

## Democratic Leaders Respond to Senator Gudex's Passing

Written by GBP Staff

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*Thoughts and prayers go out to Senator Gudex's family in their time of loss.*

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FOND DU LAC, WI - State Sen. Rick Gudex of Fond du Lac died early Wednesday of an apparent suicide at 48, leaving Democrats and his fellow Republicans alike mourning the sudden loss.

According to the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), Fond du Lac County Sheriff Mylan C. Fink Jr. said in a statement that Gudex died of a gunshot wound to the chest and that a preliminary investigation found it was self-inflicted. The sheriff's log shows that early Wednesday a family member had contacted officers to warn that Gudex had talked of ending his life and to ask for help in finding him.



Gudex was stepping down from the Senate in January to take a better job with his former employer, a maker of tank trailers, said Tim Lakin, Gudex's chief of staff. The senator had a wife and two children.

"Like many around the state, I was saddened to hear of the passing of State Senator Rick Gudex this morning," said Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair **Martha Laning** on Wednesday. "While we were from opposite political parties, I have a tremendous respect for his dedication to public service and willingness to step up and represent his community. Our thoughts and

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prayers are with his family, friends, and colleagues."



"I am deeply saddened by the loss of state Senator Rick Gudex," said Winnebago County Executive and State Senate candidate **Mark Harris**. "My condolences and sympathies go out to the Gudex family and their friends."



"I was very saddened to hear of Senator Gudex's passing. Although we sat on different sides of the aisle I enjoyed working with him in the State Senate," said Senator **Dave Hansen** of Green Bay. "My thoughts and prayers go out to Senator Gudex's family in their time of loss."