



## **REPRESENTATIVE DEAN R. KAUFERT** **Vice-Chair Joint Finance Committee**

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For further information, contact:  
Dean Kaufert (608) 266-5719  
(920) 722-0146

### **KAUFERT NAMED CO-CHAIR TO FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Top Post On Legislatures Most Powerful Committee Goes To Neenah Lawmaker**

MADISON, - Representative John Gard (R- Peshtigo), newly elected Speaker announced today that he has appointed State Representative Dean R. Kaufert (R-Neenah/Menasha) to serve as Co-Chair of the Joint Finance Committee for the upcoming 2003-2004 legislative session.

"This is a great honor for me to be able to serve in this capacity and be a strong voice for the Fox Valley community on this important committee," said Kaufert. "My commitment to the people of the Fox Valley and the State of Wisconsin is to deliver a well-balanced budget that centers around a no general tax increase, reducing the state's structural deficit and holding the line on government spending," said Kaufert.

The joint sixteen-member panel is considered the most powerful committee in the legislature. It is responsible for writing the state's \$48 billion biennial budget and approving all other state spending and revenue measures.

"Dean will bring a high quality of professionalism, experience and knowledge of all issues the Joint Finance Committee will be faced with in the next budget," said Gard. "His ability to solve problems during the past two budgets has been invaluable to me and the Republican Caucus."

"I look forward to working under the leadership of Representative Gard and moving forward with Republican promises of no general tax increases, continued adequate funding of health care and education programs, said Kaufert. "I am thrilled to be entrusted with this challenge and I pledge to continue working on problem solving in a bi-partisan fashion to benefit the entire state."

Representative Kaufert currently serving in a leadership capacity as Vice-Chair of the Joint Finance Committee is the first legislator from the Neenah/Menasha area to be appointed Co-Chair of the committee, since Senator William A. Draheim (R) served as Co-Chair of the committee four decades ago. State Senator Michael G. Ellis (R-Neenah) served on the Joint Finance Committee as an Assemblyman from 1979-82.

Kaufert, a small business owner and former Neenah alderman, says he values past real life experiences and input from constituents to help him make difficult policy and fiscal decisions that come before him on the committee.

"This appointment is not just about me, it's about my constituents who will benefit from having a strong voice on issues of statewide importance," Kaufert said. "I will continue to turn to the people of my district for guidance and advice as I've always done in the past."

This will be Dean Kaufert's seventh term in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

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