

# Government Affairs Task Force

November, 2008

## *What's happening at the state level?*

### **Debt in Wisconsin**

Debt Service: in 2006, Wisconsin state & local governments combined to spend 0.93% of income on debt service—10th highest in the nation

Long term Debt: higher levels of debt service tend to mean higher levels of underlying debt. Total long-term debt held by Wisconsin state and local governments equaled 20.7% of personal income (20th ranking) and \$6,808 per capita (23rd). Relative to income, outstanding state debt (10.9%, 18th) exceeded that of local government (9.8%, 28th).

### **Wisconsin Legislature**

- 10 states including Wisconsin have legislatures classified as 'full-time'
- Legislators in WI receive the ninth-highest salaries in the nation
- Wisconsin's legislature is smaller than those in 31 states. Its 132-member body falls below the national median (143). Due to its small number of legislators, each member represents an above average number of residents.

Source: WI Taxpayers Alliance

## **Where do I vote?**

There are four sites for polling purposes - you are required to vote in your district:

District 1: Colonial Club, 301 Blankenheim Ln

District 2: Patrick Marsh Middle School, 1351 Columbus St

District 3: Sun Prairie Public

Library, 1350 Linnerud Drive  
District 4: Prairie View Middle School, 400 Thompson Road. Polls are open from 7 am - 8 pm.

Register to vote in advance of the election! You can do so at the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 300 E Main St., M-F, 8am-4:30 pm; you

can also register at the Sun Prairie Public Library; download the registration application form: EB-131; you will also need form EB-138 or EB-139 if you were previously registered in another municipality.

## **Current Economic Development—focus of November Chamber Luncheon**

Join us on November 20th to learn more about economic development in our community—businesses, growth and development projects status. City Planner Scott Kugler will review pro-

jects overall and Economic Development Coordinator, Neil Stechsulte, will give an overview of the City Government plan for economic development.

*Details for the luncheon:*

**Thursday, November 20th**

Noon-1:30pm

RSVP with the

Chamber at 837-4547 or

[spchamber@verizon.net](mailto:spchamber@verizon.net)

## **Absentee Ballot Voting**

Absentee requests and voter registrations can be made at City Hall, or the request forms can be downloaded from the State Election Board Website. City of Sun Prairie residents may cast an absentee ballot at City Clerk's office up until the day before the election. Absentee ballots are available approximately 3 weeks prior to an election and you must have registered to vote. To receive an absentee ballot by mail, forward a written request for an

absentee ballot to the City Clerk's office, at 300 East Main Street. You may fax (608-825-6879) or e-mail your request, but you must also mail a written request for a ballot to the City Clerk post-marked the same day the fax or e-mail was sent. You may also request an absentee ballot using the State Election Board Form (EB-121). Your letter requesting an absentee ballot should include: \*The name of the voter requesting the ballot \* The voter's City

of Sun Prairie address \* Signatures of each registered voter requesting a ballot \*The address to which the ballot is to be sent (if different from the home address) The ballot will be mailed to you along with complete instructions and a postage paid return envelope. For more information, call the City Clerk's office at 608-837-2511. For more details about state election law, visit the State Elections Board at: <http://elections.state.wi.us>

## **'How to Run for Public Office' Workshop, October 21st**

We'll address the following during the workshop

- What steps do you take?
- What is the required paperwork?
- Challenges to expect
- Input from past office holders

- Considerations
- Time commitment
- And more!

**The workshop will address City of Sun Prairie offices as well as Sun Prairie School Board Offices.**

Call the Chamber office at 837-4547 or e-mail

[spchamber@verizon.net](mailto:spchamber@verizon.net) to register for the workshop.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 21st

**Time:** 4-5 pm

**Place:** City Hall, 300 E. Main St Community Room

**Cost:** None

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, October 20th