

Rep. Kitchens: Looks forward to bipartisanship this session

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Contact: Rep. Joel Kitchens, 608-266-5350

MADISON, Wis. – State Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) released the following statement in response to today’s inauguration ceremonies for the Wisconsin State Legislature and Gov. Tony Evers:

“Inauguration Day is a special and symbolic day for me because it represents a chance for new beginnings and brings strong feelings of hope and optimism,” Kitchens said. “I am extremely excited about what we have planned for this legislation session, but I also recognize we will be presented with many unique challenges over the next two years due to having a split government for the first time in nearly a decade.

“I will always stand up for what I believe is best for the constituents of the 1st Assembly District and I will never sacrifice my principles. However, with a divided government, it’s vital for us to understand that, without compromise, we will accomplish absolutely nothing. There are too many issues in Wisconsin that still need to be resolved, and I know that allowing ‘partisan politics’ to stand in the way would be unacceptable for myself, my constituents and all residents of the state.

“I wish Gov. Tony Evers well in his new role and I pledge to work with him and his administration to find common ground wherever and whenever possible. I have enjoyed a good working relationship with the governor in the past and have a proven track record of reaching across the aisle, and I fully expect that to continue this session. I am certain that’s what my constituents want.

“I hope to sit down with Gov. Evers in the very near future to discuss the final

recommendations of the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding. As co-chairman of the commission, I am confident the governor will support some of our proposals that are aimed at adjusting the state's complex school funding formula and improving educational opportunities across the state."