



## Unfinished Legislative Business and Election Preview May 12, 2016

5/17/2016

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## A Quick Look Back at the 2015-2016 Session



We had a good session.

Of the 53 bills the League supported, 31 were enacted into law. ***58% of bills we supported were enacted.***

Of the 17 bills we opposed, 5 were enacted. ***70% of the bills we opposed did not become law.***

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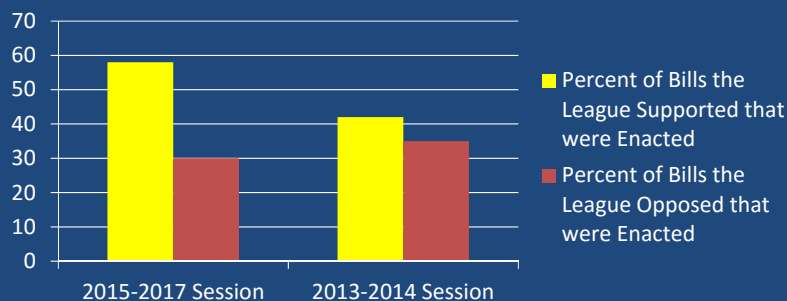
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## The Session by the Numbers



By comparison, in the 2013-2014 session 42% of the bills we supported became law while 65% of the bills we opposed did not become law.



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## A Few Good Bills Enacted into Law

Act 317, Charge-back of property tax refunds.

Act 392, Restoring \$3 million to the recycling grant program.

Act 219, Prohibiting persons from acquiring municipally owned land by adverse possession.

Four TIF Study Committee Bills

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## Unresolved Issues to Focus on next Session



- Fixing the shortfall in transportation funding.
- Dark store issue -- clarifying law regarding assessment of commercial properties like Walgreens and big box chains.
- Personal Property Tax
- Investing in replacement of underground infrastructure, including lead water laterals.

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## Unresolved Issues to Focus on next Session



- Creating other tools beyond TIF for financing public infrastructure necessary for private sector growth. (WRA very interested in this)
- Phosphorus – Financing municipal compliance and creating flexibility for obtaining compliance. Getting farmers to implement best practices for reducing run-off.
- Increase funding to Expenditure Restraint Program. Also, establish 2.5% floor on CPI for ERP purposes.

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## Unresolved Issues to Focus on next Session



- Exempt stormwater utility fees used exclusively for debt payments from levy reduction requirement.
- Full funding of Payment for Municipal Services Program.
- Restrict ability of newly incorporated communities to immediately acquire town remnant through annexation or boundary agreement.

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## Other Legislative Issues, Questions and Comments?



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## Political Landscape



- Governor Walker – *The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly*
  - *The Good*
    - Presidential bid now becoming ancient history, but Governor still in National spotlight
      - Vice Chair RGA
      - Chair of RGA in 2017
      - Vice President Consideration (?)
    - Recent polls show job approval trending upward:
      - 37% in September 2015
      - 43% in March 2016
      - If trend continues, competitive for 3<sup>rd</sup> term in 2018
    - Power of incumbency
      - Will author and introduce the 2017 Budget Bill
      - Still popular among GOP – Cruz defeated Trump in Wisconsin with Governor's Endorsement
      - Walker Appointee Supreme Court Justice Bradley won convincingly
      - "Bully Pulpit" on major issues, including Transportation, tax, etc.
  - *The Bad*
    - Approval still low at 43%
    - GOP Presidential primary forced him to the right on certain issues
  - *& The Ugly*
    - Presidential Race will be UGLY
    - "Trump Factor" – Straddling GOP nominee in a state where Trump performed poorly
    - Speaker Ryan and GOP nominee Trump currently at odds

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## Political Landscape: State Legislature



- State Senate has 33 members
  - 19 GOP & 14 Dem
- State Assembly has 99 members
  - 63 GOP & 36 Dem
  - GOP Majority is the largest since 1956
- Presidential Election year favors Democrats in Wisconsin
  - GOP has not carried Wisconsin since 1984 – Reagan
  - US Senate in Presidential year has not gone GOP since 1980

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## Legislative Leadership



- Senate Majority Leader – Sen. Scott Fitzgerald
- Assembly Speaker – Rep. Robin Vos
- Assembly Majority Leader – Rep. Jim Steineke
- Joint Committee on finance Co-Chairs
  - Rep. John Nygren
  - Sen. Alberta Darling

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## Political Landscape: Senate



- State Senate – 33 members (19 GOP – 14 DEM)
  - The 16 even numbered districts will be up for election in 2016 (Competitive districts underlined)
    - 8 GOP Senators Cowles(2); Darling(8); Gudex(18)\*; Harsdorf(10); Lazich(28)\*; Olsen(14); Stroebe(20); Tiffany(12)
    - 8 Dem Senators Hansen(30); Harris(6)\*; Lassa(24); Miller(16); Risser(26); Shilling(32); Taylor(4); Wirch(22)
  - \* Denotes Open Seat
- Presidential year typically favors Democrats, but Senate seats will likely not be greatly impacted

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## Political Landscape: Senate



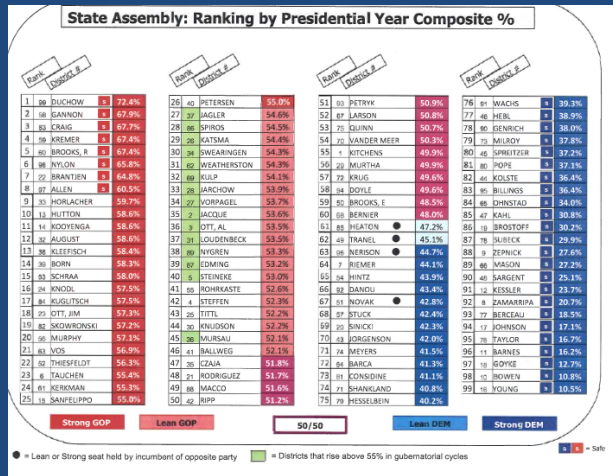
Presidential Election Cycle		# of seats	District Numbers	Current GOP	Occupancy DEM
Safe + Strong GOP = 7	Safe GOP	3	#20, #28	2	0
	Strong GOP	0	#8	1	0
	Lean GOP	4	#2, #12, #14, #18	4	0
	50/50	1	#10	1	0
Safe + Strong DEM = 8	Lean DEM	2	#30, #24	0	2
	Strong DEM	1	#32	0	1
	Safe DEM	5	#4, #6, #16, #22, #26	0	5
	TOTAL	16		8 GOP	8 DEM

## Political Landscape: Assembly



- State Assembly – 99 members (63 GOP – 36 Dem)
  - Democrats need a net of 14 seats to take majority
  - All Representatives are up for Re-election
  - Many Legislator Retirements / Open Seats:
    - Rep. Al Ott (R–Forest Junction) District 3
    - Rep. John Murtha (R–Baldwin) District 29
    - Rep. Dean Knudson (R–Hudson) District 30
    - Rep. Andy Jorgensen (D–Milton) District 43
    - Rep. Kahl (D–Monona) District 47
    - Rep. Tom Larson (R–Colfax) District 67
    - Rep. Dave Heaton (R – Wausau) District 85
  - Presidential Year typically favors Democrats
  - Luxury of GOP large majority allows for swing districts to not vote with majority at times

## Political Landscape: Assembly



## Political Landscape: "Unknowns"



- Impact of:
  - Straddling the "Trump Factor" down ticket
  - Sanders drop out / or runs as an independent
  - Redistricting map favor incumbents
  - Republicans \$ advantage
  - Local / Wisconsin issues