



State Representative Dan LeMahieu Presents

# THE LEMAHIEU REPORT

News & Notes from the 59th Assembly District

## HERE COME THE DEMOCRAT'S TAXES

Remember a few months ago when I was warning all of you about the taxes in the Democrat's Budget? Governor Doyle and the Democrats passed a budget that they said protected the middle class.

Let's not forget the doubling of the garbage tax, a new tax when you go to the hospital, an increased tax on seniors in nursing homes, the coming increase in your property taxes and others. These tax increases allowed the Democrats to increase spending in the state budget by more than 6 percent. But starting September 1st you will be paying a new tax thanks to the Democrats in Madison.

The budget also included a \$107 million phone tax. You might think that won't affect me. Governor Doyle said I was protected, I'm middle class. Think again. If you have a land line, an Internet connection and one or more cell phones you will pay 75 cents per month per line.

As usual business and industry here in Wisconsin, who are struggling through our current economic recession, will be the main targets, especially our small businesses that have many more lines.

So now we are going to pay more to talk to our family and friends and conduct business. Ask Governor Doyle and the Democrats in the legislature how that protects the middle class.

Take a look at your current phone bill and take note of all the taxes and fees you already pay. This new tax is called the "Police and Fire Protection Fee". We are told this is going to help protect us through police and fire services. What is really happening is this tax is going to be put into

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the local government aid program. It will replace general fund dollars that will then be used to create new government jobs and fund new programs. In the private sector this is called “bait and switch”.

This is another example of Madison budgeting and the lack of honesty in where your tax dollars are really going.

### **FALL FLOOR SESSION**

This summer committees have been holding public hearings on legislation for this fall’s floor session. Let me give you a few examples of bills that have had public hearing in my committees.

#### **AB353**

This bill would restore the right to vote to certain persons barred from voting as a result of a felony conviction. Currently a convicted felon cannot vote until he or she has totally served their sentence. That includes any probation time or state supervised time. This bill would allow convicted felons to vote once their time of incarceration is finished. So they could be out on parole, under electronic surveillance and vote.

#### **AB66**

This bill deals with the pricing of retail sales of alcohol beverages. Currently it is legal to offer unlimited drinking for a set fee. This bill require there to be a fixed amount of alcohol for a fixed price. This would only involve a retail establishment and not parties run by individuals or groups.

#### **AB67**

This bill would require total sobriety for any person serving alcohol. This would include bartenders and managers but also those working in wineries and small breweries that are giving tours and samples while at the same time ensuring the quality of the product they are making.

#### **AB106**

This bill would eliminate the ability of a parent or guardian to take an underage child into a licensed premises to consume alcohol. Currently it is up to the bar or restaurant

to determine if they will serve that minor in the presence of the parent or guardian.

### **NR115**

This is a rule change dealing with shoreland zoning. This rule change is a major overhaul of shoreland zoning that has been in the works for a number of years. The DNR is proposing changes and the legislature has a small window of time to reject or ask for changes to the rule. If no changes are asked for the rule automatically goes into effect. This rule deals with what you are allowed to do with property along a river, lake or any navigable waterway. This includes landscaping, construction, remodeling, etc. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee will hold a public hearing next Wednesday, September 2nd on this rule. Contact my office if you interested in testifying about this rule or would like more information about the rule.

These are just a few of the pieces of legislation that could be brought for votes this fall. I am a strong proponent of smaller government and less intrusion of that government into the lives of individuals and private businesses. I believe in parents and businesses being in control, not government. Some of these bills may seem logical but continue down the road of total government control in our lives.

Whether it is helmets, seat belts, child car seats, smoking or alcohol consumption, what may seem like good common sense should be left up to the individual, not mandated by government.

Let me know your thoughts on some of these issues as we go forward. Your thoughts are important to me as I deal with these issues in the State Assembly.

### **SUMMER ENDS**

With school only days away and the last summer holiday next week you might wonder when we had summer. At least in Wisconsin the global warming folks had to stay pretty quiet this summer. I only have one county fair left of the five counties that my district includes. The Sheboygan County Fair will run next week over Labor Day weekend. Come and see me at the Republican booth on the west side of the grandstand. I always enjoy talking with you and

hearing your concerns about what government is or isn't doing. I work for you. I know based on my emails, phone calls and letters that more people are getting involved in what **THEIR** government is doing so I expect to see and hear from many of you next week.

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