

UNDER THE DOME

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Budget Agreement Timing

The state budget is now several weeks overdue but many see the Foxconn incentive package that includes a plan to rebuild the I-94 North-South as creating momentum to finalize the state budget bill. The budget bill and the Foxconn package will move on separate tracks but intense public attention in Wisconsin and nationally has increased the stakes for passing both sooner rather than this fall. However, Senate and Assembly Republicans remain at odds on the process and timeline for the budget bill and the Foxconn package of incentives. The Assembly wants to move the Foxconn special session forward while Senate leadership is saying lawmakers need to focus on finishing the state budget first. Governor Walker has been pushing lawmakers to take up both items at the same time.

Wisconsin to Send Trade Delegation to Asia

Governor Walker will lead a trade delegation to South Korea and Japan September 8th through the 16th. The trip is timed to coincide with the Midwest U.S. - Japan Conference in Tokyo. The annual meeting includes business and government officials from ten midwestern states and Japan. Walker made the announcement alongside Ahn Ho-young, South Korea's ambassador to the United States. Ahn Ho-young was visiting Wisconsin. "The historic \$10 billion investment Foxconn is making in Wisconsin is a clear sign that businesses around the world are recognizing the many benefits of establishing operations in our state, including our strong business climate and outstanding workforce," Governor Walker said. In the trade mission to South Korea and Japan, Governor Walker will lead a delegation including leaders from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and executives from eight Wisconsin companies.

Hearing Held on Foxconn

The Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy held a public hearing on the special session bill to give Foxconn up to \$3 billion in incentives for building a plant in southeastern Wisconsin that would employ thousands. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation CEO Mark Hogan testified that a decision on a site for Foxconn is "imminent," with an announcement likely coming within the next few weeks. Committee Chair, Representative Neylon had originally planned to vote on the bill Tuesday. However, after his committee heard nearly ten hours of testimony he said that wouldn't provide enough time to consider amendments. Neylon said he's now targeting Thursday of this week for a vote on the bill. He said that would provide time to explore amendments, distribute them to both caucuses and determine if there is enough support for changes.

Federal Judicial Appointments

The White House nominated Milwaukee Attorney Michael Brennan to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals and Waushara County DA Scott Blader to be the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin. Brennan is a former Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge who is now a partner at a private firm.