

Editorial

Publisher: Leccia and Associates, Inc.

Consultants: Allied Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association

Editor: Lucy Gibson

Managing Editor: GBD

Editorial Board: Lynette Wright, Susan Corrado, Jerome Dillard, Felicia Greer, Vivian Allen, Lina Trivedi, Carla Dawkins, Dianna Shinall, Jeanne Erickson

It has been said the winds of change are blowing.

We must do our part and make our voice heard.

Every vote counts - but it can't be counted if it is not cast. Polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm on Tuesday November 4th. As long as you are in line by 8 pm you will be able to vote after the polls close.

Be a friend, take a friend and vote!



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Please print this information taken from the Madison Metropolitan School District website.

It provides facts about the referendum that may be helpful to Your readers.

Thank-you,

School taxes lower than expected

Estimated tax on \$250,000 home to increase only \$22 by 2011-12

The Madison Metropolitan School District has announced that the school portion of the local property tax will be lower than anticipated in 2008-09.

The drop in the rate translates to an anticipated savings of \$67.50 in 2008-09 for a home assessed at \$250,000.

“What this means is that property tax rates will be lower because the overall district property values have increased more than we originally expected, while building the 2008-09 budget estimates,” according to Superintendent Dan Nerad.

“The referendum on November 4, 2008 is still necessary to avoid \$8.1 million of reductions to direct programs to students within the classroom for the 2009-10 school year,” according to Nerad. “This positive news simply reduces the school portion of individual property tax bills beginning in the 2008 tax year. The Madison School District would still need permission to go above state imposed revenue limits on property tax increases to meet increasing annual expenditures such as utilities, transportation, and employee compensation increases guided by state law.”

With a successful passage of a referendum on November 4, 2008 the Madison School District is committed to creating efficiencies or reducing services by \$3.1 million in the 2009-10 school year. This will be accomplished by planned cost saving measures and further financial strategies that will have the least impact on learning in the classroom.

Under the current funding formula in Wisconsin, the property tax levy is set by a state law referred to as the revenue limit formula. The total levy for the 2008-09 school year was approved to increase by \$6,039,802 or 2.74% over the prior year. Due to property values increasing at a higher rate than expected, residents within the school district boundaries will see a direct benefit as the property tax bill into the future. With a successful referendum passage for a home valued at \$250,000 in 2007-08 the total property tax bill is projected to increase \$22 by the 2011-12 school year.

A Common Goal: A Healthy and Growing Wisconsin Economy

by Governor Jim Doyle



If you are looking for a job or an employee, there is a new tool from the state of Wisconsin to help. At a time when more people are worried about the direction of the national economy, I am proud to launch JobCenterOfWisconsin.com, a free employment connection Internet site which will make it easier for employers and job seekers to make connections in Wisconsin.

The Internet-based site is free to both employers and job seekers and is available 24-hours a day. Job seekers can explore job opportunities from their home computers or at Job Centers, libraries or any other places with public Internet access.

The new Job Center of Wisconsin will benefit not only workers with several years of experience, but also those just starting out - whether they have an advanced degree or are just graduating from high school. Our goal is to help all workers find the best available job and to help employers easily locate the employees they need to grow their businesses.

Among the most significant improvements:

- o An easy, fill-in-the-blank feature helps job seekers create professional-looking resumes that can be saved, emailed or printed
- o Users may keep resumes confidential or make them available for search by employers
- o Employers can search for skilled employees through key search terms
- o Job seekers can find a list of job fairs and other employment and training events in their area
- o A toll-free help number connects callers with trained staff who can provide assistance and information about employment and training
- o The site has a user-friendly design with simple navigation.

Already we are seeing great results. Employers have posted more than 26,000 job opening on JobCenterOfWisconsin.com and thousands more are added every week.

JobCenterOfWisconsin.com replaces the state's JobNet system, which was created in 1993 and has become out-dated. A second round of upgrades will be added in December, including workshop sign-ups; wage, job trend and career information; and simplified methods for employers to save job postings. Users will also be able to view short demonstration videos that describe various careers.

Our common goal is a healthy and growing Wisconsin economy. That is why I urge you to visit

JobCenterOfWisconsin.com

to see for yourself the improvements we have made. And please help spread the word to your business associates. The more people use JobCenterOfWisconsin.com, the more effective it will be.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
JIM DOYLE, GOVERNOR

State Capitol Room 115 East, Madison, Wisconsin 53702
(608) 266-1212; FAX (608) 267-8983; governor@wisconsin.gov

Make sure your voice is heard. Every vote counts - Be sure to use yours!

VOICES Newspaper
Is Online
Please Check It Out
www.madisonvoices.com