



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Room 412 East, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin

April 26, 2006  
8:45 - 10:15 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the April 26, 2006 meeting of the Joint Legislative Council. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting and a copy of the registration form listing those who attended. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Alan Lasee and Rep. Steve Wieckert, Co-Chairs; Sens. Ronald Brown, Russell Decker, Glenn Grothman, Dan Kapanke, Fred Risser and David Zien; and Reps. John Ainsworth, Stephen Freese, Michael Huebsch, Dean Kaufert, Mark Pocan, Marlin Schneider and David Travis.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sens. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Miller, Judith Robson and Dale Schultz; and Reps. John Gard, Jim Kreuser and Ann Nischke.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Terry C. Anderson, Director; Laura Rose, Deputy Director; Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services; John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services; William Ford, Joyce Kiel, Mary Matthias, Mark C. Patronsky, Don Salm, Anne Sappenfield, Pam Shannon, Richard Sweet and Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorneys; Phil Cardis and Mary Offerdahl, Staff Attorneys; David Lovell and Dan Schmidt, Senior Analysts; and Kelly Mautz, Wendy Ulrich and Rachel Veum, Administrative Assistants.

APPEARANCE: Mr. Richard Mattoon, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor, Economic Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago.

**Call to Order and Roll Call;  
Approval of the January 18, 2006 Minutes; and  
Discussion and Advisory Ballot of Study Proposals  
for the 2006 Interim**

Co-Chair Lasee called the meeting to order. He began by explaining that the first part of this meeting was to review the suggested initial study topics that he and Co-Chair Wieckert had selected based on their review of the submitted topics. The remainder of the meeting would be receiving an economic forecast for Wisconsin and the Midwest from Mr. Richard Mattoon, Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago.

Returning to the interim study portion of the meeting, Co-Chair Lasee noted that the initial group of proposed topics was at the members' places. He said that it is the Co-Chairs' intent that after this meeting and evaluating the members' opinion survey form they are being asked to fill out, he and Co-Chair Wieckert would be meeting to construct final recommendations. As is the Council's custom, he said, the study committees will be finalized by mail ballots distributed later in May.

At this time, Co-Chair Lasee asked Co-Chair Wieckert to review the straw ballot for Council members.

Co-Chair Wieckert stated that he and Co-Chair Lasee spent considerable time reviewing the 66 study proposals submitted to them. They are committed to establishing studies that are well defined and hold some hope of finding a reasonable solution to the problem they represent.

He explained the straw ballot before them contains 17 study ideas. He asked the members to review them and indicate if they think the topic has merit for study. He noted that on the back of the ballot, they could list any other thoughts or comments they may have for the interim committees.

Co-Chair Wieckert concluded by stating that Legislative Council staff was present to answer any questions Council members may have on the study topics presented to them. He again asked the members to fill out the straw ballot before leaving today.

Co-Chair Lasee asked that the roll be called and noted that a quorum was present. He next asked for a motion to approve the January 18, 2006 minutes of the Joint Legislative Council.

*Co-Chair Wieckert moved, seconded by Sen. Brown, that the minutes of the January 18, 2006 meeting be approved. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.*

Co-Chair Lasee introduced Mr. Richard Mattoon, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor, Economic Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago. He said that Mr. Mattoon has been with the bank for 13 years. He has also held several jobs in state government including serving as a policy advisor to the Governor of Washington, Director of Policy for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and as Research Director for the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. Co-Chair Lasee said that Mr. Mattoon will discuss the outlook for the U.S. economy and trends that will impact Wisconsin's economy.

## **Presentation by Mr. Richard Mattoon, Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago**

Mr. Mattoon gave a very informative PowerPoint presentation on the economic outlook for the country and Wisconsin for 2006. He shared with the Council several graphs and tables which illustrated how Wisconsin's economy was performing. In summary, Mr. Mattoon said that the Midwest economy is generally weak; however, Wisconsin is performing the best of the Midwest states.

After several questions from the members of the Council, Co-Chairs Lasee and Wieckert thanked Mr. Mattoon for his excellent presentation and for taking the time to appear before the Council. A copy of Mr. Mattoon's presentation is attached to these minutes. The entire presentation may be viewed at the Legislative Council web site: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business to come before the Joint Legislative Council.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Attachment