



State Representative Dan LeMahieu Presents

THE LEMAHIEU REPORT

News & Notes from the 59th Assembly District

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

Two things remain constant in Wisconsin. Job losses continue to mount and the state legislature continues to do nothing about it.

I keep hearing about constituents losing their jobs, being cut back on hours worked or having their pay and/or benefits cut. The next question I get is, "What are you doing in Madison to help me?"

Sadly, the record of the Democratic controlled legislature is pathetic. After passing numerous job killing tax increases and regulatory mandates, the legislature has decided to ignore the recession we are in and pass things like making Juneteenth Day a state legal holiday or allowing visiting pro teams to run red lights on the way to sports venues.

The Republicans have tried to stop the tax increases but they all passed without a single Republican vote. In recent weeks people have gotten car insurance renewals that in some cases have doubled. Phone and garbage collection bills have come with additional increases due to increased taxes passed by the Democrats. And in a few months your property tax bills will come. I will let you decide if the increase you get on your bill is acceptable.

That is why people are becoming more and more upset with government at all levels. With the economy in recession the only thing that is growing is government. That is why protestors are going to the streets. Why Tea Parties are so well attended. Why people don't trust the promises that are given by politicians or the change that is taking place in our state and country.

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TEA PARTIES

Let me just say a few things about Tea Parties. I have observed three Tea Parties in Madison, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan. **The people I observed showed a love for our country, a respect for our representative democracy, a desire to maintain a capitalist country and a feeling that their voice is not being heard in Madison and Washington.**

Aren't those the principles that made our country great? A country of the people, by the people and for the people. A government formed to reward hard work by its free citizens, a government that should not impede a citizen's right to want to succeed in life and business.

I hear all these negative characterizations of those attending these protests. I won't repeat them. But I will tell you who I saw at the events I attended. Relatives, people I go to church with, people I see at the grocery store or post office, retirees and people who have contacted my office concerned about what is happening in Madison.

If you don't agree with policies in Madison or Washington you are not alone. You are a part of a growing majority that has said enough is enough! You are not an extremist, anti-American or any of the other derogatory names being used. You want your country back and I agree. Your voices need to be heard.

FALL SESSION

The Assembly has been on the floor to vote on legislation three days in the last two weeks. Now we will not be on the floor until at least October 20th. What legislation did the Democratic controlled Assembly bring to the floor those three days?

Important issues like requiring 5 year olds to attend kindergarten, requiring certain high school agriculture courses to be counted as science credits, how to file a document with the register of deeds, making Juneteenth Day a legal holiday, suggesting we not use the term swine flu, continuity of government during a disaster, vehicle stops at railroad crossings, proclaiming October as Italian-American month, permitting a mother to breast feed in public and private.

These are just a sampling of the more than 50 bills that were voted on those three days. We did take up the siting of wind turbines, sending you to prison after the 4th drunk driving offense and the appointment of the DNR Secretary. Some of these bills have not passed the Senate yet and could still change depending what the Senate passes.

As these bills continue through the process of both houses and Governor Doyle's signature or veto I will let you know what form actually becomes law.

One of the things I am sure of. None of the 50+ bills passed the last two weeks did anything to create or maintain jobs in Wisconsin. **That needs to be our #1 priority.** We can't continue to put off efforts to give incentives to businesses to keep their jobs in Wisconsin or create new jobs in Wisconsin. We must actively pursue companies either our own, or other companies that are looking to relocate to bring their jobs and industry to Wisconsin. States to the South like Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Alabama are all surviving the recession and some are thriving during these tough times because their state government has figured out that the best way to keep their economy going is bring industry to their state however possible. Industry brings jobs, money, and a steady tax base. We must follow our neighbor states to the south to help Wisconsin through these tough economic times. Green jobs and green industry is good and I support it, **however during these economic times with jobs on the line and families working from paycheck to paycheck, the only green government should be worried about right now is the GREEN IN YOUR WALLET.**