

## Legislative Update – January 2011

Prepared for WSG by Conor Smyth, WTCS Policy Advisor

### 2011-13 LEGISLATURE

State Senate: 60-38 Republican Majority (+1 Independent)

Assembly: 19-14 Republican Majority

### 2011-13 LEGISLATORS BY WTCS DISTRICT

Paul Gabriel's WTC District Boards Association Web site includes a [useful listing](#) of Legislators based on the WTCS Districts they represent. Some WTCS Districts are represented by multiple Legislators, and some Legislators represent multiple WTCS Districts.

### 2011-13 LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

#### *Senate Republicans*

Senate President:	Mike Ellis
Senate President Pro Tem:	Joe Leibham
Majority Leader:	Scott Fitzgerald
Assistant Majority Leader:	Glenn Grothman
Caucus Chair:	Dan Kapanke
Caucus Vice-Chair:	Sheila Harsdorf

#### *Senate Democrats*

Minority Leader:	Mark Miller
Assistant Minority Leader:	Dave Hansen
Caucus Chair:	Julie Lassa
Caucus Vice-Chair:	Kathleen Vinehout

#### *Assembly Republicans*

Speaker:	Jeff Fitzgerald
Speaker Pro Tem:	Bill Kramer
Majority Leader:	Scott Suder
Assistant Majority Leader:	Dan Knodl
Caucus Chair:	Scott Gunderson
Caucus Vice-Chair:	John Murtha

#### *Assembly Democrats*

Minority Leader:	Peter Barca
Assistant Minority Leader:	Donna Seidel
Caucus Chair:	Kelda Helen Roys
Caucus Vice-Chair:	Fred Clark

## **2011-13 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES (Most Relevant to WTCS)**

First named member is committee chair, second is vice chair; Democrats are *italicized*.

### **ASSEMBLY**

#### **Colleges and Universities**

Reps. Nass, Knudson, Ballweg, Pridemore, Knodl, Farrow, Wynn, *Toles, Berceau, Molepske, Hintz.*

#### **Labor and Workforce Development**

Reps. Ballweg, Kapenga, Nass, Honadel, Kuglitsch, Litjens, *Sinicki, Toles, Parisi.*

#### **Jobs, Economy and Small Business**

Reps. M. Williams, Endsley, Stone, Kapenga, Klenke, Knilans, Kuglitsch, Loudenbeck, Petryk, *Molepske, Bernard Schaber, Fields, Toles, Krusick, Mason.*

#### **Education (K-12)**

Reps. Kestell, Marklein, Nass, Pridemore, Knudson, Thiesfeldt, Wynn, *Pope-Roberts, Sinicki, Hintz, Clark.*

#### **Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs**

Reps. A. Ott, Steinke, Petrowski, Murtha, Tauchen, Ripp, Krug, Larson, Rivard, *Danou, Jorgensen, Ringhand, Vruwink, Radcliffe, Roys.*

### **SENATE**

#### **Agriculture, Forestry and Higher Education**

Sen. Kapanke, Harsdorf, Kedzie, Moulton, *Vinehout, Hansen, Holperin.*

#### **Economic Development, Veterans and Military Affairs**

Sen. Hopper, Zipperer, Darling, Wanggaard, *Lassa, Taylor, Cullen.*

#### **Education (K-12)**

Sen. Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, *Jauch, Vinehout, Larson.*

#### **Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs**

Sen. Wanggaard, Grothman, Lazich, *Coggs, Wirch.*

#### **Workforce Development, Small Business and Tourism**

Sen. Moulton, Harsdorf, Cowles, *Holperin, Cullen.*

### **JOINT**

#### **Finance**

Sen. Darling, Olsen, Harsdorf, Grothman, Leibham, Hopper, *Taylor, Jauch.*  
Rep. Vos, Meyer, LeMahieu, Nygren, Strachota, Kleefisch, *Grigsby, Shilling*

## SPECIAL SESSION

Governor Walker called a special session of the Legislature that convened at 10 am, January 4, 2011, to consider legislation. The following bills – and others – are currently moving through Committee:

- Creation of an authority, to be known as the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and making appropriations;
- An income and franchise tax credit for small businesses; (LRB 0834/1)
- Income and franchise tax exemptions for new businesses, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority; ([LRB 0833/1](#))
- Adopting federal law as it relates to health savings accounts for state income and franchise tax purposes and providing a penalty; ([LRB0357/5](#))
- Requiring a supermajority for passage of tax increase legislation; ([LRB 0835/1](#))
  - The authority of a state agency to promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of a statute enforced or administered by the agency and to implement or enforce any standard, requirement, or threshold as a term or condition of a license issued by the state agency; gubernatorial approval of proposed administrative rules; economic impact analyses of proposed rules and emergency rules; and venue in a declaratory judgment action seeking judicial review of the validity of an administrative rule and in an action in which the sole defendant is the state; exemptions from water quality certification and wetland mitigation requirements for certain nonfederal wetlands that are less than two acres in size; requirements for wind energy systems, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority; and
  - Limiting noneconomic damages awarded in actions against long-term care providers; actions against manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and promoters of certain products; confidentiality of health care services reviews; use as evidence of information regarding health care providers; reporting of quality indicators identifying individual hospitals; homicide or injury by negligent handling of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire; criminal abuse of individuals at risk; criminal abuse and neglect of patients and residents; evidence of lay and expert witnesses; damages for frivolous claims; and punitive damage awards. ([LRB0388/1](#))

## STATE OF THE STATE

Governor Walker is expected to deliver his first State of the State address on January 25, 2011.

## INFORMATION UPDATES

For great advocacy tools and information, please make frequent visits to:

- Building the Next Generation at <http://www.buildingthenextgeneration.org/>

The legislative progress of particular bills changes literally by the minute. As a result, it is very difficult to provide point-in-time updates that are not inaccurate within a short period of time. Please check these two sites anytime for the most current information:

- The Wheeler Report at <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/>
- WisPolitics at <http://www.wispolitics.com/>