

**Legislators are graded, based on action specific to key WGA legislative issues. Points are given to an individual for introducing or voting in favor of legislation that WGA supports, and transversely points are taken away for supporting legislation that WGA opposes.**

Extra points are given for introducing pro-WGA amendments, speaking for or against proposals of interest, committee action, attending/speaking at WGA's Grocers in the Capitol Day, and general support of the WGA's issues.

## MEAT, DAIRY AND MILK LABELING

**WGA POSITION:** Opposed to penalty provisions

**SUMMARY:** Several bills were introduced that would prohibit labeling and selling a food product as meat, dairy or milk unless the food is a product derived from animals and not plant-based. The WGA supported the intentions of the bill, but were concerned with the impact and potential fines on retailers for mislabeled products.

**OUTCOME:** Passed Assembly, failed due to no action in Senate.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** The bills did not pass, however, if they are introduced in future sessions, the WGA will encourage the authors to remove the penalties for retailers and place the responsibility of labeling on manufacturers and/or Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection.

## PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

**WGA POSITION:** Support

**SUMMARY:** Wisconsin was faced with an unexpected revenue surplus and Republicans proposed AB 910 which included a series of tax cuts, as well as a

\$44 million reduction in the personal property tax.

**OUTCOME:** Passed Assembly and Senate, Vetoed by Governor.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** The personal property tax still remains and is an unfair and archaic tax on small businesses.

## DEBIT CARDS FOR LOTTERY

**WGA POSITION:** Opposed

**SUMMARY:** Legislation was introduced that would require retailers to accept debit cards for lottery sales. The authors believed that this would result in additional sales and, thus, funding toward property tax relief.

**OUTCOME:** Failed, no action taken by either house.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** This bill would have resulted in retailers losing money when selling lottery tickets due to the fact that the interchange fee on debit cards exceeds the retailer's allowance for lottery sales.

## EXTEND 15 DAY CREDIT TERMS FOR BEER

**WGA POSITION:** Support

**SUMMARY:** Rep. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown) and Senator Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls) introduced AB 571/SB 544, to increase the credit terms for beer from 15 days to 30 days.

**OUTCOME:** Failed, due to no action in either house.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** This bill would have provided retailers an additional 15 days to pay for beer on credit, and also would have aligned the credit terms with those for liquor.

## STREAMLINING BARTENDERS LICENSE

**WGA POSITION:** Support

**SUMMARY:** Rep. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown) and Senator Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) introduced SB

203 which removes the requirement that a municipal governing body must approve operator/bartender licenses. The bill allows the municipality to designate a city official, such as the city clerk, to approve and issue the licenses.

**OUTCOME:** Signed into law, 2019 Wisconsin Act 166, effective 3/2020.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** This law cuts the time to obtain bartenders licenses from 4-6 weeks, and sometimes longer, to only a few days.

## ALCOHOL PICKUP & DELIVERY

**WGA POSITION:** Support

**SUMMARY:** On behalf of the WGA, Rep. Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel) introduced legislation to clarify Wisconsin's alcohol pick-up laws and to allow grocers to deliver alcohol with groceries.

**OUTCOME:** Failed, no action taken in either house.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** As grocery delivery and pickup continue to grow, grocers will need to be able to offer alcohol alongside groceries to satisfy consumer demand.

## UNFAIR SALES ACT/ MINIMUM MARKUP

**WGA POSITION:** Opposed

**SUMMARY:** Several bills were introduced aimed at reducing the minimum markup or eliminating the unfair sales act: AB 154, AB 156, SB 22 & SB 52 (Ott/Stroebel/Carpenter) eliminated the prohibition on below-cost sales of prescription drugs; AB 56 & SB 59 (State Budget) eliminated the minimum markup on gasoline; AB 155 & SB 51 (Ott/Stroebel) repealed the unfair sales act and minimum markup laws.

**OUTCOME:** Failed; no hearings were held and no action taken in either house.

**IMPACT ON INDUSTRY:** The Unfair Sales Act, which includes the minimum mark-up provisions, remains unchanged.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

Compiled by the  
**Wisconsin Grocers Association**  
for the

## 2019-2020 Legislative Session

This legislative report card grades our elected officials on their votes on industry-specific bills.

These grades can be used by members of the Wisconsin Grocers Association to make educated decisions during the 2020 elections.

As an opinion leader in your community, it is necessary that you are involved in the election of the people who represent you and your business in the State's Capitol.





The following legislators earned the highest grade given by the WGA. These individuals have consistently supported and introduced legislation that

benefits the grocery industry, and therefore are considered a “Friend of Grocers.” Their efforts will be recognized by receiving the WGA endorsement and a miniature grocery cart, which applauds their hard work on our behalf.

ASSEMBLY

Scott Allen (R-Waukesha)  
Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva)  
Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan)  
Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam)  
Cindi Duchow (R-Town of Delafield)  
Daniel Knodl (R-Germantown)  
Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin)  
Bob Kulp (R-Stratford)  
Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc)  
Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton)  
John Macco (R-Ledgeview)  
Jeffrey Mursau (R-Crivitz)  
Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville)  
John Nygren (R-Marinette)  
Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca)  
Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah)  
Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin)  
Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh)  
Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna)  
Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel)  
Robin Vos (R-Rochester)

SENATE

Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay)  
Alberta Darling (R-River Hills)  
Dan Feyen (R-Fond du Lac)  
Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau)  
Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield)  
Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield)  
Devin Lemahieu (R-Oostburg)  
Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green)  
Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater)  
Luther Olsen (R-Ripon)  
Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon)

SENATE

Roger Roth (R-Appleton)  
Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville)  
Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point)  
Thomas Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst)  
Van Wanggaard (R-Racine)



The following legislators have been given a “B” grade by the WGA. This admirable mark is given to legislators who are generally supportive of our industry and, therefore, deserving of the WGA endorsement.

ASSEMBLY

Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska)  
Cody Horlacher (R-Mukwanago)  
Terry Katsma (R-Oostburg)  
Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem)  
Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay)  
Adam Neylon (R-Pewaukee)  
Treig Pronschinske (R-Mondovi)  
Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek)  
Ken Skowronski (R-Franklin)  
John Spiros (R-Marshfield)  
David Steffen (R-Green Bay)  
Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland)  
Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc)  
Tyler Vorpapel (R-Plymouth)  
Chuck Wichgers (R-Muskego)  
Shannon Zimmerman (R-River Falls)

SENATE

David Craig (R-Town of Vernon)  
Jennifer Shilling (D-LaCrosse)



The following legislators received a “C” for expressing a willingness to support our industry. The WGA will encourage them to be more supportive in the next legislative session.

ASSEMBLY

Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls)  
Robert Brooks (R-Saukville)  
Dave Considine (D-Baraboo)  
Barb Dittrich (R-Oconomowoc)  
James Edming (R-Glen Flora)  
Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma)  
Jason Fields (D-Milwaukee)  
Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee)  
Rick Gundrum (R-Village of Slinger)

ASSEMBLY

Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh)  
Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield)  
John Jagler (R-Watertown)  
Jesse James (R-Altoona)  
Debra Kolste (D-Janesville)  
Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa)  
Gae Magnafici (R-Dresser)  
Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha)  
Beth Meyers (D-Bayfield)  
Dave Murphy (R-Greenville)  
Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha)  
Loren Oldenburg (R-Westby)  
Warren Petryk (R-Eleva)  
Jon Plumer (R-Lodi)  
Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake)  
Tim Ramthun (R-Campbellsport)  
Patrick Snyder (R-Wausau)  
Shae Sortwell (R-Two Rivers)  
Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit)  
Rob Stafsholt (R-New Richmond)  
Lisa Subeck (D-Madison)  
Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer)  
Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac)  
Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City)  
Ron Tusler (R-Appleton)  
Nancy Vander Meer (R-Tomah)  
Don Vruwink (D-Milton)  
Robert Wittke (R-Racine)

SENATE

Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls)  
Janet Bewley (D-Ashland)



The following legislators have been given a “D” because they have voted against the WGA on key issues and have not supported major policy efforts. The WGA will encourage these officials to support our issues.

ASSEMBLY

Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg)  
Jill Billings (D-LaCrosse)  
Jonathan Brostoff (D-Milwaukee)  
Marisabel Cabrera (D-Milwaukee)  
David Crowley (D-Milwaukee)  
Staus Gruszynski (D-Green Bay)  
Kalan Haywood (D-Milwaukee)

ASSEMBLY

Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie)  
Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton)  
Nick Milroy (D-South Range)  
Greta Neubauer (D-Racine)  
Jim Ott (R-Mequon)  
Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb)  
Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee)  
Melissa Sargent (D-Madison)  
Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point)  
Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee)  
Shelia Stubbs (D-Madison)  
Amanda Stuck (D-Appleton)  
Robyn Vining (D-Brookfield)  
Dana Wachs (D-Eau Claire)

SENATE

Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton)  
Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay)  
Andre Jacque (R-DePere)  
LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee)  
Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville)  
Chris Larson (D-Milwaukee)  
Mark Miller (D-Monona)  
Patty Schachtner (D-Somerset)  
Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire)  
Robert Wirch (D-Kenosha)



The following legislators have worked against the WGA and its members and have voted against WGA positions. They have earned an “F” grade.

ASSEMBLY

David Bowen (D-Milwaukee)  
LaKeisha Myers (D-Milwaukee)  
Chris Taylor (D-Madison)

SENATE

Timothy Carpenter (D-Milwaukee)  
Fred Risser (D-Madison)  
Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee)



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