

Devin LeMahieu

Wisconsin Senate District 9



Summary

Official Legislative Biography

Born Sheboygan, August 8, 1972; single. Graduate Sheboygan Co. Christian H.S. 1991; B.A. business administration and political science, Dordt College (Sioux Center, Iowa) 1995. Publisher/owner, Lakeshore Weekly. Member: Oostburg Kiwanis Club (fmr. pres.); Oostburg Chamber of Commerce; Sheboygan Co. Chamber of Commerce; Oostburg Civic Pride Com.; Bethel OPC (deacon); NRA (life mbr.). Sheboygan Co. Bd. Supervisor 2006-present, Human Resources Com. 2006-present (chm., 2010-14), Finance Com. 2012-present, Exec. Com. 2010-12.

Elected to Senate 2014.

ALEC membership/ties

- Signed on to ALEC SALT Letter to Congress in October 2016
- [ALEC Tax and Fiscal Policy Alternate, 2011](#)

ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Sponsored/Authored
Act 1	Right to Work Act	Voted yea
SB 3	Open Contracting Act	Voted yea

- **In 2015, Sen. Devin LeMahieu voted for Wisconsin's right to work law.** Sen. LeMahieu voted for Act 1 that allows workers to opt out of currently mandatory union fees, forcing unions to provide bargaining and training work without payment. The International Union of Operating Engineers sued Wisconsin over the law, but a federal appeals court ruled against the union in 2017. Scott Kronland, one of the attorneys representing the case maintains, "It is fundamentally unfair for the unions to be required to provide services for free and the unions expect that their position will eventually be vindicated." For years, ALEC has pushed right to work in state legislatures. The Center for Media and Democracy detailed the fact that the Wisconsin bill was taken almost word for word from the American Legislative Exchange Council model bill. Such a policy helps big corporations while harming workers and their families. "Right to work policies appear to correlate with lower wages and benefits, even when other factors are controlled for. The effect on the average worker—unionized or not—of working in a right-to-work state is to earn approximately \$1,500 less per year than a similar worker in a state without such a law" [Reuters, [7/12/2017](#); Think Progress, [2/24/2015](#); Center for Media and Democracy: [Right to Work; Act 1, Enacted March 9. 2015](#)]
- **In 2017, Senator Devin LeMahieu supported a bill that would prevent local governments from requiring contractors to work with unions on taxpayer-funded building projects.** Sen. LeMahieu voted for SB 3 is that bans project labor agreements, "a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project." Wisconsin Democrats said the proposal will interfere with the ability of local governments to get the best value for projects in their area. Rep. Peter Barca (D), minority leader of the Assembly, railed against the various requirements bearing down on organized labor: "Both of these moves will drive down wages for many workers in Wisconsin," Barca said in a statement Feb. 9. "This is exactly the wrong direction for our state. With one of the most diminished middle classes in the entire country, Democrats believe we should prioritize investing in worker training to close the skills gap and raise the minimum wage. Republicans seem to prioritize limiting local control and paying Wisconsin workers less." Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett agreed, "Our building and construction trades are critical partners in Milwaukee's renaissance, which is why I support their contributions. They visibly strengthen our economy" [Journal Sentinel, [2/8/17](#); Bloomberg [2/13/2017; SB 3, Passed House 64-35, Passed Senate 19-13, 2/8/2017](#)]

Other Hits

Representative Devin LeMahieu sponsored to allow concealed guns inside Wisconsin college buildings. According to the Milwaukee State Journal Sentinel, In 2015 Representative LeMahieu sponsored a bill, SB 589 that would allow students and faculty to carry concealed guns inside public university and college buildings. SB 589 would repeal the current UW System gun ban, and prevent UW campuses and campuses of the Wisconsin Technical College System from prohibiting firearms for those who have concealed-carry licenses. "Allowing concealed weapons inside a building like Camp Randall Stadium, filled with 80,000 people, creates a major security issue," said a statement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Department. Representative Kremer, the bill's author, says current law is not stopping those who want to cause "mayhem" from doing so on and around campus. "How are we stopping them from carrying guns on campus?" he said. "We're not." [Milwaukee State Journal Sentinel, [10/13/15](#); SB [589](#), Bill failed to pass to become a Senate Joint Resolution, [4/13/16](#)]

In 2018, Representative Devin LeMahieu received a \$500 contribution from KochPAC. [CMD, [8/22/2018](#)]