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REP. HESSELBEIN: “THE WORST. BUDGET. EVER.”

“Worst. Budget. Ever.”

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) voted NO on the state budget bill Thursday night. She said:

“This budget is the worst ever for Wisconsin. It is the worst for higher education and our superb University of Wisconsin, the worst for K-12 public education, and the worst for the standards of the teaching profession.

“It is the worst for state parks, conservation and stewardship, for natural science and environmental protection.

“It is the worst for construction workers deprived of prevailing wage. It harms state employees who get no raise but have their health costs increased. It insults the poor who need not a “minimum” wage but a living wage. It harms senior citizens and the middle class.

“This budget was written without input from those most affected, including entire executive agencies. Fateful decisions were made without involving or informing relevant players, including Democratic elected officials and the media. Radical changes in foundational Wisconsin traditions – including the Wisconsin Idea, the Open Records Law – were rolled into the budget bill, without separate bills, hearings, or votes. They were only pulled out after public exposure forced the authors to retreat.

“This budget is a textbook case of one-party rule at its worst. The party that used to champion local control has become the party of total control.”

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