



TRACKING YOUR LEGISLATORS

A Conservation Review of the
2017-18 Wisconsin Legislature





*Engaging voters to protect
Wisconsin's environment*

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Evaluating Your Legislators All Year Round

Thanks to conservation voters like you, this legislative session we began to address the drinking water crisis in Wisconsin, like updating manure management rules and giving communities more tools to eliminate lead pipes. Through your dedication, engagement, and financial support, families across the state have new and important protections that will improve their health and the environment.

In this era of constant attacks on our environmental protections, often a win for the environment means preventing anti-conservation bills from getting to the Senate or Assembly floor for a vote – which leaves no record of legislators who fought to stop the bill. There is often no public record of how legislators voted due to frequent voice votes. And, legislators who champion the environment often can't even get a hearing or a vote on their bills.

Here's how we're handling that. We've eliminated the single number score you're used to seeing in the Conservation Scorecard. Instead, all legislators' votes on every conservation bill are listed on the Vote Tracker feature on our website at conservationvoters.org/vote-tracker.



In the following pages we give you a deeper look at the biggest things that happened in this legislative session, and, wherever it's available, give you a vote chart on that bill. We give you a look behind the scenes on the work conservation voters were doing on each issue. And, as always, we give you our Honor and Dishonor Rolls so you can see the best and worst actors.

While it is legislators who ultimately cast the votes that determine Wisconsin's conservation policies, the real power lies in the hands of voters like you. You determine who makes those decisions. Use this publication and the Vote Tracker to help inform your votes and your efforts as a conservation voter.

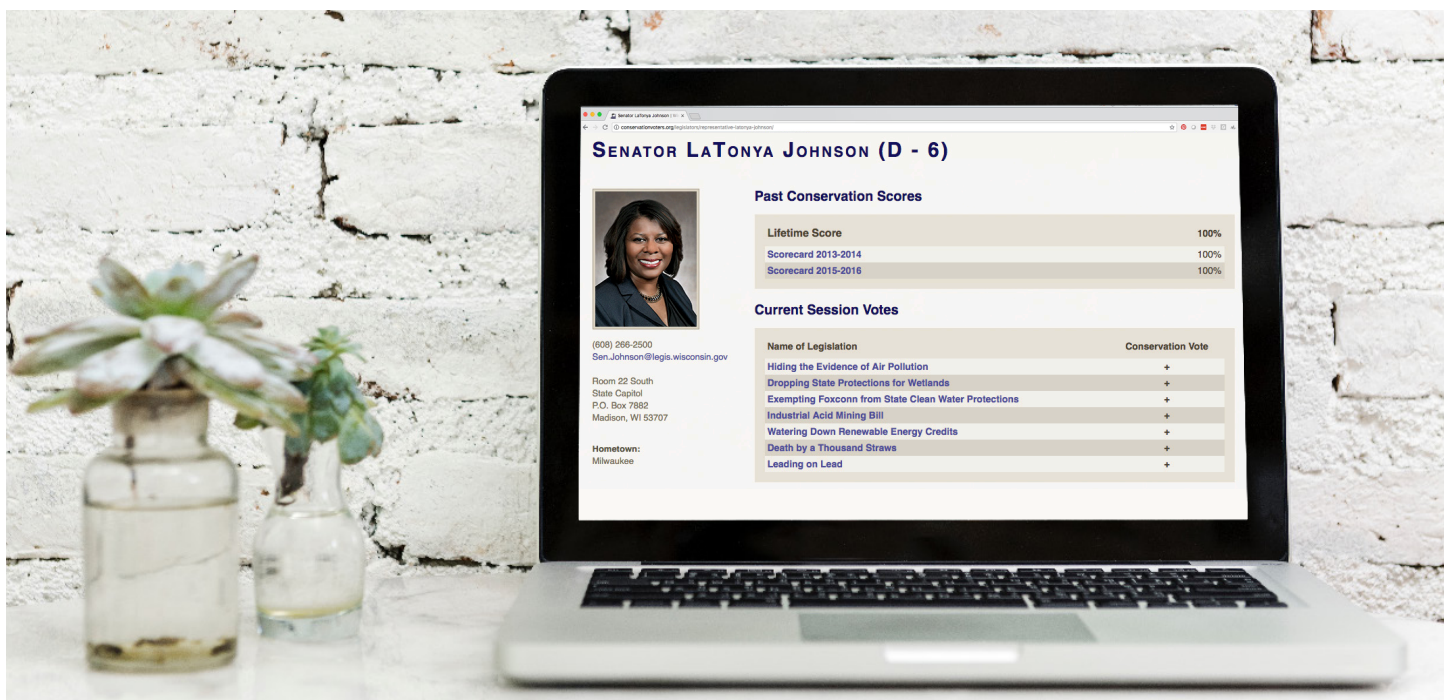
Thanks for all you do!

The Vote Tracker: Your Eyes on the Capitol

The Vote Tracker on the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters website is a powerful tool. From committee votes to bill summaries to actions taken by legislators and the governor, the Vote Tracker serves as your eyes in the State Capitol.



The Vote Tracker is updated in real-time, meaning you can get the information you need when it's most important – as a bill is moving through the legislative process. It also provides opportunities for you to weigh in on the issues that matter most through petitions, email messages to lawmakers, and more.



To get the most value out of it, check out the following features included in the Vote Tracker:

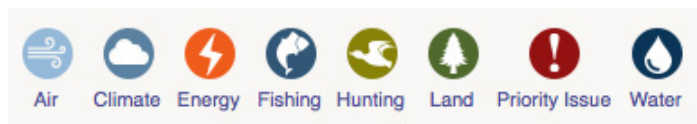
Track Your Legislators

Click on legislators' names to view how they've voted on current legislation and get their contact information. This page also includes links to the bills they voted on as well as links to past conservation scores.

conservationvoters.org/vote-tracker

Bills To Watch

Click on a specific bill for a summary, link to the full bill, its status, and ways to take action.



An easy to understand icon-based system will guide you to a specific issue area. For example, if you're concerned about clean water, you can click the water drop. The bills that affect the quality of your water will appear.



Pro-Conservation Vote: No

Sulfide mining is the most polluting industry in America, responsible for poisoning the environment with a toxic brew of arsenic, asbestos, mercury, sulfuric acid, and much more.

The poisons it releases through acid mine drainage can poison groundwater, turn the surrounding area – including lakes and rivers – into dead zones, and continue seeping into the environment for thousands of years. SB 395 & AB 499 eliminate Wisconsin’s “Prove It First” mining law. That law has protected public health and natural resources for the past 20 years by requiring mining companies to show a demonstrated track record protecting water quality before being granted permits. Given the long-term and guaranteed toxic nature of the waste generated by sulfide mining, it is critical we have a high standard for demonstrating protection of our waters, not less.

Conservation voters worked hard to defeat this terrible bill, writing and meeting with legislators, speaking at public hearings, doing education door-to-door in areas targeted by mining companies, engaging the media, and organizing local elected officials and other constituencies.

While the bill eventually passed, there was bipartisan opposition to it, and it was widely seen as controversial. Since its passing, local communities like Marathon County are passing ordinances to protect against mining’s potentially disastrous environmental effect.

Priority Legislation

Industrial Acid Mining Bill

SB 395 / AB 499

Senate Votes

YES / ANTI-CONSERVATION

Craig, David	LeMahieu, Devin	Stroebe, Dewey
Darling, Alberta	Marklein, Howard	Testin, Patrick
Feyen, Daniel	Moulton, Terry	Tiffany, Thomas
Fitzgerald, Scott	Nass, Stephen	Vukmir, Leah
Harsdorf, Sheila	Olsen, Luther	Wanggaard, Van
Kapenga, Chris	Petrowski, Jerry	
Lasee, Frank	Roth, Roger	

NO / PRO-CONSERVATION

Bewley, Janet	Johnson, LaTonya	Shilling, Jennifer
Carpenter, Tim	Larson, Chris	Taylor, Lena
Cowles, Robert	Miller, Mark	Vinehout, Kathleen
Erpenbach, Jon	Ringhand, Janis	Wirth, Robert
Hansen, Dave	Risser, Fred	

Assembly Votes

YES / ANTI-CONSERVATION

Allen, Scott	Knodl, Daniel	Rohrkaste, Mike
August, Tyler	Kooyenga, Dale	Schraa, Michael
Ballweg, Joan	Kremer, Jesse	Skowronski, Ken
Bernier, Kathy	Krug, Scott	Spiros, John
Born, Mark	Kuglitsch, Mike	Stafsholt, Rob
Brandtjen, Janel	Kulp, Bob	Steffen, David
Brooks, Edward	Loudenbeck, Amy	Steineke, Jim
Brooks, Robert	Macco, John	Summerfield, Rob
Duchow, Cindi	Murphy, David	Swearingen, Rob
Edming, James	Nerison, Lee	Tauchen, Gary
Felzkowski, Mary	Neylon, Adam	Thiesfeldt, Jeremy
Horlacher, Cody	Nygren, John	Tittl, Paul
Hutton, Rob	Ott, Jim	Tusler, Ron
Jacque, André	Petersen, Kevin	Vorpapel, Tyler
Jagler, John	Petryk, Warren	Vos, Robin
Jarchow, Adam	Pronschinske, Treig	Weatherston, Thomas
Katsma, Terry	Quinn, Romaine	Wichgers, Chuck
Kerkman, Samantha	Ripp, Keith	Zimmerman, Shannon
Kleefisch, Joel	Rodriguez, Jessie	

NO / PRO-CONSERVATION

Anderson, Jimmy	Hintz, Gordon	Sinicki, Christine
Barca, Peter	Kessler, Frederick	Snyder, Patrick
Berceau, Terese	Kitchens, Joel	Spreitzer, Mark
Billings, Jill	Kolste, Debra	Stuck, Amanda
Bowen, David	Mason, Cory	Subeck, Lisa
Brostoff, Jonathan	Meyers, Beth	Taylor, Chris
Considine, Dave	Milroy, Nick	Tranel, Travis
Crowley, David	Mursau, Jeffrey	VanderMeer, Nancy
Doyle, Steve	Novak, Todd	Vruwink, Don
Fields, Jason	Ohnstad, Tod	Wachs, Dana
Genrich, Eric	Pope, Sondy	Young, Leon
Goyke, Evan	Riemer, Daniel	Zamarripa, JoCasta
Hebl, Gary	Sargent, Melissa	Zepnick, Josh
Hesselbein, Dianne	Shankland, Katrina	

NOT VOTING: Sanfelippo, Joe

Signed Into Law by Governor Walker



Pro-Conservation Vote: Yes

Lead in drinking water is a real crisis in Wisconsin, causing serious health problems - like low IQ, mental illness, and increased violent behavior - for thousands of children and families in Wisconsin. In fact, even a very limited EPA study showed that Wisconsin has over 176,000 lead service lines carrying water to homes and businesses all over the state.



After learning about the lead crisis from Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Eau Claire school member Joe Luginbill brought forward a resolution to the school board supporting the bill, then sent it to all the other school districts in the state.

AB 78/SB 48, introduced by Sen. Rob Cowles and Rep. Jeremy Theisfeldt, allows greater flexibility for municipalities to help families replace dangerous lead pipes. When the bill was introduced, bipartisan support was overwhelming in the state legislature, with 55 co-sponsors split almost evenly between Democrats and Republicans. Then the state's biggest industry lobby group, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, came out against the bill, and it came to a screeching halt.

With just two weeks to get AB 78/SB 48 back on track, conservation voters leaped into action, sending over 2,500 emails to their decision makers, signing 247 petitions (in one day!), and making dozens of phone calls to decision makers. Over 100 health and faith professionals and organizations wrote a letter to the legislature, calling for action. Thanks to you and the efforts of our staff, volunteers, and partner organizations, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce withdrew its opposition, and AB 78/SB 48 was signed into law.

Leading on Lead AB 78 / SB 48

YES / PRO-CONSERVATION

Bewley, Janet
Carpenter, Tim
Cowles, Robert
Craig, David
Darling, Alberta
Erpenbach, Jon
Feyen, Daniel
Fitzgerald, Scott
Hansen, Dave
Harsdorf, Sheila
Johnson, LaTonya

Kapenga, Chris
Larson, Chris
Lasee, Frank
LeMahieu, Devin
Marklein, Howard
Miller, Mark
Moulton, Terry
Nass, Stephen
Olsen, Luther
Petrowski, Jerry
Ringhand, Janis

Senate Votes

Risser, Fred
Roth, Roger
Shilling, Jennifer
Stroebel, Dewey
Taylor, Lena
Testin, Patrick
Tiffany, Thomas
Vinehout, Kathleen
Vukmir, Leah
Wanggaard, Van
Wirch, Robert

Assembly passed by voice vote
Signed Into Law by Governor Walker

A Truly Bipartisan Bill

Legislators from both parties introduced and co-sponsored this important bill, and their support paid off. It was introduced by Senators Cowles, L. Taylor, Bewley, Carpenter, Darling, Feyen, Harsdorf, Johnson, C. Larson, Lasee, Miller, Olsen, Petrowski, Risser, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Hansen, cosponsored by Representatives Thiesfeldt, Krug, Genrich, Crowley, Barca, Bowen, E. Brooks, Brostoff, Fields, Goyke, Horlacher, Jagler, Kitchens, Kolste, Mason, Novak, Ohnstad, Ripp, Schraa, Spreitzer, Spiros, Steffen, Stuck, Subeck, C. Taylor, Tauchen, Tusler, Zamarripa, Zepnick, Anderson, and Allen.



Pro-Conservation Vote: No

The Foxconn bill was the largest corporate handout Wisconsin has ever seen – and the handouts weren’t just tax dollars. Gov. Walker’s gift to Foxconn rolled back protections for wetlands and local waterways, eliminated the state-level environmental impact statement, and skirted air pollution standards.

And, in an unprecedented betrayal of the core intent of the hard-won, bipartisan Great Lakes Compact, the bill gives away Great Lakes water to Foxconn via the City of Racine – up to seven million gallons per day.

When the bill was first announced, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters took action quickly, becoming one of the leading voices sounding the alarm about the environmental rollbacks in the Foxconn bill. More than 7,200 conservation voters responded by signing statements and petitions opposing each phase of the Foxconn giveaway.

“It makes no sense that after the over-the-top accommodations already promised to Foxconn, we would allow the company to bypass controls designed to mitigate flood and pollution disasters. It makes no sense from a moral perspective or a financial one.”

John Stollenwerk, former president and CEO of Allen Edmonds Shoe Corp., and a member of the Board of Directors of Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

The Foxconn Bill Aug 2017 SSAB 1

YES / ANTI-CONSERVATION

Craig, David	LeMahieu, Devin	Stroebe, Dewey
Darling, Alberta	Marklein, Howard	Testin, Patrick
Feyen, Daniel	Moulton, Terry	Tiffany, Thomas
Fitzgerald, Scott	Nass, Stephen	Vukmir, Leah
Harsdorf, Sheila	Olsen, Luther	Wanggaard, Van
Kapenga, Chris	Petrowski, Jerry	Wirch, Robert
Lasee, Frank	Roth, Roger	

NO / PRO-CONSERVATION

Bewley, Janet	Johnson, LaTonya	Shilling, Jennifer
Carpenter, Tim	Larson, Chris	Taylor, Lena
Cowles, Robert	Miller, Mark	Vinehout, Kathleen
Erpenbach, Jon	Ringhand, Janis	
Hansen, Dave	Risser, Fred	

Senate Votes

YES / ANTI-CONSERVATION

Allen, Scott	Knodl, Daniel	Rohrkaste, Mike
August, Tyler	Kooyenga, Dale	Sanfelippo, Joe
Ballweg, Joan	Kremer, Jesse	Schraa, Michael
Barca, Peter	Krug, Scott	Skowronski, Ken
Bernier, Kathy	Kuglitsch, Mike	Snyder, Patrick
Born, Mark	Kulp, Bob	Spiros, John
Brandtjen, Janel	Loudenbeck, Amy	Stafsholt, Rob
Brooks, Edward	Macco, John	Steffen, David
Brooks, Robert	Mason, Cory	Steineke, Jim
Duchow, Cindi	Murphy, David	Summerfield, Rob
Edming, James	Mursau, Jeffrey	Swearingen, Rob
Felzkowski, Mary	Nerison, Lee	Tauchen, Gary
Fields, Jason	Neylon, Adam	Thiesfeldt, Jeremy
Gannon, Bob	Nygren, John	Tittl, Paul
Horlacher, Cody	Ohnstad, Tod	Tranel, Travis
Hutton, Rob	Ott, Jim	Tusler, Ron
Jacque, André	Petersen, Kevin	VanderMeer, Nancy
Jagler, John	Petryk, Warren	Vorpapel, Tyler
Katsma, Terry	Pronschinske, Treig	Vos, Robin
Kerkman, Samantha	Quinn, Romaine	Weatherston, Thomas
Kitchens, Joel	Ripp, Keith	Wichgers, Chuck
Kleefisch, Joel	Rodriguez, Jessie	Zimmerman, Shannon

NO / PRO-CONSERVATION

Anderson, Jimmy	Hesselbein, Dianne	Shankland, Katrina
Berceau, Terese	Hintz, Gordon	Sinicki, Christine
Billings, Jill	Jarchow, Adam	Spreitzer, Mark
Bowen, David	Kessler, Frederick	Stuck, Amanda
Brostoff, Jonathan	Kolste, Debra	Subeck, Lisa
Considine, Dave	Meyers, Beth	Taylor, Chris
Crowley, David	Milroy, Nick	Vruwink, Don
Doyle, Steve	Novak, Todd	Wachs, Dana
Genrich, Eric	Pope, Sondy	Young, Leon
Goyke, Evan	Rierner, Daniel	Zamarripa, JoCasta
Hebl, Gary	Sargent, Melissa	Zepnick, Josh

Assembly Votes



Pro-Conservation Vote: No

Apparently inspired by the Foxconn rollbacks, Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke and Senate President Roger Roth introduced a bill that would have removed protections for a million acres of wetlands.

Wetlands provide critical protections for our water by filtering out pollution and act as sponges that mitigate flooding. They are also critical habitat.

After a very public outcry by conservation and sportsmen groups, including 1,492 emails from conservation voters, legislators began feeling the heat.

Sen. Roth and Rep. Steineke were forced to reduce the scope of the bill, but the final version still leaves thousands of acres unprotected.

Dropping State Protections for Wetlands

AB 547 / SB 600

Senate Votes

YES / ANTI-CONSERVATION

Cowles, Robert	LeMahieu, Devin	Roth, Roger
Craig, David	Marklein, Howard	Stroebe, Dewey
Darling, Alberta	Moulton, Terry	Testin, Patrick
Feyen, Daniel	Nass, Stephen	Tiffany, Thomas
Fitzgerald, Scott	Olsen, Luther	Vukmir, Leah
Kapenga, Chris	Petrowski, Jerry	Wanggaard, Van

NO / PRO-CONSERVATION

Bewley, Janet	Larson, Chris	Shilling, Jennifer
Carpenter, Tim	Miller, Mark	Taylor, Lena
Erpenbach, Jon	Ringhand, Janis	Vinehout, Kathleen
Hansen, Dave	Risser, Fred	Wirth, Robert
Johnson, LaTonya	Schachtner, Patty	

Assembly Votes

YES / ANTI-CONSERVATION

Allen, Scott	Hutton, Rob	Murphy, David
August, Tyler	Jacque, André	Mursau, Jeffrey
Ballweg, Joan	Jagler, John	Nerison, Lee
Bernier, Kathy	Jarchow, Adam	Neylon, Adam
Born, Mark	Katsma, Terry	Nygren, John
Brandtjen, Janel	Kerkman, Samantha	Ott, Jim
Brooks, Edward	Kleefisch, Joel	Petryk, Warren
Brooks, Robert	Knodl, Daniel	Pronschinske, Treig
Duchow, Cindi	Kooyenga, Dale	Quinn, Romaine
Edming, James	Krug, Scott	Rodriguez, Jessie
Felzkowski, Mary	Kuglitsch, Mike	Rohrkaste, Mike
Gundrum, Rick	Kulp, Bob	Sanfelippo, Joe
Heaton, Dave	Loudenbeck, Amy	Zimmerman, Shannon
Horlacher, Cody	Macco, John	

NO / PRO-CONSERVATION

Anderson, Jimmy	Hesselbein, Dianne	Sargent, Melissa
Barca, Peter	Hintz, Gordon	Shankland, Katrina
Berceau, Terese	Kessler, Frederick	Sinicki, Christine
Billings, Jill	Kitchens, Joel	Spreitzer, Mark
Bowen, David	Kolste, Debra	Stuck, Amanda
Brostoff, Jonathan	Meyers, Beth	Subeck, Lisa
Considine, Dave	Milroy, Nick	Taylor, Chris
Crowley, David	Neubauer, Greta	Tranel, Travis
Doyle, Steve	Novak, Todd	Vruwink, Don
Fields, Jason	Ohnstad, Tod	Wachs, Dana
Genrich, Eric	Petersen, Kevin	Young, Leon
Goyke, Evan	Pope, Sindy	Zamarripa, JoCasta
Hebl, Gary	Riemer, Daniel	Zepnick, Josh

NOT VOTING: Jesse Kremer

Signed Into Law by Governor Walker



Pro-Conservation Vote: Yes

Manure in Drinking Water NR 151

Manure pollution in drinking water is at crisis levels, especially in northeast Wisconsin. The EPA ordered the Department of Natural Resources to address the manure pollution problem. After a long process, a workgroup of citizens, farmers, the DNR, and local officials published findings that made specific recommendations to help remedy manure pollution. It asked the DNR Board to strengthen an administrative rule – called NR 151 – that dictates how manure can be spread on farm fields.

The rule change faced stiff criticism and opposition from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) and the Dairy Business Association (DBA), the state's agribusiness lobby. When the DNR first proposed the rules, they were supposed to reduce pollution from industrial farms statewide. The DBA met with Governor Walker and convinced him to limit the scope to only the most sensitive areas of Wisconsin where the manure pollution crisis is already widespread, and to focus primarily on small and mid-sized farms.

More than 100 conservation voters packed the NR 151 hearings and significantly outmatched the DBA and WMC. Those organizations only managed four attendees. In total 2,227 conservation voters took 4,451 actions including emails and phone calls to legislators, petition signatures, and asking legislators to commit to clean water. In a huge victory, the DNR Board unanimously approved the rules, and the legislature accepted them through passive review.

Signed Into Law by the DNR Secretary Dan Meyer



Pro-Conservation Vote: Yes

Conservation voters were successful in passing this bill after sending over 2,200 comments to legislators asking them to support the bill.

Well Compensation Bill

AB 226 / SB 168

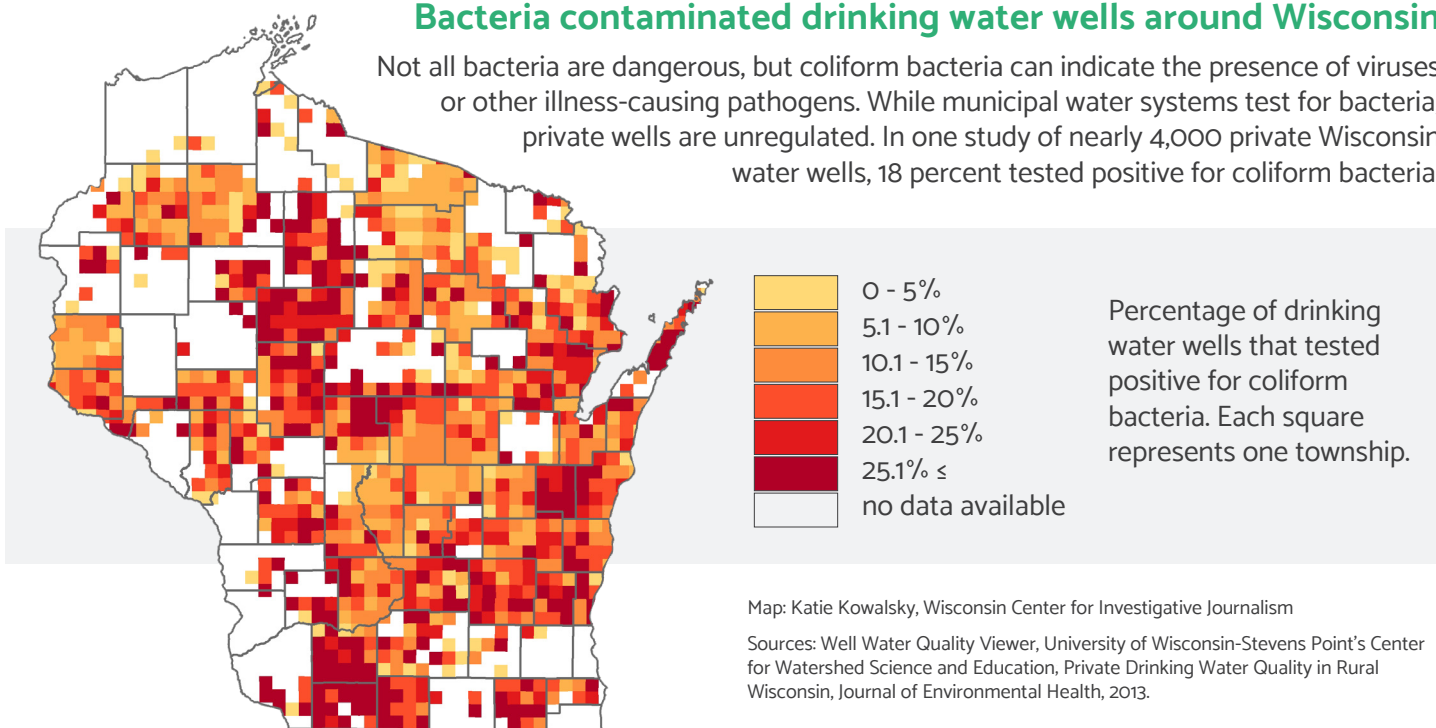
The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection estimates that roughly one in five private wells in rural areas of our state have levels of agricultural pollution that make the water unsafe to drink.

AB 226 and SB 168 make it easier for more households to replace the costs of their contaminated wells or failing septic systems by allowing local governments to provide low-cost or no-cost loans to replace these wells and systems.

It also increases the maximum grant amount under the state's Well Compensation Grant Program to \$12,000.

Bacteria contaminated drinking water wells around Wisconsin

Not all bacteria are dangerous, but coliform bacteria can indicate the presence of viruses or other illness-causing pathogens. While municipal water systems test for bacteria, private wells are unregulated. In one study of nearly 4,000 private Wisconsin water wells, 18 percent tested positive for coliform bacteria.



Assembly passed by voice vote
Signed Into Law by Governor Walker



Conservation Honor Roll

The Conservation Honor Roll recognizes the following legislators for going the extra mile to protect Wisconsin's natural resources.



Senator Jennifer Shilling & Representative Jill Billings

Sen. Shilling and Rep. Billings broke new ground in holding polluters accountable while protecting Wisconsin's health when they introduced Assembly Bill 881. AB 881 requires the Department of Natural Resources to notify nearby private well owners and municipalities when water pollution exceeds permitted limits and could pose an immediate health risk. Because of Rep. Billings' and Sen. Shilling's hard work, AB 881 passed an Assembly committee before the session ran out. We look forward to seeing this policy move forward next year.

Representative Joel Kitchens

Strengthening NR 151 was a critical step in tackling the long-standing crisis of manure in drinking water in northeast Wisconsin. Rep. Joel Kitchens played an unmatched role among legislators in ensuring the passage of the rules. When, at several points along the way, Big Ag groups attempted to stop them, Rep. Kitchens was always there, testifying at hearings, speaking in front of the Natural Resources Board, and pushing for improved manure management.



Senator Rob Cowles, Senator Latonya Johnson, Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Representative Chris Taylor & Representative Tod Ohnstad

These legislators worked to bring important protections for communities struggling with toxic lead pipes. Sen. Cowles and Rep. Thiesfeldt introduced and helped pass the Leading on Lead Bill (SB 48), Sen. Johnson and Rep. Ohnstad introduced a bill to remove lead from daycares and schools, and Rep. Taylor a bill to ensure county health staff had the authority to test drinking water for lead.



Conservation Dishonor Roll

Some decision makers will go to extraordinary lengths to jeopardize Wisconsin's natural resources. The following lawmakers' actions were so egregious and out of touch with their constituents' conservation values they belong on the Conservation Dishonor Roll.



Senator Tom Tiffany

Once again, Sen. Tom Tiffany appears on the dishonor roll. This time, he worked in concert with out-of-state and foreign mining corporations to bring metallic sulfide mining, America's most toxic industry, back to Wisconsin with his Industrial Acid Mining Bill. In the process, Sen. Tiffany divided and misrepresented conservation groups and misled local governments. Despite saying the bill would not take away local control, Tiffany has actively threatened local governments with future legislation that would remove their ability to pass strong local protections.



Representative Ron Tusler

Rep. Tusler twice offered an amendment to unrelated bills late at night to allow an out-of-state frac sand company, Meteor Timber, to bypass a judicial review challenging the legality of its permit to fill 16 acres of internationally rare wetlands. Ultimately, the Senate rejected both amendments and the court case went forward. A judge found the permit did not protect the environment and invalidated it.



Governor Walker

Governor Scott Walker went above and beyond a Governor's typical role in the legislative process when he negotiated behind closed doors with Foxconn and led the charge to roll back protections for wetlands, clean air, and the Great Lakes as part of his massive handout to this foreign company.

To see more of Walker's anti-conservation record, go to: <http://conservationvoters.org/walkers-wisconsin/>



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON CONSERVATION ISSUES THIS SESSION.

