008 Legislative Update



Roger Otto, Wayne Brandt, Jack Sliwicki, and Joe Voigt representing the Wisconsin Valley Fair, Wausau Optimists, AMVETS, and V.F.W., respectively, join Jerry as AB 864 is signed into law.

Fire Suppression Systems

Last November, I was approached by constituents from the Wisconsin Valley Fair and local charitable organizations, such as the Optimists and the VFW, about a problem with Wisconsin's fire code. A newly enforced provision in the fire code would require kitchens to install automated fire suppression systems that often cost more than \$4,000.

This code affected not only commercial kitchens used year round by restaurants and businesses, but also mobile kitchens operated for just a few days a year by charities and churches at fairs and local celebrations. Extending the requirements and subsequent costs applied to commercial kitchens to mobile kitchens placed an unfair and unnecessary burden on non-profit groups in our communities.

At the request of these local charities and the fair board, I drafted legislation to narrowly exempt these groups from having to install costly fire suppression systems. Senator Decker and I worked to build a bi-partisan coalition of support, passing the bill through both houses of the legislature unanimously. On March 26th, 2008, Governor Doyle signed this legislation into law.



Jerry stands with Rothschild Village President Neil Torney at the corner of Business 51 and Military Rd after successfully finding state funding for stop lights and road widening at the intersection.

Transportation Update

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Transportation, I have been involved in many issues, ranging from road safety and highway maintenance to licenses and administration.

The committee passed several bills that will have a positive affect on our area. One of them will help maintain good paying jobs at our local 3M plant. The new law will allow 3M to reduce transportation costs and limit emissions by allowing an increase in weight carried by the trucks that carry roofing materials. The reduced trips will ensure 3M's ability to compete in a global economy while maintaining their roots in Central Wisconsin.

The committee also found a compromise to bring back the popular, traditional Veteran's license plates. Through the cooperation of the Department of Transportation and the efforts of Rep. Terry Musser and myself, the plates will be made available to any Veteran wishing to return to a more traditional Vet plate. These plates will be available for a small cost at your local DMV after July 1, 2008.

Economic Development

Dairy Investment Credit

This session we created an investment credit program to encourage the modernization and expansion of dairy manufacturing in Wisconsin. It is my hope that this program will be used by local employers, like Mullins Cheese, to grow jobs in Central Wisconsin.

Retooling Our Workforce

As a former student of Northcentral Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) and the former owner of a small business, I know how our communities depend on our technical schools. Working in a bipartisan fashion, the legislature has agreed to provide our state's technical colleges with an additional \$3 million to fund skills training and other education related to the needs of local business.

Dairy Science Program at NWTC

During the budget debate, I was able to work with other area legislators to secure \$194,000 in state funds for NWTC to create a Dairy Science Associate Degree Program.

For Our Children

BadgerCare Plus

As part of the biennial budget proposal, I voted to create BadgerCare Plus to ensure that all kids in Wisconsin will be able to get the health care they need at a price their families can afford.

The new program, which went into effect on February 1st, 2008, will allow every Wisconsin family, regardless of income, to purchase comprehensive health care coverage for their kids. Low income families will be able to enroll their children at no charge. Higher income families can purchase BadgerCare by paying reasonable co-pays and premiums.

If your family does not have health insurance, you may be eligible for BadgerCare. You may also qualify if you are a small business owner, a farmer, or if pregnant. To apply for BadgerCare Plus or for more information about the program, go to www.badgercareplus.org or call 1-800-362-3002.

School Aids, Our Top Funding Priority

Over the next two years, classrooms across Wisconsin will see the largest increase in our state's history, totaling more than \$12.3 billion in state aid.

Tracking Down Dangerous Child Predators

We worked to include additional funding in the budget for Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen to hire investigators to track down sex predators who use the Internet to prey on unsuspecting children.

Keeping Felons Out of Our Kids' Schools

I introduced legislation that allows a school to refuse to employ or to terminate an unpardoned felon without penalty under the Fair Employment Act. Schools should have the authority to make employment decisions that will keep our kids safe.



Jerry discusses senior issues with Peter De Santis from Rib Mountain.

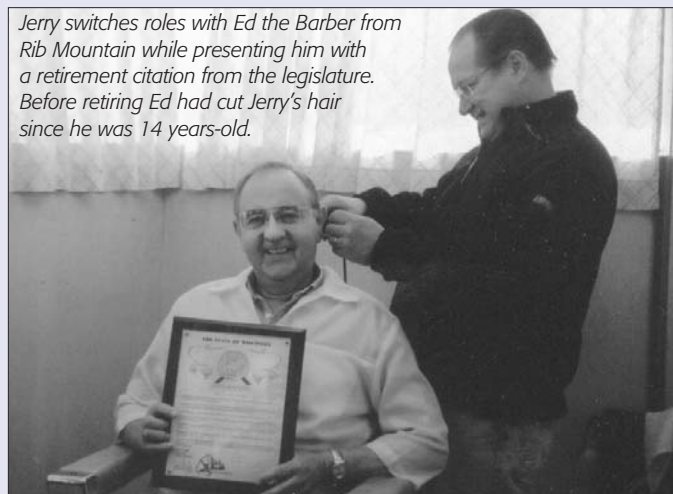
For Our Seniors

Eliminating the Tax on Social Security

For years we fought in the statehouse to eliminate the tax on Social Security Income. On January 1st of this year, a new law went into affect doing just that. Seniors living on Social Security will no longer have to pay state taxes on that income. This law will allow our seniors to keep more than \$99 million of their money this year alone!

Saving SeniorCare

When federal funding for SeniorCare, our popular prescription drug program for the elderly, was put into jeopardy last year we formed a bi-partisan coalition to fight for it. Through hard work and determination we were able to secure funding for the program through the end of 2009. For information about SeniorCare or to apply for the program, call the SeniorCare Customer Service Hotline at 1-800-657-2038.



Jerry switches roles with Ed the Barber from Rib Mountain while presenting him with a retirement citation from the legislature. Before retiring Ed had cut Jerry's hair since he was 14 years-old.



Jerry presents a citation from the legislature to Josephine Bergs from Rib Falls on her 90th Birthday.