

## **Sen. Dan Kapanke (R-32, La Crosse)**

Sen. Kapanke was first elected to the Senate in 2004. He was unopposed in the primary and faced Democratic opposition in the 2008 general election from Tara Johnson. He narrowly won 51.4 percent to 48.5 percent. Kapanke lost a 2010 bid for the WI-3 to incumbent Rep. Ron Kind, by a 46.5 percent to 50.3 percent margin.

### **Kapanke On The Walker Budget:**

#### **Kapanke Offered The False Choice Of Budget Repair Bill Or Layoffs.**

In a February 28, 2011 interview on Fox Business' Follow the Money, Kapanke was asked if he thought that layoffs were imminent in Wisconsin. He said:

If we can't get this done, we can't get this budget adjustment bill done because our friends on the other side are in Illinois, and so we're going to start laying off people. We have no recourse. And that's very, very sad. [Fox Business' Follow the Money, 02/28/11]

#### **Kapanke Was Believed To Be Wavering On Budget Repair, But Ended Speculation Swiftly.**

In a March 9, 2011 story, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel wrote, "One senator rumored to be wavering on the bill was Sen. Dan Kapanke (R-La Crosse), but Kapanke told reporters Tuesday he is sticking with his fellow Republicans." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 03/09/11]

### **Kapanke Votes Against Workers:**

#### **Kapanke Voted For SB11, The So-Called 'Budget Repair' Bill.**

SB11, a bill Walker signed, would still allow state, municipal and school workers to bargain over their wages, but any raises beyond the rate of inflation would require a voter referendum. The repeal of most collective bargaining would not apply to unions representing local police, firefighters and State Patrol troopers. The law would require public employees to pay more for pensions and health insurance, give Walker broad authority over health care programs for the poor and turn 37 civil service jobs into political appointments. But unlike an earlier version, the bill passed by the Assembly wouldn't authorize the sale of state power plants or a \$165 million refinancing of state debt. On March 9, 2011, Kapanke voted for final passage of the bill as it passed the Senate 18-1 with every Democrat missing the vote. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/11/11](#); Wisconsin Legislative Record, January Special Session, [AB11, 2011](#); Senate Vote 112 ([pdf](#))]