

# Rep. Shankland: Response to Governor Evers' State of the State address

Posted on Tuesday, Jan 24, 2023

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MADISON – Following Governor Tony Evers' 2023 State of the State address, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“Tonight, Governor Evers delivered an outstanding State of the State Address outlining the critical investments and record successes in his first term while laying out his plans to build on these successes, including comprehensive plans to invest in public safety, mental health, clean drinking water, public schools, small businesses, and more.

“Throughout his time in office, Governor Evers has remained committed to bringing people together to find common-sense solutions to the issues impacting everyday Wisconsin residents. Tonight underscored that the work is not done, and I truly appreciate the governor's proposed commonsense solutions.

“As communities across the state are going to referendum and voting to raise their property taxes to fund local police, fire, and EMS services, the governor highlighted his plan to invest in public safety by increasing shared revenue for local governments. I strongly support increasing shared revenue to ensure our communities can continue delivering vital local government services while holding the line on property taxes, and I appreciate the governor's steadfast commitment to fully funding public safety.

“The governor also emphasized the sizable investments his administration has made in mental health while recognizing there is much more to do. Not only did Governor Evers name 2023 as the year of mental health, but he also announced

that his budget proposal will include a \$500 million investment to expand access to mental and behavioral health services across Wisconsin. This will be transformational to people all over Wisconsin who deserve access to quality mental health care, and I am so grateful for the governor's leadership.

"Additionally, the Governor announced his three-pronged plan to expand PFAS monitoring and testing, enhance PFAS clean-up efforts, and defray costs for homeowners and local communities. As the ranking member of the Assembly Environment Committee and a leader on clean water, I am thrilled with the governor's strong vision for our state. I look forward to working to prioritize legislation that protects Wisconsin's natural resources and our way of life. Ensuring Portage County residents have access to clean water is critical, and the governor's plan is transformational to making it a reality.

"I appreciate Governor Evers' emphasis on working together and stand ready to work closely with the governor and lawmakers from both parties to deliver real results for the people of Portage County. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to continue representing the people of the 71st Assembly District and look forward to the work ahead."