



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JESSE JAMES

For Immediate Release
June 25, 2019

Contact: Rep. Jesse James
(608) 266-9172

Rep. James Votes for the WISCONSIN Budget

MADISON – Rep. James (R-Altoona) is proud to vote for the new two-year spending plan that funds the priorities of the Chippewa Valley and the entire state. The budget bill advanced out of the Assembly in a 60 to 39 vote.

The 2019-2021 budget makes the largest total investment in K-12 education in actual dollars, continues the UW System tuition freeze, funds healthcare needs without expanding Badgercare, and repairs our roads and bridges with the largest increase in new revenues in a generation without raising the gas tax.

“I’m proud to vote for the WISCONSIN budget as it reflects the priorities of my voters back home,” said Rep. James. “People want to see more funding for schools in Altoona and Greenwood, they want to see better roads in Augusta and Withee. This budget does that.”

The WISCONSIN budget differs from Governor Evers’ budget in many ways. The budget eliminates his plan to increase government spending by six billion dollars and raise taxes and fees by more than one billion dollars. The GOP-approved budget does the opposite; it cuts taxes by more than \$500 million while providing a middle class tax cut.

“Between knocking on doors in the fall and listening to constituents this spring, taxes kept coming up,” said Rep. James. “People want us to address issues without going on a spending spree and living within our means.”

This balanced budget is a conservative spending plan. It decreases the number of government positions that the governor proposed and maintains the GOP reforms that have made a big difference in our state. The two-year budget also puts aside money in case there’s a downturn in the economy by nearly doubling the rainy day fund.

The bill also funds other needs of the state which will help provide access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. More than \$150 million is being invested in caregiver wages and \$74 million in our nursing homes.

“This is a budget the people of the 68th can be proud of,” said Rep. James. “Our citizens don’t want us to go on a spending spree or increase the size of government. I’m proud of the work we’ve done to keep Wisconsin moving forward.”

The budget bill now moves to the state Senate for a vote before heading to the Governor’s desk.

###