



KARL VAN ROY

In addition to securing funding for the City Deck and recreational trail in Green Bay, I introduced several other bills this session. Here are highlights on a few of them:



Karl testifying on one of the bills he authored.

Helping Local Businesses: I authored a bill to help small businesses recoup losses they incur when foreigners use international bank cards at their ATM machines. When an ATM is used at convenience stores, restaurants, and other places, fees and surcharges are incurred that you and I have to pay. But, due to Visa and MasterCard rules, local businesses are forced to pay the fees on behalf of individuals using foreign bank cards. My bill, which was signed into law by Governor Doyle, ends preferential treatment for foreigners and puts the money back into the hands of local businesses.

Saving Local Government & Taxpayer Costs: I introduced a bill clarifying that county sheriffs have the authority to provide meals to jail inmates and determine the best way to do so. This bill was introduced in response to a 4-3 WI Supreme Court ruling in 2007 which held that Brown County Sheriff Dennis Kocken did not have the duty to feed prisoners, and therefore, he did not have the power to outsource meals. The ruling altered the traditional power of the elected sheriff and increased jail costs in Brown County by \$1.1 million, a price which ultimately is paid for by you, the taxpayer. *(Session ended before passage)*

Dental Care Pilot Program: I worked with a bi-partisan group of legislators to introduce a bill that would create a two year pilot project in Brown, LaCrosse, and Kenosha counties to address the lack of dental care access for patients on Medical Assistance (MA). The pilot would evaluate if increasing the state reimbursement rate to dentists for treating patients on MA will increase access to care especially for children but also for adults who need emergency treatment. *(Session ended before passage)*

Preserving Commercial Fishing: Providing freshwater lake perch from the Bay of Green Bay for a traditional Friday night fish fry is getting harder for commercial fishermen due to declining fish populations, higher fuel prices, and an outdated "minimum catch rule." This rule has outlived its original purpose which was to consolidate the fisheries and eliminate inactive licenses. Now the rule is forcing fishermen to go out on the lake and fish even when it is not economically feasible to do so, thus forcing them to lose money. My bill to eliminate this unnecessary rule unanimously passed the Assembly and made it through a Senate Committee. Although it had bi-partisan support to pass the Senate floor, Senate leaders played partisan games and refused to schedule the bill.

Reporting Illegal Aliens Who Commit Crimes: Too often we hear of violent illegal aliens committing crimes, only to be returned to the streets to victimize more law-abiding Americans. I introduced a bill requiring county sheriffs to conduct legal status checks on individuals charged with a felony or operating under the influence and to report those here illegally to the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement. My bill was similar to a provision passed in the Assembly version of the state budget bill but was rejected by the Senate and Governor Doyle. *(Session ended before passage)*

VAN ROY'S VIEWS

...from the Capitol to You!

Van Roy's Views is my free weekly e-newsletter designed to keep constituents of the 90th 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.VanRoy@legis.wi.gov

or call my office toll-free at

888-534-0090 and sign-up

to receive the next edition of *Van Roy's Views*.



Karl Van Roy giving a Fourth of July speech on the Brown County Courthouse grounds for the "Fire Over the Fox" Celebration.



2008 Legislative Update

KARL VAN ROY

PO BOX 8953
MADISON, WI 53708

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1749
Madison, WI

*****ECRWSS*****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

WORKING FOR YOU!

KARL VAN ROY ACCOMPLISHES BUDGET VICTORIES FOR GREEN BAY

A strong downtown is essential for the prosperity of any city and that is no different for our area. Too often we see state budgets pass that only concentrate economic development programs in Madison and Milwaukee. I worked with Mayor Jim Schmitt to identify areas in which the state could help Green Bay. I am pleased to report that I fought for and won two important budget victories for Green Bay that were signed into law.

Multi-use Recreational Trail

I secured \$875,000 of Stewardship funding to be allocated to the City of Green Bay to purchase 24.6 acres of Wisconsin Central Railroad property located on Green Bay's West side. The land will be used to construct an off-street, multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trail that will give many families a new recreational area to enjoy that connects Howard to Green Bay's west side. The trail is expected to be completed by Spring 2009.

Downtown City Deck Project

I secured \$2.8 million in Department of Commerce grant funding to be allocated to the City Deck project to revitalize and strengthen downtown Green Bay. This grant from the Wisconsin Development Fund is the last piece of essential

funding needed to complete the \$12 million public-private partnership that will provide 1,400 feet of shoreline for new retail shops, restaurants, condominiums, and parks. Ground-breaking will begin August 2008.



Rep. Karl Van Roy and the City of Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt announcing \$2.8 million in state funds secured for the City Deck project.



2008 Legislative Update

KARL VAN ROY



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH KARL

Capitol Office:

Room 123 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Call Toll-Free:

1-888-534-0090

Fax: 1-608-282-3690

E-mail:

Rep.VanRoy@legis.state.wi.us

Website:

www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/
asm90/news/

Residence:

805 Riverview Drive
Green Bay, WI 54303
Phone: 920-662-0804



FROM THE DESK OF KARL VAN ROY

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your voice in the state Assembly, I have worked hard to listen to my constituents and bring Green Bay values and common-sense to Madison. I have avoided political partisanship, and instead worked cooperatively with both Republicans and Democrats who, like me, want to make good things happen for the citizens of Wisconsin.

The first bill we voted for this session addressed comprehensive ethics and elections reform. The newly created 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 law.

Working together, we passed a bi-partisan state budget that taxpayers can afford, one that puts your needs ahead of the wants of government. By holding the line on government spending and setting priorities, we provided a record increase in state aid to local school districts, improved access to affordable health care, and provided for much-needed tax relief to families, seniors, and small businesses.

Since that time, our state and our nation have faced an economic slowdown causing our budget to have an unexpected shortfall. Just like families do when times get tough, the Assembly budget repair plan cuts government spending and dips into the state's rainy day account. Most importantly, our plan does not include any increases in taxes. We've also been working with Governor Doyle to jump-start the state's economy to grow jobs and business.

Serving you in the state Assembly is a tremendous honor and a great responsibility I take very seriously. Your continued input is most appreciated. Please contact me by phone toll-free at 1-888-534-0090 or by e-mail at Rep.VanRoy@legis.wi.gov. Working together, we can make Wisconsin a better place to live, work, raise a family, and retire.

Sincerely,

Karl Van Roy
State Representative
90th Assembly District

KARL VAN ROY: REAL-WORLD ISSUES...REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

ASSEMBLY WORKING FOR YOU

As of this writing, the Assembly passed 281 bills, 225 of which were signed into law by Governor Doyle. The Great Lakes Compact also will become law soon. Here are highlights on a few of the bills I supported this session.

MAKING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Ethics Reform: Passed a law intended for comprehensive ethics and elections reform by creating the non-partisan Government Accountability Board and giving it the authority to investigate criminal and civil violations of the state's ethics, campaign finance and elections laws.

"Frankenstein Veto": Passed a constitutional amendment prohibiting the governor from vetoing individual words and numbers to create new laws the legislature never intended.

Ending Raids on Seg Funds: Voted in favor of a constitutional amendment to prohibit raids on segregated funds to pay for items unrelated to the fund's original purpose. Gov. Doyle's raids on the Transportation fund, totaling \$1.1 billion, are an example why this is needed. *(Senate failed to act)*

Information Technology (IT) Reform: Passed a law requiring adoption of guidelines for all agency IT projects in excess of \$1 million in order to prevent state agency mismanagement of IT projects and waste of taxpayer dollars.

Social Security Numbers (SSN): Voted in favor of prohibiting state & local governments from using your SSN as a personal identifier due to several state mailings that publicly revealed SSNs, putting citizens at risk of identity theft. *(Senate failed to act)*

Photo ID: Voted in favor of requiring a photo ID to vote in order to combat voter fraud and ensure that legitimate votes are not canceled out by fraudulent ones. *(Senate failed to act)*

Earmark Transparency: Voted in favor of requiring a report following each state budget proposal that lists all earmarks, including the reason for each one and its associated cost to help identify any wasteful spending. *(Senate failed to act)*

Government Checkbook Disclosure Act: Voted in favor of requiring state government to report all expenditures over \$100 on a public website. Taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent and ensure it is spent wisely. *(Senate failed to act)*

MAKING HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

Health Insurance Tax Deduction: Passed a law making health insurance premiums paid by workers state tax deductible, which will put \$150 million back in the pockets of Wisconsin families when fully implemented.

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs): Voted in favor of making the money employees set aside in HSAs to pay for their and their families' health care costs state tax deductible, a benefit enjoyed by residents in 45 states and at the federal level. *(Senate failed to act)*

Workplace Wellness Incentives: Passed a law creating a tax credit program to encourage businesses to offer workplace wellness services such as smoking cessation, nutrition counseling, and weight management, in order to promote healthy lifestyles and preventative care, thus reducing illness and controlling health care costs.

Small Business Health Insurance: Passed a law to help small businesses pool together to access "Fortune 500" health care coverage at prices hometown businesses can afford, thus providing quality health insurance for more employees.

Health Care for Our Most Vulnerable: Passed a law extending SeniorCare for another 2 ½ years ensuring seniors get low-cost prescription drugs, and created BadgerCare Plus so low-income families, childless adults, children, and pregnant women can receive affordable health care.

Patients' Right to Know: Voted in favor of requiring health care providers to give patients a good-faith cost estimate of a treatment or procedure upon the patient's request so they can be informed and in charge of their own health care decisions. *(Senate failed to act)*



Karl Van Roy meets with constituents to discuss hospital and health care issues.



Karl Van Roy with Paul Jadin, local officials, and Shopko employees at the Grand Opening of the new Shopko in Suamico.

STANDING UP FOR TAXPAYERS

Child care tax deduction: Passed a law allowing parents to deduct employment-related child and dependent care expenses providing \$16 million in tax relief when fully phased-in.

Social Security & Retirement Income: Effective this year, Social Security income is fully exempt from state income tax, saving seniors \$145 million over the next two years. Also, we created a \$5,000 per person retirement and pension income tax exemption for eligible low-income filers, saving another \$5.5 million annually.

Property tax freeze: Passed a law implementing a two-year freeze on property taxes at 2% each year on local government in order to make Wisconsin a more affordable place to own a home.

Rejected Oil Tax: Defeated a proposal to create a new oil tax estimated to raise gas prices 7 cents per gallon. With gas over \$3.50 per gallon, consumers can't afford policies that would increase gas prices.

Rejected In-State Tuition for Illegals: Defeated a proposal to extend in-state tuition to illegal aliens in our colleges and tech schools. With higher education costs continuing to increase, Wisconsin citizens should not have to subsidize those here illegally.

Transportation Aids & Highway Development: Passed a law increasing transportation aids and maintenance funding to assist local governments with paying for local road construction, improvement, maintenance, and repair. Also increased funding for major highway development to account for increased costs and needed improvements to our highway infrastructure.

GROWING THE ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS

Meat Processing Facility Investment Credit: Voted in favor of providing a tax credit to meat processing establishments if they upgrade or invest in their facilities, thereby infusing cash into the local economy. *(Senate failed to act)*

Capital Gains Reinvestment: Voted in favor of eliminating the tax on capital gains up to a certain amount, as long as the money is reinvested in Wisconsin businesses with fewer than 500 employees, to create job growth and greater tax revenue for our state. *(Senate failed to act)*

Innovation Tax Credits & Research & Development Tax Credits: Voted in favor of tax credits for businesses that invest in innovation and new technology, as well as those that purchase machinery and equipment for research in manufacturing or biotechnology. New ideas help to retain employees, keep Wisconsin competitive in the global marketplace, and increase employment opportunities, especially in better paying, high-tech jobs. *(Senate failed to act)*

Angel Investment Tax Credit Expansion: Voted for expanding this successful program which encourages investors to back Wisconsin start-up companies and entrepreneurs to create more job opportunities. *(Senate failed to act)*

Education Tax Credit: Voted for a tax credit to encourage businesses to invest in their workforce by paying the higher education tuition costs of their employees in order to be more competitive in the global marketplace. *(Senate failed to act)*

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

Great Lakes Compact: Passed a law joining a multi-state compact to protect Great Lakes water from being pipelined or bottled and shipped to other states or nations.

Stewardship: Passed a law reauthorizing the Stewardship Program through 2020 to preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries. Included provisions for legislative oversight of land purchases and public access to land for hunting and fishing.

Nuclear Energy: Voted for lifting the ban on constructing new nuclear power plants to address our state's increased energy demands with a clean alternative energy solution in the face of skyrocketing costs. *(Senate failed to act)*

Water Quality: Passed laws increasing bonding to fight nonpoint water pollution as well as for the Clean Water Fund and Safe Water Drinking Program to help local governments update and replace water and wastewater systems.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

Crimes Against Children: Passed laws requiring life-time GPS monitoring to keep track of the worst child sex predators, and adding more special agents to catch child predators who exploit children through the internet.

Crime Lab: Passed a law funding 31 new DNA analysts to reduce caseload backlogs so crimes can be prosecuted in a timely fashion.



Karl Van Roy meets with Howard Elementary fourth graders.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

K-12 funding: Passed a law giving our schools the largest funding increase in our state's history, totaling more than \$12.3 billion in aid to ensure the best education for our kids.

Virtual Schools: Passed a law keeping online schools open as an alternative for over 3,000 students who have difficulty learning in a traditional setting due to medical conditions, behavioral problems, social concerns, or special needs.

College Tuition Tax Deduction: Passed a law expanding the individual income tax deduction on college tuition to cover mandatory student fees and to increase the maximum deduction amount to \$6,000.

Financial Aid: Passed a law increasing state financial aid to UW system and technical colleges so Wisconsin families can afford to send their kids to college.

Tuition & Fee Cap: Voted in favor of putting caps on in-state tuition and fee increases to help keep the cost of higher education down and within reach of Wisconsin families and students. *(Rejected by Senate and Governor)*

Preventing Gun Seizures: Passed a law protecting our Second Amendment rights during a state of emergency by preventing a government entity or law enforcement agency from confiscating legally-owned firearms and ammunition belonging to law-abiding citizens.

Prohibiting Sanctuary Cities: Voted in favor of prohibiting local governments from adopting policies forbidding their employees from asking about a person's immigration status when applying for government services or being stopped by law enforcement. *(Senate failed to act)*

GIVING BACK TO VETERANS

WI GI Bill: Passed a law allowing eligible veterans to receive full tuition remission at any UW System campus or technical college to show our gratitude for those willing to make personal sacrifices to serve their country. Benefits are also extended to spouses and children of disabled veterans or those killed in the line of duty.

Veterans Home Loan Program: Passed a law expanding this successful program which has already assisted 54,000 veterans with purchasing a home.

Disabled Veterans & Surviving Spouses Tax Credit: Passed a law expanding the property tax credit to cover 100% disabled veterans regardless of their age, veterans who are compensated due to an inability to work and unremarried surviving spouses who meet certain conditions.

Aid to Needy Veterans: Passed a law increasing aid to poor veterans to ensure they have dental, vision and hearing care.

Veterans Groups: Passed a law exempting tax on groups like VFW, DAV, and AMVETS who use funds to help veterans.



Karl Van Roy, UWGB Chancellor Bruce Shepard, Lt. Commander Mark Stewart of the Green Bay Navy Operational Support Center, and Ken Bull, President of UWGB Vets for Vets student organization at a reception honoring UWGB veterans.