

WISCONSIN PHYSICIANS' POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE 2010 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

WISMedPAC 2009 in review:

WISMedPAC and WISMedDIRECT contributions increased physicians' impact on the political system in 2009. Physicians directed more than \$31,000 in individual contributions to candidates through their WISMedDIRECT accounts. During the year, WISMedPAC also contributed more than \$23,000 to political candidates and organizations for a combined WISMedPAC/DIRECT total of over \$54,000.

As we continue in the 2010 election season, WISMedPAC and WISMedDIRECT contributions will have an increasingly significant effect on not only the outcome of the spring and fall elections but, more importantly, the future of legislation at the state level.

2009 Lobbying Spotlight:

The WISMedPAC and WISMedDIRECT are important components in ensuring that physicians' voices are heard on the issues that are important to medicine. The 2009 legislative season was busy for your Government Relations team as they lobbied on more than 84 bills, topics and administrative rules. Just some of the highlights:

Health Care Reform – Your Government Relations team worked on ensuring that any reform would include payment reform based on value, increased access, repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), and end the unfair Medicare reimbursement formula for Wisconsin physicians. The Society was able to get several key pieces of language into both federal HCR-related bills via direct outreach to our state's congressional delegation and by working with several coalition organizations pushing for greater value and equity.

Medicaid (MA Audit and Badger Basic) – The state's Medical Assistance (MA) program faces at least a \$1 billion deficit heading into the next biennium. The Society has already had dozens of meetings and conversations with legislators and the Department of Health Services over the Society's concern regarding the solvency of a program serving 1.1 million Wisconsin residents.

"Family Justice" Bill – While medical liability reform was being discussed on the national level as a way to save \$54 billion in defensive medicine costs over 10 years, the Wisconsin Senate passed a bill that would expand physicians' potential liability exposure to a new group of potential claimants. Efforts then shifted to the State Assembly, where we continue to gather enough "no" votes to prevent the bill from moving forward.

Nurse Midwives – Bills have been introduced allowing admitting privileges for nurse midwives and ending the requirement that they have a written collaborative agreement with a physician. The legislation would also allow nurse midwives to voluntarily participate in the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund. The Society has testified on its opposition to both elements.

Medical Marijuana – A physician member provided expert testimony at a joint hearing opposing the establishment of "medical" marijuana in the state. The bill has been introduced various times in the last decade; this session's potential for progress appears no greater than in previous years.

Transparency – With elected officials pushing for more "transparency" in health care costs and quality, the Government Relations team has been working diligently to ensure that any legislation

is not overly burdensome, and gives value to patients and physicians. While supporting useful transparency overall, the Society raised concerns over specific provisions in the two bills establishing various transparency requirements: Assembly Bill 614 and Senate Bill 418. The Society has been communicating with the bills' sponsors in attempts to improve the bills.

Mental Health Parity – The expansion of mental health and substance abuse services to be treated in the same way as physical ailments is a huge success for the patients of Wisconsin. The bill at the time of writing has passed the Senate and is awaiting almost certain action and passage in the Assembly.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) – Continuing the belief that patients should be more in control of their end-of-life decisions and that physicians can help facilitate those choices, the Society led an effort to begin tackling this politically-difficult issue. The tremendous work accomplished by the Gundersen Lutheran and Franciscan Skemp systems served as the model for discussion. The Society continues to work with other medical groups and advocacy organizations, setting the stage for possible legislation next legislative session.

Current WISMedPAC Board Members:

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Political Scene 2010:

The 2010 political scene at the moment looks to be heading strongly in favor of the Republicans, although much can change before November. Voter discontent over the economy combined with historic trends for the party not controlling the White House gives Democrats an uphill journey. That said, voter dissatisfaction could swing either way depending on the incumbent. The one certainty is that the economy will have a profound effect on the results. We have included a statistical look at some of the state races that may be in play.

2010 Election Challenges

Governors Race:

Too close to call right now. Both Republican Scott Walker and Democrat Tom Barrett are the heavy favorites to face off in the general election. Both are strong candidates, good fundraisers and essentially dead-even in many polls. With 20 percent of the electorate identifying themselves as undecided the battle will be for the independent voter. Republican Mark Neumann could still be a force due to his impressive self-funding, putting \$1 million of his own money into his campaign coffers.

State Senate and Assembly:

All eyes are certain to be on the State Senate as well, where Democrats hold an 18-15 majority. The race that will likely get the most attention (and will certainly break spending records as well) pits incumbent Senator Jim Sullivan (D-Wauwatosa) and current State Rep. Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa). Other races of interest will be incumbent Sen. Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) vs. Ed Thompson (R-Tomah), brother of former Governor Tommy G. Thompson. Additionally, Republicans believe they have a legitimate chance to defeat Sen. Pat Kreitlow (D-Chippewa Falls), whose wife is a member physician. The Democrats' best chance for a pick-up is currently the open seat of retiring Sen. Alan Lasee (R-De Pere) where physician Montgomery "Monk" Elmer, MD is running on the Democratic ticket. Another Society member, Pam Galloway, MD, is also running in a Republican primary in an effort to unseat current Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker (D-Schofield).

District	Senate Dems on the Defense	2006 Election Results	2008 Election Results
Senate 5	Jim Sullivan	51.60%	na
Senate 15	Robson / OPEN SEAT	68%	
Senate 21	John Lehman	53%	na
Senate 23	Pat Kreitlow	50.80%	na
Senate 29	Russ Decker	67.70%	na
Senate 31	Kathleen Vinehout	51.60%	na
District	Senate Repubs on the Defense	2006 Election Results	2008 Election Results
Senate 1	Lasee / OPENSEAT	55.10%	na
Senate 9	Joe Liebham	59%	
Senate 17	Dale Schultz	54.20%	na
Senate 33	Kanavas / OPEN SEAT	67%	
District	Assembly Dems on the Defense	2006 Election Results	2008 Election Results
Assembly 2	Ted Zigmunt	Rep Dist	52.10%
Assembly 28	Ann Hraychuck	50.70%	55.40%
Assembly 37	Andy Jorgensen	50.10%	59.20%
Assembly 42	Fred Clark	53.40%	58.40%
Assembly 43	Kim Hixson	49.90%	51.20%
Assembly 49	Phil Garthwaite	51.10%	53.90%
Assembly 51	Steve Hilgenberg	53.20%	56.80%
Assembly 57	Penny Bernard Schaber	Rep Wieckert 53.1%	56.90%
Assembly 62	Cory Mason	52.30%	84.50%
Assembly 67	Ind Jeff Wood / OPEN SEAT	vs dem	50.30%
Assembly 68	Kristen Dexter	Dem lost 48.7%	50.40%
Assembly 73	Nick Milroy (Freshman)	Dem 100%	80.70%

Assembly 88	Jim Soletski	50.10%	55.90%
Assembly 91	Chris Danou	Dem won 69.4%	53.30%
Assembly 92	Mark Radcliffe	Rep Musser won 54%	53.20%
Assembly 93	Jeff Smith	50.60%	59.30%
District	Assembly Reps on the Defense	2006 Election Results	2008 Election Results
Assembly 1	Gary Bies	53.50%	51.30%
Assembly 4	Phil Montgomery	55.90%	52.70%
Assembly 6	Gary Tauchen	60%	55%
Assembly 14	Leah Vukmir / OPEN SEAT	61.60%	62.30%
Assembly 21	Mark Honadel	100%	52.40%
Assembly 29	John Murtha	51.50%	53.30%
Assembly 30	Kitty Rhoades	57.40%	54.70%
Assembly 32	Thomas Lothian	53.60%	51.60%
Assembly 34	Dan Meyer	56%	50.30%
Assembly 36	Jeffrey Mursau	54.10%	51.70%
Assembly 40	Kevin Petersen	52.60%	58.20%
Assembly 47	Keith Ripp	Rep Hahn 50.2%	47.90%
Assembly 50	Ed Brooks	Rep Albers 56.9%	56.20%
Assembly 52	John Townsend / OPEN SEAT	100%	57.90%
Assembly 55	Dean Kaufert	51.90%	53.90%
Assembly 56	Roth/Open Seat running for 8th CD	59%	59.60%
Assembly 80	Davis/Open- running 4 Lt Gov	50.50%	56.10%
Assembly 87	Mary Williams	50.50%	50.40%
Assembly 89	John Nygren	54.10%	53.50%
Assembly 90	Karl Van Roy	55.30%	53.70%
Assembly 94	Mike Huebsch	57.90%	54%
Assembly 96	Lee Nerison	50.70%	51.70%
Assembly 97	Bill Kramer	55.80%	54.60%