

Legislative Information

September 2008 Legislative Liaison Report

By Dave Bloom

A very small percentage of Wisconsin's eligible voters went to the polls. I hope a high percentage of the fire service went to the polls to take advantage of this opportunity to select the best candidate to represent the fire services' issues when elected in November. Control of both the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly is up for grabs in November. Currently the Democrats maintain a 19 – 14 margin in the Senate, while Republicans hold a 51 – 47 margin in the Assembly, with one seat held by Representative Jeff Wood of Chetek. Wood switched his party affiliation from Republican to Independent after the legislative session ended.

At the federal level, Republican Jim Sensenbrenner of the 5th Congressional District and Democrat Gwen Moore of the 4th Congressional District will run unopposed in November. The other six Congressional District incumbents all have general election opponents.

Please get to know the candidates who wish to represent your community and determine their position on issues that are important to you. You may find that many of them are not aware of the fire service issues important to you and the fire service in Wisconsin. If that is the case it is extremely important that you make your candidates aware of the local, state and national issues that you expect them to address when in office. A majority of fire chiefs do not wish to get involved politically but just manage the fire department. Managing the fire department and making our communities safe are impossible without the support of our elected officials. Please get involved and help inform the elected officials that represent you.

If you have any questions please contact:

Dave Bloom, Legislative Liaison
Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association
2120 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53713
608-444-3324 cell
608-210-7261 wk.
608-210-7235 fax
bloomd@town.madison.wi.us