

Sen. Sheila Harsdorf (R-10, River Falls)

Sen. Harsdorf was first elected to the Assembly in 1988 and, after a two-year retirement, was first elected to the Senate in 2000. She was unopposed in the primary and faced Democratic opposition in the 2008 general election from Alison Page. She won by a 56.4 percent to 43.5 percent margin.

Harsdorf On The Walker Budget:

Harsdorf On Budget Repair: Tough Decisions Need To Be Made.

On February 22, 2011, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's All Politics blog reported a variety of senators' reactions to Walker's proposed budget repair bill. They wrote of Harsdorf:

Sen. Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) said she had heard from private-sector workers who have suffered cuts in the down economy and from local officials who want more flexibility in dealing with their employees.

"The tough decisions need to be made," Harsdorf said. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's All Politics blog, 02/22/11]

Harsdorf Insisted That The Collective Bargaining Provisions Had A Local Impact.

On February 27, 2011, the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram wrote of Walker's budget repair bill:

State Sens. Terry Moulton, R-Chippewa Falls, and Sheila Harsdorf, R-River Falls, repeated Walker's assertions that the collective bargaining piece undoubtedly would have a fiscal impact and is intended to give local governments more flexibility to deal with impending aid cuts.

"The governor has indicated there are budget cuts coming, and we know it's going to be extremely challenging at the local level," Harsdorf said. "It's about giving local government as many tools as possible." [Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, 02/27/11]

Harsdorf Votes Against Workers:

Harsdorf 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, Harsdorf 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](#))]

Harsdorf Is Out Of Touch With The Mainstream:

Harsdorf Voted Against Minimum Wage Increase In Both 2008 And 2009.

In 2008 and 2009, Senator Harsdorf voted against an increase in the minimum wage. [Wisconsin Legislative Record, [SB130, 2008](#); [SB1, 2009](#)]

Harsdorf Voted Against An Expansion Of Permissible Employment Discrimination Suits.

Senator Harsdorf voted against allowing legislation that allows discrimination victims to sue employers for compensatory and punitive damages. Previously, the only permissible remedies were back-pay, and reinstatement. [Wisconsin Legislative Record, [SB20, 2009](#)]