



State Senator  
**Neal J. Kedzie**  
11<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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Contact: Sen. Neal Kedzie  
(608) 266-2635

## **Timing Appropriate: Governor Talks Budget on Fat Tuesday**

Madison – In noting that the day before Ash Wednesday is typically referred to as “Fat Tuesday”, Assistant Senate Majority Leader Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) wondered if the date was intentionally chosen for the Governor to deliver his biennial budget address.

Kedzie commented, “Conservative estimates have the Governor’s budget adding about \$1 billion in spending on new programs alone. I am quite concerned that the Doyle administration has gotten caught up in projections of increased state revenues. Rather than finding new ways to spend money, it would behoove the Governor to pay off past obligations, such as the \$1.6 billion budget deficit.”

Kedzie said it is time for state government to run its checkbook the same way that his family and other Wisconsin families do week in and week out. That being when the checkbook register says there is no more money, you stop spending. Kedzie pointed out that the state has long practiced creative financing gimmicks that would essentially amount to bounced checks.

Kedzie quipped, “Far be it from me to rain on the Fat Tuesday parade, but I would point out that Fat Tuesday is followed by forty days of fasting!” He continued, “All joking aside, the time has come for government at all levels to start living within its means. We cannot continue to spend as if there is no tomorrow.”

According to Kedzie, as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee, the Governor’s raid on the Transportation Fund to pay for spending increases contained in this budget is alarming to him.

Kedzie concluded, “The people of Wisconsin expect those funds to be used for transportation projects not to fund promises made to special interests groups. We’ll never get our fiscal house in order until we stop robbing Peter to pay Paul.”

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