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Senator Mark Miller
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Legislative Update Spring 2008



MARK MILLER
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
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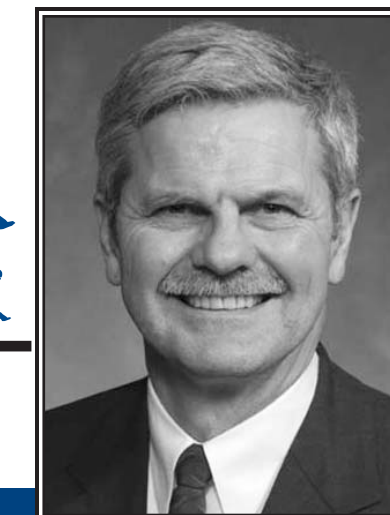
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MARK MILLER

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

16TH SENATE DISTRICT



Legislative Update Spring 2008

Around the 16th Senate District



Senator Mark Miller and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin participate in Stoughton's annual "Walk the Walk" celebration.



Senator Mark Miller celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Columbus Community Hospital with employees of the hospital which serves patients from around the area.



Senator Mark Miller participates in the annual "Send Your Legislator Down the River" event organized by the Rock River Coalition.



Senator Mark Miller visits with the students from Glendale Elementary on a recent trip to the State Capitol.

Protecting Wisconsin's Natural Resources

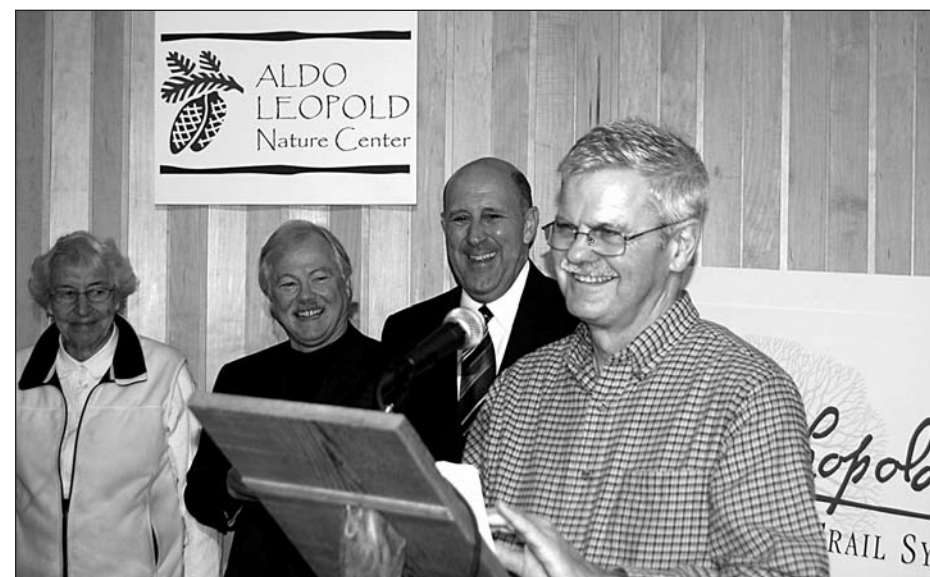
I am honored to serve as Chair of the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee. This session, the committee has been working on issues of great importance to the future of our natural environment - from Global Climate Change to the protection of our Great Lakes and recycling the flood of electronic waste in our landfills.

The Great Lakes Water Compact

With its adoption of legislation ratifying the Great Lakes Compact, the State Senate took a historic step in protecting Wisconsin's most valuable natural resources. Senate Bill 523 not only embraces Wisconsin's history of preservation and conservation of the lakes, but it also prevents the diversion of water from the lakes to other nations. Water is important to Wisconsin's economy and way of life. It will become even more important in the future. Despite the significance of protecting the Great Lakes, the Assembly chose not to adopt this legislation during the regular legislative session. I continue to work diligently to ensure the quick passage of a compact so the Great Lakes will be protected for future generations to come.

Wisconsin Conservationist Aldo Leopold Honored

This past November, legislation was signed to rename the state trail system the Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System. This is a fitting tribute to a Wisconsin hero and one of the founding fathers of the modern conservation movement. I am proud to have worked with the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Monona, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the Leopold family to honor the accomplishments of Aldo Leopold and help increase the visibility of his contributions to our state and country.



Dear Neighbor,

It has been my privilege to serve as your State Senator for the last three and a half years. During that time, I have tried to serve with respect for the office and with dedication and honor to the people who elected me.

During my term I have sought to address the most pressing issues facing our state head-on: health care reform; reducing poverty; protecting our natural resources; and growing Wisconsin's economy out of deficit. This has been an extraordinary challenge, but it has culminated in the State Senate's passage of the Great Lakes Compact, landmark health care reform legislation and corporate tax loophole reform. While I am confident that Wisconsin continues to be the best place to live, work and raise a family, much work remains to be done. I am excited to be in a position to pursue it.

Your input on the issues affecting you and your family helps me serve you better. I encourage you to stay in touch. Thank you for the honor of representing you in the 16th Senate District. As always, you can find additional information on my legislative website at <http://www.legis.wi.gov/senate/sen16/news/>.

Sincerely,

Mark Miller
State Senator
16th Senate District

Wisconsin's No Call List

Wisconsin's No Call List continues to be one of the strongest and most popular No Call programs in the country with more than 1.1 million phone lines registered. The service is free and phone numbers remain on the list for two years.

If it is time for you to renew your subscription to the list, visit <https://nocall.wisconsin.gov/> or call 1-866-9NO-CALL toll-free in Wisconsin.

Travel Wisconsin

With the spring and summer travel months quickly approaching, you and your family may be planning a trip. With soaring gas prices, you might be considering staying closer to home this year.

Fortunately, you're in luck! Wisconsin is home to 99 beautiful state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas as well as a number of National Parks. Each year there are more than 14 million visitors to these parks. For more information on Wisconsin travel destinations, visit www.travelwisconsin.com.

Free for the Asking

A limited supply of 2007-08 Wisconsin Blue Books, 2007 Wisconsin Highway Maps and "Fish Rulers" are available to you free of charge. Requests will be filled on a first come first serve basis and can only be given out until May 31, 2008.

You can also purchase American and Wisconsin flags through my office for \$13.00 and \$16.00 respectively. Both flags are 3x5 feet. Flags can be flown over the State Capitol in honor of a person you designate.

To request one or more of these items, contact my office at (608) 266-9170. After June 1, 2008, contact the Senate Chief Clerk's office at (608) 266-2517.

How to Contact Senator Miller

Write: Senator Mark Miller
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

Phone: 608-266-9170 or 1-877-862-4825
Email: sen.miller@legis.wi.gov
Web: www.legis.wi.gov/senate/sen16/news/

Legislative Achievements



Affordable Health Care for All

As medical debt threatens to become the leading cause of bankruptcy in Wisconsin, the lack of availability of affordable health care increasingly threatens our state's economic competitiveness and puts great strain on the budgets of working families. In the last legislative session, my colleagues and I in the State Senate passed Senate Bill 40, which included landmark legislation that would provide affordable health care coverage to all Wisconsin citizens regardless of income or preexisting conditions. Conversely, Republicans in the State Assembly chose not to adopt this legislation, and instead focused on providing ineffective tax breaks to those individuals who already have health insurance.

The "Final Rights" Act

Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, Assembly Bill 305, the "Final Rights" Act, will not only ease stress for loved ones who face difficult decisions with no final directives from a decedent, but it will also allow an individual the chance to make his or her decisions known in advance. More importantly, a decedent's choices would be legally binding, ensuring that those choices are carried out and that a decedent's final wishes are respected.

Electronic Waste Recycling

The State Senate approved Senate Bill 397, my legislation to ensure that discarded electronic equipment such as televisions and computers do not end up in our landfills. SB 397 also makes it easier for Wisconsinites to recycle their old electronic equipment. Recycling this waste will reduce toxins in our land-

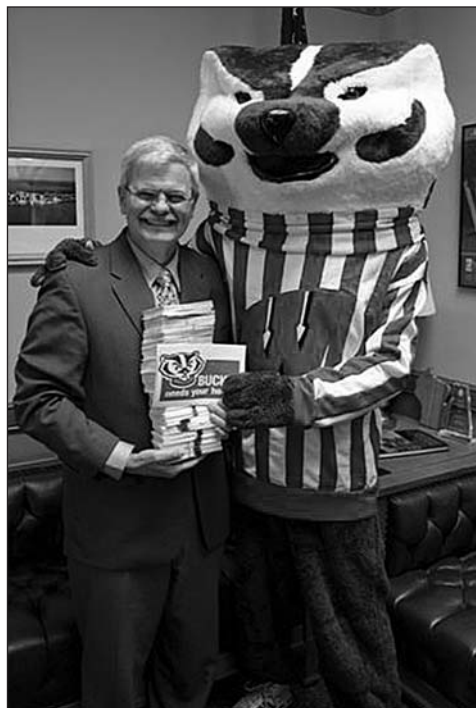
fills, create jobs in Wisconsin and reduce adverse health effects resulting from disposal of the equipment.

Subsidy Accountability and Reporting Act

After introducing the Subsidy Accountability and Reporting Act for three consecutive sessions, a similar bill gained the support of my colleagues in the Senate. My colleagues agreed with me that the taxpayers of this state have a right to know if the businesses that receive billions of dollars in tax breaks and subsidies are actually creating the well-paying jobs they said they would. Senate Bill 434 will ensure reports on those businesses' progress are available to the Legislature and to the public and will ensure that Wisconsin is getting the most "bang for its buck."

Campaign Financing and Ethics Reform

As special interest groups' influence on elections and on candidates continues to grow, the need for campaign finance reform has never been more present. While the Assembly chose not to address the growing problem, the Senate took on the special interests and passed meaningful reform that will return impartiality to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Senate Bill 171 reapplies the "one person, one vote" principle to Supreme Court races and ensures that money does not have a corrupt influence on Wisconsin's Supreme Court Justices by being publicly funded. While passage of this legislation is an important step, I will continue to press for more comprehensive campaign finance reform for all of Wisconsin's elective offices.



Sen. Mark Miller Appointed Co-Chair of Legislature's Budget Writing Committee

In October of 2007, I was appointed co-chair of the state's Joint Committee on Finance. It is an incredible honor to be entrusted by my colleagues with the responsibility of putting our state's fiscal house back in order. I consider it my highest priority to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens while ensuring that taxpayers are not unduly burdened.

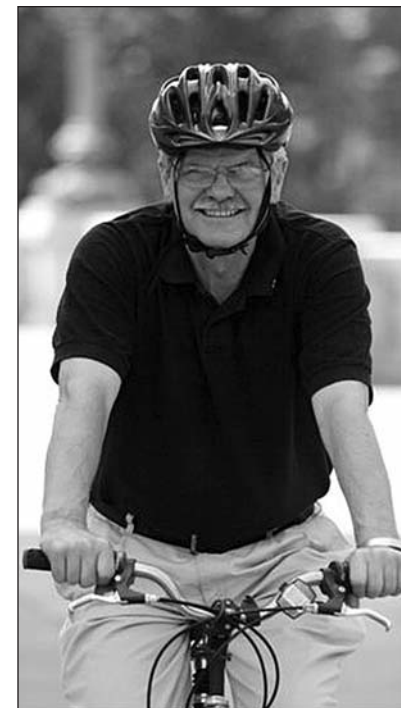
To ensure that those aims are achieved, we must bring fiscal sanity back to our budgeting process by ensuring that everyone pays their fair share. We must engage in belt-tightening and budget cutting, and we must not let multi-state corporations evade state law and abuse tax shelters in Las Vegas.

The Wisconsin that guarantees our kids get the highest quality education, our residents are not bankrupted by skyrocketing health care costs, our university system is strong and our entrepreneurs are innovating is the strongest Wisconsin. For that reality to continue, everyone – not just the few – must be part of the solution.

Moving One Step Closer to Health Care for All

One of the crowning achievements of the 2007-09 Biennial Budget was the enactment of BadgerCare Plus. BadgerCare Plus will provide quality, affordable health care coverage to more than 98,000 low-income children, parents, caretaker relatives, farmers and pregnant women in Wisconsin.

The enactment of BadgerCare Plus continues Wisconsin's national leadership in providing innovative and cost-effective health care solutions for children and families. BadgerCare Plus is cost-neutral and is funded through federal SCHIP dollars and patient premiums.



To find out whether you and your family qualify for health care benefits under BadgerCare Plus call **1-800-362-3002** or visit **access.wi.gov** online.

Other notable programs that were strengthened in the 2007-09 Biennial Budget that I was pleased to support this legislative session included:

- ◆ Expanded community-based care options for the elderly and disabled statewide through FamilyCare
- ◆ Funded child care subsidies for 32,000 working families
- ◆ Reauthorized Warren-Knowles Stewardship Land Preservation Program for 10 years
- ◆ Increased the Tipping Fee on garbage to discourage out-of-state trash from being dumped in Wisconsin
- ◆ Increased financial aid for needy students throughout the University of Wisconsin System
- ◆ Provided grants and loans for renewable energy projects statewide
- ◆ Increased special education funding to public school districts
- ◆ Protected revenue sharing agreements with local communities
- ◆ Expanded access to preventive cancer screenings for low-income women statewide

Senator Miller's Spring Survey

In order to best serve you, I would like to know your opinion on some important issues facing our state. Please take a moment to fill out this survey and mail it back to my office. If you prefer, I would be happy to e-mail you a copy of the survey. You can also find this survey and share your responses by visiting my website.

The following are some of the important issues being discussed by the Legislature. Please indicate next to each item whether you support or oppose it.

1=Strongly Support, 2=Somewhat Support, 3=Undecided, 4=Somewhat Oppose, 5=Strongly Oppose

Health Care

- 1 Open up the state health care plans used by state employees and legislators to provide a standard package of benefits to all Wisconsin residents, which cannot be taken away if you lose your job, change employers, or have coverage denied because of pre-existing conditions.
- 2 Ensure that insurance companies provide coverage for mental illnesses such as depression or drug/alcohol dependency at the same level as physical illnesses.

Education

- 3 Expand the state sales tax to apply professional services to remove all local school funding from property taxes.
- 4 Guarantee admission at a UW school for student residents who maintain at least a B average, stay out of trouble and want to go to college.

Environment

- 5 Establish an electronic waste recycling program in Wisconsin so manufacturers take responsibility for proper disposal, residents have recycling options and our environment is not threatened by toxic electronic material in our landfills.
- 6 Implement legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emission to help address global warming.

Economy

- 7 Close corporate tax loopholes that allow large corporations to avoid paying any state taxes by attributing profits earned in Wisconsin to out-of-state subsidiaries, which increases the tax burden on the average Wisconsin resident.
- 8 Reinstate the tax that only affects estates valued at over \$1.5 million, which prevents programs for our children and elderly from being cut.

Other

- 9 Reduce the influence of special interests in campaigns for the Wisconsin Supreme Court by providing full public financing.
- 10 Work to repeal the ban on abortion currently in our statutes to ensure abortion continues to be safe and legal in Wisconsin in the event that Roe vs. Wade is overturned. Currently the only exemption is when a woman's life is in danger.

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