

## **20 Incumbents Leaving The Wisconsin Legislature**

Democratic Rep. Spencer Black, an environmental advocate who was first elected in 1984, has announced Sunday that he will not seek re-election. Black, was chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Pundits expect Dane County Supervisor Brett Hulseley, former Senior Midwest Representative for the Sierra Club, and now an environmental consultant and owner of Environmental Business Solutions [www.betterenvironmentalsolutions.com](http://www.betterenvironmentalsolutions.com) to run for the seat. Black has always been expected to seek Sen. Fred Risser's seat when he leaves office, but the perennial Senator (the longest serving in the country) has yet to make a move. This November will be the most interesting and possibly a shift in political power in years. Watch for more interesting moves in the next few weeks.

Now seven Democrats, 12 Republicans, and Jeff Wood, an independent, have said they aren't coming back for another term. Assembly members include: Chuck Benedict, D-Beloit; Black, D-Madison; Brett Davis, R-Oregon; Don Friske, R-Merrill; Mark Gundrum, R-New Berlin; Steve Hilgenberg, D-Dodgeville; Mary Hubler, D-Rice Lake; Thomas Lothian, R-Williams Bay; Phil Montgomery, R-Ashwaubenon; Thomas Nelson, D-Kaukauna; Kitty Rhoades, R-Hudson; Roger Roth, R-Appleton; Gary Sherman, D-Port Wing; John Townsend, R-Fond du Lac; Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa; Wood, I-Chippewa Falls, and Rich Zipperer, R-Pewaukee. Senators who aren't seeking re-election include: Ted Kanavas, R-Brookfield; Alan Lasee, R-De Pere; and Judy Robson, D-Beloit.

### The Powerful U.S. Rep. David Obey Retires from Washington

Even more interesting is the departure of U.S. Rep. David Obey(D-Wausau) Chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. State Senator Julie Lassa (D- Stevens Point) announced she is running for his seat. She does not have to give up her state Senate seat to run for Congress.