

SUMMER SURVEY 2007

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE WIECKERT

Working to Get
Better Value
for Your Tax Dollars!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE WIECKERT
16 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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STEVE WIECKERT

SUMMER SURVEY 2007

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

2007 SUMMER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please place your completed survey in a stamped envelope and mail to:
Rep. Wieckert
P.O. 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Or complete ONLINE at www.steveusa.org
Click on "Surveys" in the menu.

Check here if you'd like a Wisconsin State Highway Map sent to you.

Check here if you'd like a Wisconsin Arts & Craft Fair Directory sent to you.

1st Reply

2nd Reply

1. What is the most important priority/concern for Wisconsin? (List reply in appropriate box on the right.)

<p>a. Reducing taxes</p> <p>b. Making healthcare more affordable</p> <p>c. Better and more available jobs</p> <p>d. Higher quality education</p>	<p>e. Improved law and order</p> <p>f. Better roads</p> <p>g. Other _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Is quality healthcare affordable for you and your family?

<p>a. Yes</p> <p>b. No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Do you favor a statewide smoking ban similar to the one Appleton currently has?

<p>a. Yes</p> <p>b. No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. Are you in favor of stricter or more lenient immigration laws?

<p>a. Immigration laws should be tightened</p> <p>b. Existing immigration laws should be better enforced</p> <p>c. Things are generally fine now</p> <p>d. Immigration policy should not be so strict</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Currently when a home is sold, a real estate transfer fee is charged. Governor Doyle's budget doubles this tax in order to help fund various government programs. In Appleton this would be an increase of about \$400 every time a resident sells their home. Do you support this increase?

<p>a. Yes</p> <p>b. No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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6. Some businesses that raise puppies treat these animals by what many veterinarians consider to be substandard conditions. Would you favor uniform statewide minimum standards for breeding puppies sold to the public?

<p>a. Yes</p> <p>b. No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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7. Many people have opinions about tax rates in Wisconsin. What do you think about the following taxes?

<p>INCOME TAX</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too High <input type="checkbox"/> Too High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too Low <input type="checkbox"/> Too Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable</p> <p style="font-size: small;">1st Reply 2nd Reply</p>	<p>PROPERTY TAX</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too High <input type="checkbox"/> Too High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too Low <input type="checkbox"/> Too Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable</p> <p style="font-size: small;">1st Reply 2nd Reply</p>	<p>SALES TAX</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too High <input type="checkbox"/> Too High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too Low <input type="checkbox"/> Too Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable</p> <p style="font-size: small;">1st Reply 2nd Reply</p>
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8. Rate Your Elected Officials

	Very Satisfied		Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied	
1. Governor Jim Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Congressman Steve Kagen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. State Senator Mike Ellis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. State Representative Steve Wieckert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

1ST RESPONDENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2ND RESPONDENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



CONTACT INFORMATION

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Housing
(Chair)

Joint Legislative Council
(Co-chair)

Health
Financial Institutions
Labor & Industry

STEVE WIECKERT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Neighbor,

Progress is being made at the State Capitol! This session has been marked by a very productive bipartisan effort from both sides of the aisle.

A landmark ethics reform bill, which I supported, became law through the leadership of Speaker of the Assembly Mike Huesch, Governor Jim Doyle, and Senator Mike Ellis. In addition, SeniorCare, which provides prescription drug assistance to over 100,000 seniors in Wisconsin, a program that I was the original Assembly author of at its start in 2001, was extended for another 2 ½ years at the urging of many of us at the state capitol, and especially through the efforts of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl.

The two issues that I am especially concerned about this session are taxes and health care. I would like to see Wisconsin citizens get better value for our tax dollar and reduce the amount of our citizen's income that goes to state and local taxes. In addition, health care needs to be made more affordable for families and small businesses alike. Fixing our health care system is crucial for our state. I personally believe it is vital to encourage healthier lifestyles among Wisconsin's residents, particularly with our children, imparting to them healthy living habits at an early age.

Solar power is an alternative energy source that has great potential and needs further development, especially in light of high energy costs. I have several proposals this session which will advance the development and use of solar energy (photovoltaics).

This newsletter contains an important questionnaire which I hope you will use to give me your advice and recommendations on a wide variety of issues. Please feel free to contact me at the capitol anytime. Better yet, I invite you and your family to stop in and see your office in the capitol at 16 West anytime you are in Madison.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your state legislator. It is both a high honor and a privilege for me.

Sincerely,

Steve Wieckert
State Representative

Come Visit Me at Our State Capitol

To arrange a free guided tour call 608-266-0382

Steve visits with a group of 4th graders from Richmond Elementary School in Appleton at the state capitol earlier this year.

The Need to Reduce State Debt

Wisconsin is a balanced budget state, yet because of our ability to bond for capital projects and because of a lack of spending restraint Wisconsin has accumulated a significant amount of debt. The size of Wisconsin's debt is \$5.69 billion. That is a great deal of money. The debt service, the interest and principle we pay on a yearly basis to pay for the debt, is \$525 million. This money is paid for out of Wisconsin's operating budget. In my opinion this is similar to credit card spending. If we did not have the debt, Wisconsin would have a better bond rating and the money freed from debt service could be used to establish a reserve fund, reduce unfunded mandates, adequately fund existing programs, and help to reduce Wisconsin's tax burden. AB 221, which I authored, requiring the governor to submit a balanced budget, is a step in the right direction.

"The National Taxpayers Union endorses AB 221 [authored by Rep. Wieckert] which would require the Governor to submit a balanced budget to the Legislature. Supporting sound and prudent budgeting is a key taxpayer goal. We applaud your efforts."

—National Taxpayers Union; May 29, 2007

Making Health Care More Affordable

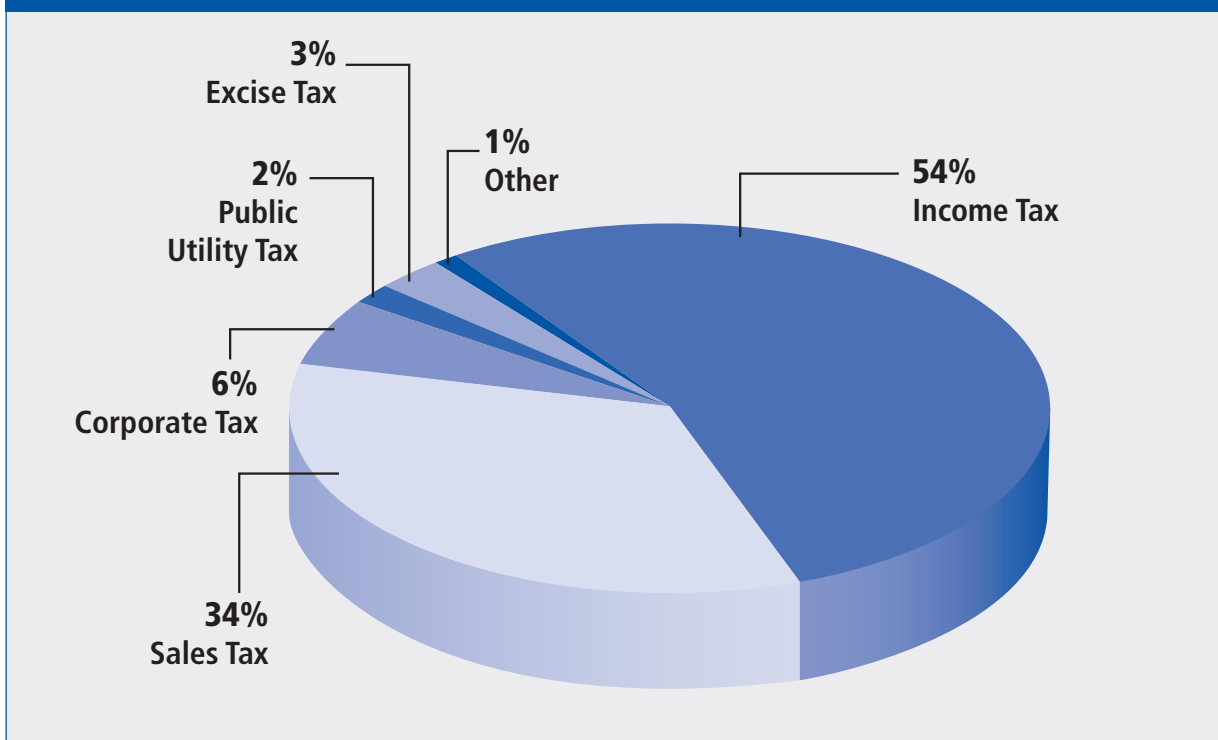
To help keep insurance costs low, a special patient compensation fund (PCF) for insurance claims has been created which is exclusively financed by assessments on doctors and other medical professionals. It works very well in reducing medical malpractice insurance premiums. This helps to hold down the cost of medical care and encourage doctors to practice in the state of Wisconsin. The Governor's proposed budget takes money out of this fund to use for other purposes. This would increase pressure to raise health insurance premiums. I am opposed to the raid of this fund and have introduced legislation to stop it (Assembly Bill 264).

"The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) supports Rep. Wieckert's proposal [Assembly Bill 264] to prohibit transfers of funds from the Injured Patients Compensation Fund. Raiding this fund is wrong. We applaud and enthusiastically support your efforts to protect it. This bill will serve a vital role in curbing the high costs of health care."

—Wisconsin Hospital Association; May 8, 2007

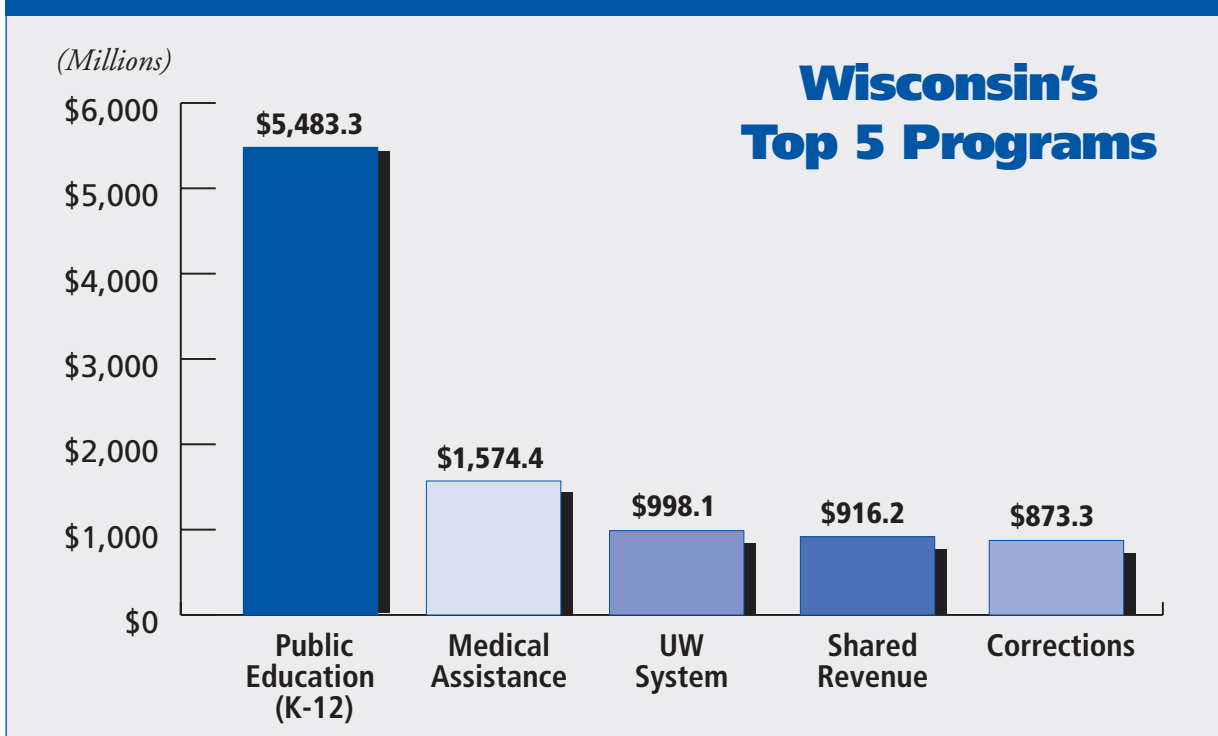
Wisconsin State Budget –\$58 Billion

Taxes—Where Does the Money Come From?



Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Spending—Where Does the Money Go?



Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Wisconsin's taxes are higher than they should be compared to the income our residents earn. This is why I am working to make Wisconsin more fiscally responsible and get better value for our tax dollars. This chart demonstrates the challenges.

	U.S. RANK	ABOVE/BELOW U.S. AVERAGE	AVERAGE WISCONSIN FAMILY
Total State & Local Tax	7	(+) 10%	\$7,090.60
Property Tax	8	(+) 27%	\$2,587.19
Income Tax	10	(+) 33%	\$1,828.91
Corporate Tax	13	(+) 9%	—
Sales Tax	31	(-) 8%	\$1,441.56
Gas Tax	7	(+) 62%	\$365.08
Personal Income (per capita)	22	(-) 4%	\$33,257.00
Wisconsin Median Family Income	17	—	\$58,647.00

Based on U.S. Census Bureau Statistics with Assistance from Wisconsin Fiscal Bureau.



Steve's Recent Legislative Achievements

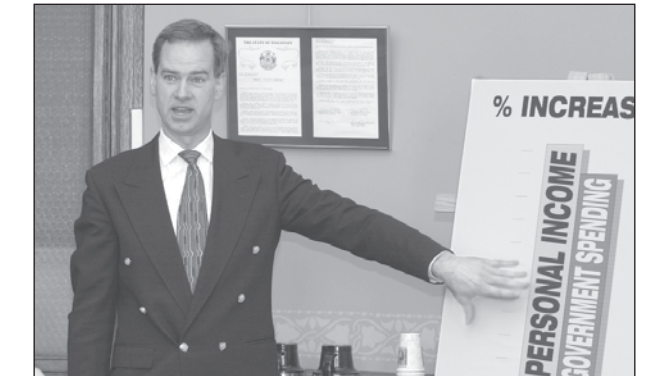
- 2007 Wisconsin Builders Association Legislator of the Year
- 2007 Wisconsin Insurance Alliance Outstanding Legislator of the Year
- 2006 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Legislator of the Year
- 2006 Outagamie County Conservation Club Appreciation Award
- 2006 Wisconsin Apartment Association Legislator of the Year Award
- 2006 UW—Hospitals Legislator of the Year Award
- 2005 American Legion Legislator of the Year Award

Steve's 2007 Legislative Initiatives

- AB 222** Helps returning veterans find jobs by offering an employment tax credit using existing state programs.
- AB 227** Reduces paper work and streamlines the process for home building industry professional certification.
- AB 263** Helps Volunteer Health Clinics by encouraging physicians to volunteer their time and protecting them against liability.
- AB 264** Reduces health care costs by creating a lock box for the Patient Compensation Fund to prevent raiding of this fund for unintended purposes.
- AB 265** Creates an integrated comprehensive brand image of Wisconsin to help attract new businesses and investment in Wisconsin.
- SB 150** Creates a statewide smoking ban in all indoor public places in Wisconsin.
- DRAFT** Animal protection legislation to help ensure that animals are not mistreated in "puppy mills."
- AB 63** Encourages veterans to visit school classrooms to talk with students.
- AB 64** Encourages more small individual campaign contributions to offset large corporate contributions.
- AB 65** Reduces education costs through a tax exemption for construction bonds for private colleges and universities.
- AB 66** Allows the Wisconsin Health & Educational Facility Authority to issue tax exempt bonds to help finance projects related to cultural facilities in our communities.
- AB 218** Establishes standards for companies that help families with personal financial management challenges.
- AB 221** Requires the Governor to submit a balanced state budget to the legislature.



To date, 13 states have enacted Wisconsin's "Cody's Law," originally authored by Representative Wieckert, which supports organ donation.



AB 1 was a bill authored by Steve in a past session to limit the rate of government spending. Over the last several budgets it would have saved taxpayers over \$800 million.



Taking good care of puppies and other animals is the right thing to do. Steve is actively working on ways to regulate the "bad actors" that run these puppy mills.

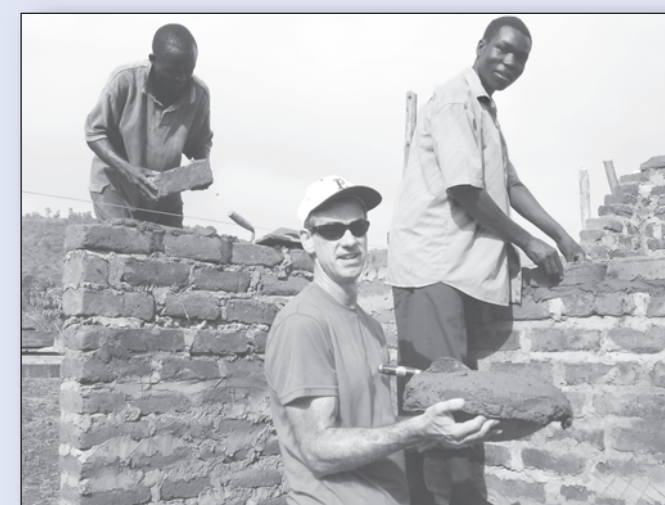
"Rep. Wieckert's legislation [Assembly Bill 66] would be beneficial to the growing cultural economy in Wisconsin and offer cultural institutions a needed stimulus and opportunity to drive their local impact further. This legislation will have a statewide benefit and know no boundaries in its impact for all citizens of Wisconsin. Please except this endorsement as an enthusiastic and strong voice of support for your bill."

—Susan Stockton, President, Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

"Common Cause in Wisconsin strongly supports Rep. Wieckert's measure [Assembly Bill 64] to encourage small individual contributions ... which will tend to replace the big special interest money. We urge passage of this measure yet this year."

—Jay Heck, President, Common Cause Wisconsin
February 7, 2007

Steve Helps With Humanitarian Efforts in Africa



Steve helps to lay bricks and mortar for a new home for a family in Tanzania, Africa. He visited Tanzania in January as part of a Habitat for Humanity group from the Fox Cities. The homes the Habitat volunteers built were made of solid brick, with wood floors, a big improvement over the usual mud huts with dirt floors in which most of the Tanzanian people live.



Steve and his Tanzanian guide unfurl an Appleton flag at the Uhru Peak on Mount Kilimanjaro to celebrate successfully reaching the summit. The Uhru Peak on Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest point in Africa at 19,340 feet above sea level in elevation. Steve climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania upon completion of the Habitat for Humanity home building project in January.