

WAPA Legislative Update
By Steve Hiniker
1000 Friends of Wisconsin

January 5, 2009

These legislative updates and other related information are on the WAPA website's [Law and Legislation](#) page for members to access and continue to personally track the bills that they are interested in following more closely.

2009-2010 Biennium

The 2009-2010 legislative biennial session began on January 5 with Democrats taking control of both houses of the legislature for the first time since 1994. Democrats also control the governor's office, meaning that for the first time in 22 years one party controls both the legislative and legislative branches of government.

Composition of the 2009 Wisconsin Legislature

Senate

- 18 Democrats, 15 Republicans
- No seats switched parties; no incumbents were defeated
- There will be two new senators
- There will be seven women in the senate, one fewer than in the 2007 Session.

Assembly

- 52 Democrats, 46 Republicans, 1 Independent
- Five seats switched from Republican to Democrat; one seat switched from Republican to Independent (Representative Jeff Wood, 67th District).
- Three incumbents were defeated: Frank G. Lasee (2nd District), J.A. Hines (42nd District), and Terry Moulton (68th District).
- There will be 14 new representatives.
- There will be 22 women in the assembly

Legislative Leadership for 2009

Republicans and Democrats met in caucus in November to elect leaders for the 2009-2010 Legislative Session. The results are listed below.

Senate Democrats

- President: Senator Risser
- President Pro Tempore: Senator Kreitlow
- Majority Leader: Senator Decker

- Assistant Majority Leader: Senator Hansen
- Caucus Chair: Senator Lehman
- Caucus Vice Chair: Senator Vinehout

Senate Republicans

- Minority Leader: Senator Fitzgerald
- Assistant Minority Leader: Senator Grothman
- Caucus Chair: Senator Leibham
- Caucus Vice Chair: Senator Harsdorf

Assembly Democrats

- Speaker: Representative Sheridan
- Speaker Pro Tempore: Representative Staskunas
- Majority Leader: Representative Nelson
- Assistant Majority Leader: Representative Seidel
- Caucus Chair: Representative Barca
- Caucus Vice Chair: Representative Toles

Assembly Republicans

- Minority Leader: Representative Fitzgerald
- Assistant Minority Leader: Representative Gottlieb
- Caucus Chair: Representative Suder
- Caucus Vice Chair: Representative Kleefisch

Legislative Committees

2009 JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Assembly Democrats

- Rep. Mark Pocan, co-chair
- Rep. Pedro Colon, vice chair
- Rep. Cory Mason
- Rep. Jennifer Shilling
- Rep. Gary Sherman
- Rep. Tamara Grigsby

Assembly Republicans

- Rep. Robin Vos
- Rep. Phil Montgomery

Senate Democrats

- Sen. Mark Miller, co-chair
- Sen. Dave Hansen, vice chair
- Sen. Lena Taylor
- Sen. John Lehman
- Sen. Judy Robson;
- Sen. Julie Lassa

Senate Republicans

- Sen. Alberta Darling
- Sen. Luther Olsen

Other Committees

Senate:

Agriculture and Higher Education - Chair: Vinehout, Kreitlow, Plale, Harsdorf, Kapanke

Children and Families, and Workforce Development - Chair: Jauch,, Lassa, Vinehout, Kedzie, Hopper

Commerce, Utilities, Energy and Rail - Chair: Plale, Wirch, Erpenbach, Krietlow, Cowles, Harsdorf, Kedzie

Economic Development - Chair: Lassa, Lehman, Vinehout, Kreitlow, Kanavas, Darling, Leibham

Education - Chair: Lehman, Vice Chair: Jauch, Erpenbach, Hansen, Olsen, Grothman, Hopper

Environment - Chair: Miller, Jauch, Wirch, Kedzie, Olsen

Ethics Reform and Government Operations - Chair: Risser, Robson, Kreitlow, Ellis, Lasee

Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief and Revenue - Chair: Erpenbach, Vice Chair: Carpenter, Robson, Lassa, Lazich, Kanavas, Darling

Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform and Housing - Chair: Taylor, Vice Chair: Sullivan, Erpenbach, Grothman, Hopper

Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs - Chair: Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, Lasee, Grothman

Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Job Creation - Chair: Carpenter, Coggs, Vinehout , Schultz, Kapanke

Rural Issues, Biofuels and Information Technology - Chair: Kreitlow, Jauch, Holperin, Kapanke, Kanavas

Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Technical Colleges and Consumer Protection - Chair: Wirch Plale, Holperin, Hopper, Lazich

Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources - Chair: Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie, Grothman

Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology and Financial Institutions - Chair: Sullivan, Coggs, Carpenter, Leibham, Kanavas

Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules - Co-Chair: Holperin, Lehman, Risser, Grothman, Cowles

Joint Legislative Audit Committee - Co-Chair: Vinehout, Jauch, Miller, Cowles, Lazich

Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties - Co-Chair: Taylor, Erpenbach, Sullivan

Joint Committee on Employment Relations (all Ex-Officio) - Co-Chair: Risser, Decker, Miller, Fitzgerald

Joint Committee for Information Policy and Technology - Co-Chair: Kreitlow, Jauch, Miller, Cowles, Leibham

Joint Legislative Council (Risser, Carpenter, Decker, Miller are Ex-Officio) - Co-Chair: Risser, Carpenter, Decker, Miller, Coggs, Robson, Schultz, Harsdorf

Joint Committee on Legislative Organization (all are Ex-Officio)- Co-Chair: Risser, Decker, Hansen

Joint Committee on Retirement Systems - Co-Chair: Wirch, Carpenter, Schultz

Joint Committee on Tax Exemptions and Tax Credits - Co-Chair: Erpenbach, Decker, Ellis

Special Committee on Oversight of Senate Broadcasting - Co-Chair: Kreitlow, Erpenbach, Miller, Fitzgerald, Lasee, Leibham

Building Commission - Plale, Risser: 1/5/09 thru 1/5/10, Kreitlow: 1/6/10 thru end of session

Assembly:

Aging & Long Term Care: Krusick, chair; Roys, two vacancies; *Rhoades, Townsend, Petersen.*

Agriculture: Vruwink, chair; Radcliffe, Garthwaite; Jorgensen, Molepske, Danou; *Al Ott, Nerison, Murtha, Tauchen, Brooks.*

Children & Families: Vacancy; Grigsby; Pope-Roberts; Sinicki; Berceau; *Kestell, Pridemore, Spanbauer.*

Colleges & Universities: Hixson, chair; Smith, Black, Cullen, Soletski, Hintz, Berceau; *Nass, Rhoades, Townsend, Gottlieb, Ballweg.*

Consumer Protection: Hintz, chair; Soletski; Hixson, Pope-Roberts, Roys; *Lothian, Gundrum, Kleefisch, Spanbauer.*

Corrections & the Courts: Parisi, chair; Benedict; Seidel, Kessler; Pope-Roberts; Zigmunt; *Van Roy, Gundrum, Kestell, LeMahieu, Brooks.*

Criminal Justice: Turner, chair; Kessler; Staskunas; Hraychuck; Soletski; Pasch; *Kleefisch, Friske, Kramer, Brooks, Ripp.*

Education: Pope-Roberts, chair; Dexter; Hilgenberg; Sinicki; Hixson; Smith; Krusick; Radcliffe; *Davis, Nass, Townsend, Vukmir, Nygren.*

Education Reform: A. Williams, chair; Sinicki; Fields; Cullen; Young; *Pridemore, Vukmir, Jim Ott.*

Elections and Campaign Reform: Smith, chair; Soletski; Kessler; A. Williams; Roys; *Stone, Pridemore, Roth.*

Energy & Utilities: Soletski, chair; Zepnick; Staskunas; Richards; Steinbrink; Parisi; Zigmunt; *Huebsch, Montgomery, Honadel, Petersen, Zipperer.*

Financial Institutions: Fields, chair; Smith; Barca; Zepnick; Hixson; Garthwaite; *Newcomer, Kaufert, Huebsch, Davis, Kramer.*

Fish & Wildlife: Hraychuck, chair; Milroy; Molepske; Steinbrink; Turner; Danou; *Gunderson, Suder, Williams, Jim Ott.*

Forestry: Sherman, chair; Clark; Milroy; *Friske, Mursau.*

Health & Healthcare Reform: Richards, chair; Roys; Benedict; Shilling; Vruwink; Seidel; Pasch; Schaber; *Vukmir, Rhoades, Stone, Strachota, Nygren.*

Homeland Security & State Affairs: Kessler, chair; Young; Pope-Roberts; Roys; Ballweg, Kleefisch, Knodl.

Housing: Young, chair; A. Williams; Pasch; vacancy; Roth, Newcomer, Murtha.

Insurance: Cullen, chair; Molepski; Ziegelbauer; Parisi; Berceau; Hebl; Nygren, Suder, Vos, Roth.

Jobs, Economy & Small Business: Molepske, chair; Schaber; Fields; Hintz; Barca; Krusick; Benedict; Toles; Zipperer, Friske, Van Roy, Williams, Strachota.

Judiciary & Ethics: Hebl, chair; Colon; Kessler; Cullen; Richards; Turner; Gundrum, Kerkman, Kramer, Zipperer.

Labor: Sinicki, chair; Van Akkeren; Jorgensen; Benedict; Parisi; Toles; Honadel, Nass, Knodl.

Natural Resources: Black, chair; Danou; Molepske; Steinbrink; Hraychuck; Hebl; Mason; Milroy; Clark; Jim Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, LeMahieu, Mursau, Nerison.

Personal Privacy: Schneider, chair; Vruwink; vacancy; vacancy; vacancy; Suder, Meyer, M. Williams.

Public Health: Benedict, chair; Pasch; Dexter; Schaber; Strachota, Vukmir, Newcomer.

Public Safety: No Democratic Appointments Announced; Bies, Al Ott, Nerison.

Renewable Energy & Rural Affairs: Jorgensen, chair; Hilgenberg; Radcliffe; Garthwaite; Smith; Dexter; Danou; Wood; Tauchen, Petrowski, Lothian, Ballweg, Davis, Ripp.

Rural Economic Development: Garthwaite, chair; Jorgensen; Hraychuck; Clark; Dexter; Wood; Meyer, Davis, Nerison, Murtha.

Tourism, Recreation & State Properties: Van Akkeren, chair; Clark; Schneider; Hraychuck; Hilgenberg; Kaufert, Bies, Van Roy, M. Williams.

Transportation: Steinbrink, chair; Zigmunt; Vruwink; Garthwaite; Fields; Schaber; Sinicki; Petrowski, Al Ott, Stone, Bies, Ripp.

Urban & Local Affairs: Berceau, chair; Van Akkeren; Ziegelbauer; Hintz; Parisi; LeMahieu, Gottlieb, Spanbauer.

Veterans & Military Affairs: Hilgenberg, chair; Schneider; Turner; Hubler; Sinicki; Milroy; Petersen, Petrowski, Townsend, Meyer.

Ways & Means: Ziegelbauer, chair; Hebl; Steinbrink; Zepnick; Toles; Wood; *Kerkman, Nass, Lothian, Knodl.*

Workforce Development: Toles, chair; Hintz; Seidel; Zepnick; Hixson; *Mursau, Kestell, Honadel, Tauchen.*

Joint Administrative Rules: Zepnick, chair; Hubler; Hebl; *LeMahieu, Gunderson.*

Joint Audit: Barca, chair; Pocan; Jorgensen; *Kramer, Kerkman.*

Joint Finance: Pocan, chair; Colon; Mason; Shilling; Sherman; Grigsby; *Vos, Montgomery.*

Joint Retirement: Hubler, chair; Ziegelbauer; *Gottlieb*

Joint Tax Exemptions: Hubler, chair; Cullen; *Zipperer*

Legislative Council: Schneider, chair; Sheridan; Nelson; Staskunas; Pocan; Berceau; Black; *Fitzgerald, Vos, Kaufert, Ballweg.*

Rules: Nelson, chair; Sheridan; Staskunas; Seidel; Barca; Richards; Shilling; *Fitzgerald, Gottlieb, Suder, Kleefisch, M. Williams.*

Regional Transit Authority Legislative Council Study Committee

The last meeting of the RTA study committee was to have been November 13, however, study committee co-chair Representative Al Ott unexpectedly cancelled the meeting and has not called another meeting since. Legislative Council leadership is expected to make an announcement regarding the committee and a potential schedule in the near future.

Legislative Calendar

2009-10 Session Schedule

■ - Session Day □ - Bills sent to Governor

JANUARY 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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JULY 2009						
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FEBRUARY 2009						
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SEPTEMBER 2009						
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APRIL 2009						
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OCTOBER 2009						
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DECEMBER 2009						
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2009-10 Session Schedule

■ - Session Day □ - Bill sent to Governor

JANUARY 2010						
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JULY 2010						
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FEBRUARY 2010						
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AUGUST 2010						
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SEPTEMBER 2010						
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OCTOBER 2010						
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24/11	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2010						
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						Veto review

NOVEMBER 2010						
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JUNE 2010						
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DECEMBER 2010						
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Monday, January 3, 2011 - Inauguration