

Sen. Agard: Hails the beginning of new legislative session as new opportunity

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MADISON, Wis. – Today, Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) addressed the Wisconsin State Senate as Senate Democratic Leader during the 2023-24 Inauguration Ceremony. Senator Agard released the following statement:

“Congratulations to Governor Tony Evers, newly-elected Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez, Attorney General Josh Kaul, my current and new colleagues in the State Legislature, and all constitutional officers who took an oath of office today to uphold the values and serve the people of the great state of Wisconsin. It is a privilege to hold these positions.

“The beginning of each legislative session is the most hopeful time of our two-year cycle. My Senate colleagues and I gathered today with optimism in our hearts and a willingness in our spirit to do great things.

“While there are political lines drawn around our districts – the people of Wisconsin are one. They share the same values, hopes, and dreams whether they live in Superior or Elkhorn, Ellsworth or Oconto. At the end of the day, Wisconsinites generally want the same things out of their state government – affordable health care and prescriptions, housing that doesn’t break the bank, clean air and water, and the ability to live with purpose and with the freedoms we expect as Americans.

“With Governor Evers’ re-election, I am hopeful all legislators can work together in pursuit of the commonsense policies the people across our state voted for when they elected him to a 2nd term with an even larger margin than 2018: strong public schools, strengthening our democracy, continuing to invest in our transportation

infrastructure, and supporting our local units of government. These are not Democratic values or Republican values – they are Wisconsin values.

“We must put government back to work for the people of Wisconsin, including reinvesting the state’s \$6.6 billion surplus and confirming Governor Evers’ appointees, ensuring that the peaceful transition of power is upheld and our democracy remains strong – something all Wisconsinites resoundingly support.

“I aim to make this session one that is remembered for the positive work accomplished for the people of our state and for building a better way of doing things as colleagues. I am hopeful that we can rise above our divisive times and strive to be better. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I are ready to roll up our sleeves, compromise, and get to work. Make no mistake, we will hold true to our values but we are genuine in our interest in creating a better discourse.”