

Wisconsin State Legislature

SENATE CHAIR
ALBERTA DARLING

317 East, State Capitol
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR
ROBIN VOS

309 East, State Capitol
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Joint Committee on Finance *100TH ANNIVERSARY 1911 - 2011*

March 25, 2011

Senator Bob Jauch
Room 415 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Tamara Grigsby
Room 307 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Lena Taylor
Room 20 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Jennifer Shilling
Room 306 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senators Taylor & Jauch; Representatives Shilling and Grigsby,

Thank you for your letter regarding the upcoming public hearings to discuss the provisions of the Wisconsin State Budget.

We could not agree more that it is imperative that we continue the tradition of public hearings on the budget. As co-chairs, we both are committed to openness and transparency in government and believe it is our duty to provide opportunities for public input.

This should be completely obvious as we just held a 17-hour public hearing in the Joint Finance Committee – the longest one in modern history – on the budget repair bill. As you know, this was a major departure from the precedent set by your party in 2009 when a budget repair bill containing billions in tax increases was introduced and passed in three days with absolutely no public input.

With that, we announce today that we will be holding public hearings in the following cities:

April 7: Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Lee S. Dreyfus University Center
Melvin R. Laird Room (Room 230)
1015 Reserve St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

April 8: Minong
Minong High School Auditorium
N14463 Highway 53
Minong, WI 54859

April 11: Milwaukee
Wisconsin State Fair Park
Expo Center, Hall A
8200 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

April 13: Arcadia
Arcadia High School Auditorium
756 Raider Dr
Arcadia, WI 54612

As you can see, we are honoring your request to hold a hearing in Milwaukee and also in northwestern Wisconsin. Additionally, we have taken steps to schedule hearings in geographically diverse locations throughout the state to allow for maximum input from citizens in both urban and rural areas.

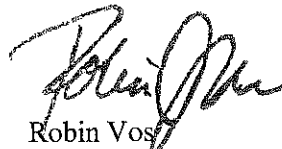
We intend to finish the budget no later than June 30. This timeline will require many days in April and May in the Joint Finance Committee to complete that task. Traditionally, the Joint Finance Committee would have begun the process of agency briefings and public hearings over a month ago, but because of the delay of passing the budget repair bill, we are forced to operate under a much tighter time schedule.

We look forward to working with you throughout the ongoing state budget process to pass a budget that has no tax increases, upholds our commitment to Wisconsin's most vulnerable, and sets us back on a path to fiscal stability that will allow for the creation of thousands of jobs for the residents of this state.

Sincerely,



Alberta Darling
State Chair



Robin Vos
Assembly Chair

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Joint Committee on Finance 100TH ANNIVERSARY 1911 - 2011

Notice of Public Hearings -- Week of April 4, 2011

The Joint Committee on Finance will hold public hearings, during the week of April 4, 2011, on the Governor's 2011-13 Biennial Budget (Senate Bill 27/Assembly Bill 40) -- according to the following schedule:

Thursday, April 7 (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)*

University of Wisconsin -- Stevens Point
Lee S. Dreyfus University Center
Melvin R. Laird Room (Room 230)
1015 Reserve Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Friday, April 8 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)*

Northwood School
The Richard's Auditorium
N14463 Highway 53
Minong, WI 54859


ALBERTA DARLING
Senate Chair


ROBIN VOS
Assembly Chair

**The Committee will conclude taking testimony at the time specified. Written comments can be emailed to the Committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov, or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.*

AD/RV/jm

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance

Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact Vicki Holten, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, One East Main Street, Suite 301, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 266-3847 • Fax (608) 267-6873 • Email: Fiscal.Bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov

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Joint Committee on Finance 100TH ANNIVERSARY 1911 - 2011

Notice of Public Hearings -- Week of April 11, 2011

The Joint Committee on Finance will hold public hearings, during the week of April 11, 2011, on the Governor's 2011-13 Biennial Budget (Senate Bill 27/Assembly Bill 40) -- according to the following schedule:

Monday, April 11 (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)*


Wisconsin State Fair Park
Expo Center, Hall A
8200 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214
(Enter Gate 4 for Parking)

[Sign language interpreters will be onsite at the Expo Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.]

Wednesday, April 13 (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)*

Arcadia High School
Auditorium
756 Raider Drive
Arcadia, WI 54612


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**The Committee will conclude taking testimony at the time specified. Written comments can be emailed to the Committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov, or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.*

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