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Rep. Born Votes to Cut Taxes, Invest in Key Priorities

State budget cuts taxes by \$1.5 billion, increases funding for K12, public safety, and transportation

Madison, WI—Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) voted in favor of a new two-year state budget that reduces taxes by \$1.5 billion dollars, delivers additional funding to K-12 schools, enhances public safety, and provides more money for local roads and state highways.

"This is a budget that works for Wisconsin," Rep. Born said. "Every community across our state will be impacted by the investments in K-12 education, public safety, and transportation, in addition to the reforms in this budget. I am proud of this compromise budget that cuts taxes by \$1.5 billion and invests in core services in our state.

"This budget cuts income taxes by \$1.5 billion by expanding the 2nd income tax bracket, exempting up to \$48,000 of retirement income, and eliminating the tax on residential natural gas and electricity. Legislative Republicans have worked tirelessly to make Wisconsin a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Our actions today in this budget will make our state a great place to retire, too.

"Between the actions of the Legislature and the built-in revenue limit authority increase caused by the 400-year veto, public schools will have over a billion dollars in new funding over the next two years. This includes over \$500 million for special education alone. This historic amount is set to raise reimbursement rates to 42% in the first year and 45% in the second year of the biennium, up from the current approximately 32%. The need for investment in this area is something that we heard from constituents across the state during listening sessions.

"Our budget action today demonstrates that investing in public safety is a top priority. Enhancing staffing at our district attorney offices and the office of the public defender, funding the Office of School Safety; and ensuring that victims of crime have access to critical services are all vital to helping our criminal justice system provide swift justice and support victims.

"Building our roads and bridges is a core function of government, and this budget invests significantly in our infrastructure while bonding less than proposed by Governor Evers. This budget responsibly invests in our roads and bridges to take care of our infrastructure, while not burdening our kids and grandkids with the cost.

"I am grateful to all of those who attended my local listening sessions, the statewide public hearings, and contacted my office to share their priorities, which are reflected in this budget. This compromise budget invests in key priorities and balances those with important governmental reforms," said Rep. Born.

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