



# Michael G. Ellis

SENATE PRESIDENT

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WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

## Statement of Senator Mike Ellis on Retirement

Next to marrying my wife, Sandy, standing up and fighting for the taxpayers of the Fox Valley has been the greatest honor of my life. I value her too much to put her through today's campaign environment. She cannot go to the grocery store, the gas station, or out to eat without a camera being shoved in her face or being harassed by the left or the right. The past 4 years, and the last 9 months have taken a toll on my family, and I love her too much to continue this.

I cannot think of a better last term in the state senate. We have righted the ship of state. We took a \$3.6 billion deficit and turned into nearly \$2 billion in tax cuts. Property taxes will be lower next year than they were 4 years ago.

We invested in public schools for the first time in 5 years with nearly \$400 million. We made sure everyone in Wisconsin had access to some type of health insurance. We were able to get oral chemotherapy and cannabidiol legislation passed to show compassion to those in need. We strengthened our economy, and put Wisconsin on the right path.

Instead being criticized from our opponents, independent thought is attacked by our own backyard. Like my dear friends, Tim Cullen, Bob Jauch, and Dale Schultz, I see that compromise is not valued in today's Capitol environment, and that means I don't fit in any more. Special interests hold too much sway, instead of the voice of the people. I'm a senator from a different era, and I value my integrity too much to compromise it any more.

I now can appreciate Brett Favre's on-again, off-again retirement saga. It is hard to leave something you love when you have more to give, and realize you can still sling it. But like Favre (and my arm is just as strong, by the way), you reach a time when you realize the game has moved on. Forty-four years in long enough, and as the Beach Boys sang "I just wasn't made for these times."