

Due to the holidays, there will not be a Dec. 28 Weekly Update. Look for the next Weekly Update on Jan. 4.

Local

Youth arm of immigrant rights group faces loss of funding for MLK Day event

Following Mark Belling's on-air criticisms, Voces de la Frontera's student group YES! Youth Empowered in the Struggle has seen a number of groups draw back support for the annual MLK Day celebration they organize.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/5bc8d638-4521-11e2-8aa8-001a4bcf887a.html>

Same-day voter registration used heavily, leans Democratic

Voters in Democratic leaning counties have been more likely to partake in same-day voter registration, but Republican areas also saw heavy use of the state's last-minute registration law, state election records show.

Read more: <http://lacrossetribune.com/f6144e16-478d-11e2-8575-001a4bcf887a.html>

Walker outlines education priorities for next year

Walker is considering ending the MPS residency requirement, increasing aid to schools with high report card growth and achievement improvement plans, and expanding school vouchers and college- readiness testing.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/183668291.html>

Walker: we might freeze or cap UW tuition

Speaking at a taxpayer-supported Catholic voucher school in Milwaukee, Governor Scott Walker said he's considering freezing UW school tuition, or putting a cap on the size of any tuition hikes in the UW system.

Read more: <http://news.wpr.org/post/walker-we-might-freeze-or-cap-uw-tuition>

Vos says increased school funding in '13-15 budget

Assembly Speaker-elect Robin Vos said he's confident there will be increased state funding to K-12 schools this year, but echoed comments made by Walker that it's time to examine which schools get that funding.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/a1ad4f36-4845-11e2-9700-001a4bcf887a.html>

Racine's voucher program success means expansion a possibility, says Vos

Vos says educational reform is a priority and that the Racine school choice program implemented in 2011 has proved successful, meeting voucher caps both years prior and allowing unlimited vouchers starting in 2013.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/72a9c8d6-4845-11e2-b8e2-001a4bcf887a.html>

RUSD drops support for Voces de la Frontera MLK Day event

The Racine Unified School District scaled back support for an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in part because of the organizing student group's political activism, district Superintendent Ann Laing said.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/4d2d9b06-49d4-11e2-a47f-001a4bcf887a.html>

State

Walker's latest jobs numbers discount seasonal hiring

GOP Governor Scott Walker is again talking jobs numbers. Citing a quarterly census of employers, he told reporters the state has created 86,000 private sector jobs, a figure skewed by seasonal hiring in Wisconsin.

Read more: <http://news.wpr.org/post/walkers-latest-jobs-numbers-discount-seasonal-hiring>

Poor records hurt jobs agency

During an investigation into WEDC, outside auditors found missing safeguards, staff turnover and shoddy bookkeeping led to delinquent loans going uncollected, misstated or unrecorded financial deals, and more.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/183802481.html>

Thousands of public employee retirees draw pension, salary simultaneously

According to the Legislative Audit Bureau, thousands of public employees- from substitute teachers to cabinet secretaries- who retired recently returned to work, allowing them to earn a paycheck and a pension.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/e52ee658-4605-11e2-91e4-001a4bcf887a.html>

Few Democrats lining up to challenge Walker in 2014

Although Wisconsin Democrats won big in the November 6th election, the 2014 governor race looks bleak due to a strong Republican legislature, deep-pocketed GOP donors, and the lack of a strong Dem candidate.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/183651001.html>

Professional backgrounds of GAB judges show half with previous GOP ties

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald recently vocalized his disdain for the nonpartisan GAB, asserting that its six members are biased toward Dems, but their professional and political experiences suggest otherwise.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/a5de4f8e-43da-11e2-ba42-0019bb2963f4.html>

Law change needed to access immigration database

According to a recent GAB report, accessing a federal database to help determine whether illegal immigrants are voting in Wisconsin would require a law change and cost more than \$1 million over the next five years.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Lawchangeneededtoaccessimmigrationdatabase>

Megna calls on candidates to declare ideology

On Wednesday, Vince Megna of Milwaukee, a state Supreme Court candidate who has already declared he is a Democrat, called on other candidates in the race, including a sitting justice, to state their political ideology.

Read more: <http://lacrossetribune.com/f359f264-49f6-11e2-b5ae-001a4bcf887a.html>

Study says fracking leads to 20,000 jobs in state

A study funded by the petroleum industry says Wisconsin firms employ 20K people in the unconventional oil and gas business- mostly sand mines. The sand from western Wisconsin is used for out-of-state fracking.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/business/184196761.html>

Federal

Obama makes third fiscal cliff offer

The White House's new "fiscal cliff" offer to Boehner matches the amount of spending cuts with revenue-raisers, calls for two stimulus measures and seeks an avoidance of a debt limit fight for the next two years.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/17/obama-fiscal-cliff-offer_n_2319075.html

Poll: Majority of Americans say Republican Party too extreme

According to a CNN/ORC poll released Thursday, 53% of Americans, including 22% of Republicans, say the GOP's views and policies are too extreme. In 2010, fewer than 40% thought the party was too extreme.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/20/republican-poll_n_2337757.html

LA jury awards \$4.5 million to Filipino teachers

A federal jury found that Universal Placement International Inc. and its owner failed to properly disclose fees to 350 Filipino teachers recruited for \$40K-a-year jobs in Louisiana. The jury awarded the teachers \$4.5M.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/LAjuryawards4point5milliontoFilipinoteachers>

Wisconsin casts electoral votes for Obama

Democratic electors representing all eight Wisconsin congressional districts and two statewide votes met at the State Capitol Monday to officially decide the outcome of the presidential election in the Badger State.

Read more: <http://www.wrn.com/2012/12/wisconsin-casts-electoral-votes-for-obama/>

The GOP's Electoral College scheme

Republicans, alarmed at the challenges they face in winning the White House, are preparing an all-out assault on the Electoral College system in critical states, an initiative that would significantly ease the path to victory.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/TheGOPsElectoralCollegescheme>

'Dairy cliff': Congressional inaction could lead to doubling of milk prices

The "dairy cliff," which, like its better-known counterpart the "fiscal cliff," will arrive at the end of the year if there is no congressional action, would involve reverting to a 1949 law that could double the price of milk.

Read more: <http://www.leadertelegram.com/fd75e6f2-45b1-11e2-8002-001a4bcf887a.html>

Kohl makes farewell address to Senate

In his five-minute farewell speech to the Senate Thursday, Dem Sen. Herb Kohl thanked his fellow senators, his staff in Washington and Milwaukee, and the people of Wisconsin. Kohl served 24 years in the U.S. Senate.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/183420931.html>

Upcoming Events

For a listing of statewide events visit <http://www.seiuwi.org/events/>

For a listing of legislative hearings visit <http://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/>