

## 2008 Legislative Survey

John Parkyn, WISARP President

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The Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WISARP) is asking candidates of the two major parties for the Wisconsin Legislature the following two questions. We are seeking yes or no responses and will publish the results in our member communications and release to the media.

1. The current Amtrak budget request contains funds to maintain service. The budget requires continued state support for the Hiawatha service between Milwaukee and Chicago. If elected will you continue the state support needed to maintain the current service level?

Yes

No

2. The Midwest Regional Rail Initiative has been proposed by Amtrak and the nine Midwestern states. The total cost projection over 10 years in 2000 dollars was \$4.02B. This project would increase frequency and speed over existing routes and restore service to the Fox River Valley and Madison in Wisconsin. The project is 80% federal and 20% state funded. Both Governor Doyle (D) and former Governor Thompson (R) committed their support to the state share of restoration of service to Madison. If elected to the Legislature would you support the state share (estimated at \$88M) for restoration of service to Madison which is scheduled for the next two years of appropriations ?

Yes

No

WISARP is an organization formed to insure railroad passenger service to and from points in Wisconsin. Currently passenger service is provided by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK) per Federal law.

### Responses

State Senate 26      Fred Risser (D) Yes & Yes

### ASSEMBLY

2      Ted Zigmunt (D) Yes & Yes

22      Sandy Pasch (D) Yes & Yes

27      Bob Cox (D) Yes & Yes

31      Frank Urban (D) Yes & Yes  
Wishes expansion to every large city in WI

32      Thomas Lothian (R) Yes & Yes

Doug Harrod (D) Yes & Yes

Would like to see high speed trains Milwaukee to Minneapolis also Midwest routes

36 Stan Gruszynski (D) Yes & Yes

40 Kevin Kuehl (D) Yes & Yes

45 Chuck Benedick (D) Yes & Yes-this is a qualified yes with the economic downturn

52 Jerry Keifenheim (D) Yes & Yes

53 Richard Spanhauer (R) Yes & Yes - absolutely  
Would especially like to see restart to Fox River valley added  
Concerned the deficit may get in the way

Jeff Mann (D) Yes & Yes

55 Mark Westphal (D) Yes & Yes

57 Penny Bernard Schaber (D) Yes & Yes

61 Robert Turner (D) Yes & Yes

Geroge Meyers (Libertarian) No & No

66 Larry Zamba (D) Yes & Yes

70 Dennis Seevers (R) Yes & Yes

80 John Waelti (D) Yes & Yes

91 Chris Danou (D) Yes & Yes

## 2008 Congressional Election Survey

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The Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WISARP) is asking candidates for the U.S. Congress the following two questions. We are seeking yes or no responses and will publish the results in our member communications and release to the media.

1. The current Amtrak budget request is to maintain service. The budget needed during each of the two years of your Congressional term requires \$1.53B per year in federal support. If elected will you support and vote for this budget amount ?

Yes

No

2. The Midwest Regional Rail Initiative has been proposed by Amtrak and the nine Midwestern states. The total cost projection over 10 years in 2000 dollars was \$4.02B. This project would increase frequency and speed over existing routes and restore service to the Fox River Valley and Madison in Wisconsin. The project is 80% federal and 20% state funded. Both Governor Doyle (D) and former Governor Thompson (R) committed their support to the state share of restoration of service to Madison. If elected to the House would you support the federal share (total all years of \$353M) of restoration of service to Madison which is scheduled for the next two years of appropriations ?

Yes

No

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### RESPONSES

President Jeffery Wamboldt (We, the People ticket) Yes & Yes

U. S. House of Representatives:

First District None

Second District None

Third District None

Fourth District: Michael LaForest (Purple Party) Yes & Yes

Fifth District: None

Sixth District: None

Seventh District: None

Eighth District: None