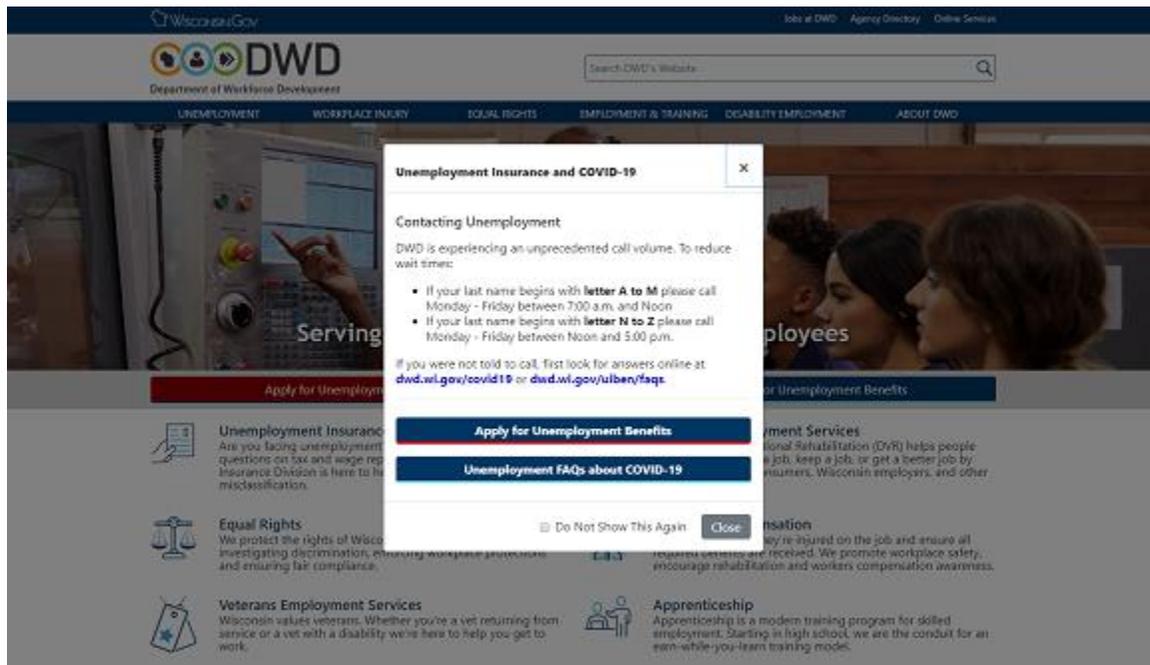




ROBIN J. VOS

SPEAKER OF THE WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Gov. Evers' Unemployment Insurance Problems



When you arrive at the [website of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development](#) (DWD), you're greeted with a message that DWD is "experiencing an unprecedented call volume" and told if you're inquiring about unemployment insurance to call at a certain time according to the first letter of your last name. We know people have had trouble contacting DWD and have been waiting for a response on their unemployment insurance (UI) claims for weeks, even months. So it's not surprising that calls have been steadily streaming into the Speaker's Office asking for assistance. My staff continues to work with our constituents and other individuals from across the state who are more than frustrated with how UI questions are being handled at DWD.

This week we got more insight into just how bad the problem really is at DWD. The

backlog of [unpaid claims has grown to more than 700,000](#) and the agency admits it may not be able to catch up until this fall. This is simply unacceptable. Legislators and the public heard directly from DWD Secretary Scott Frostman at an informational hearing in the Senate Committee on Labor and Regulatory Reform this week, which you can watch on [WisconsinEye](#). The agency says it is hiring more employees and expanding the call center operating schedule by two hours. Republicans will continue to advocate for a better response for the people of Wisconsin and hold this agency accountable for its poor performance.

On top of the problems of processing claims for the unemployed, we have come to learn that the Evers administration isn't following the law. The legislature's [Coronavirus Response Bill that Governor Evers signed into law](#) required UI claims specifically related to the COVID-19 emergency not be charged to a contribution employer's UI account for the remainder of 2020. Instead, the law directed that these claims be charged to the UI balancing account, which is supported by interest on the UI Trust Fund and the solvency tax paid by employers. The goal was to mitigate the huge increases that employers could see as a result of the regular June 30 calculation. [Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and I sent Governor Evers a letter](#) alerting him to the fact that DWD has chosen not to follow the law and as a result, employers could face massive tax increases. This is exactly what the legislation sought to avoid, which is why we asked him to correct the problem. We can't allow the state to increase taxes right now on the very businesses who are struggling to reopen and want to people back to work.

CARES Act Allocations to Local Governments



Wisconsin counties, cities, villages and towns are to receive \$200 million in CARES Act funding from the federal government. These dollars are intended to pay for certain expenses associated with the coronavirus outbreak. [Racine County](#) is slated to receive nearly \$3.2 million. The [city of Burlington](#) is expected to receive \$177,614 and Union Grove would see \$83,482. The allocations are based on the community's population. The state grants can be spent on emergency operations, purchases of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, temporary housing for infected or at-risk individuals and sick leave for public health and safety employees. The [Department of Administration](#) is in charge of these local government aid grants.

No State Fair This Year

For the first time in 75 years, [the Wisconsin State Fair is canceled](#). The Wisconsin State Fair Park Board Chairman John Yingling said they looked into other options but determined due to the coronavirus pandemic, the fair wasn't going to work. The fair was scheduled for August 6 through August 16. According to the Wisconsin State Fair organizers, the 11-day event attracts more than one million people and is considered the largest event in the state.

Tickets already purchased for admission to the state fair can be used next year or refunded

through June 30, 2020. More information on refunds can be found at the [Wisconsin State Fair website](#).

172 Years and Counting

On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin officially became the 30th state to enter the Union. According to the [Wisconsin Historical Society](#), the state encompassed 56,143 square miles, comprising 1/56 of the United States at that time. Join me in wishing our Badger State a happy birthday. Our state is looking pretty good at its advancing age, don't you think?

Quick Links

- Centers for Disease Control - Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>
- The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development - Frequently Asked Questions: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/faqs/>
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services - COVID-19 Web Page: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation COVID-19 Resources Page: <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/covid-19-response/>
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Reopening Guidelines: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>
- Internal Revenue Service - Information on Economic Impact Payments: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>
- Wisconsin Assembly Republican Resources Page: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/republicans/covid19/>