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**For immediate release:**

June 4, 2019

**Mark Sommerhauser joins Wisconsin Policy Forum as Communications Director**

*Former Capitol Reporter Will Disseminate and Contribute to Forum's Research*

MADISON and MILWAUKEE – The Wisconsin Policy Forum has a new communications director and policy researcher: Mark Sommerhauser, former award-winning Capitol reporter for the Wisconsin State Journal.

“Mark will be based in Madison and will lead our efforts to deliver the Forum’s research to an ever wider audience. We are delighted to add his talents to those of our growing staff,” Forum President Rob Henken announced.

Sommerhauser has covered state and federal politics and government in Wisconsin and Minnesota for the past decade, including the last four years in Madison. His coverage was on topics including the state budget, state transportation issues, former Gov. Scott Walker’s presidential bid, the 2016 and 2018 campaigns, and the Foxconn development in Wisconsin.

In his 15-year career, Sommerhauser covered government at every level at four daily newspapers and was recognized for his work by journalism groups in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri.

At the Forum, his duties will include research, allowing him to contribute to the Forum’s analysis of state and local finances and issues. In addition to his skills as a communicator, he brings a wealth of contacts and experience in Madison, a strong social media presence, and familiarity with other new media such as online video that will be crucial for the Forum moving forward.

Sommerhauser said he's excited to broaden his skill set and bring insights rooted in data and facts to debates about public policy.

“I’m delighted to join an organization that values objective, nonpartisan research, and that seeks to provide a town square where people of diverse views can converge to debate key issues,” he said.

Sommerhauser replaces David Callender, a valued member of the Forum team who in April departed to become the communications director of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. The Forum thanks Callender for his many contributions.

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*The Wisconsin Policy Forum was created on January 1, 2018 by the merger of the Madison-based Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance and the Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum. Throughout their lengthy histories, both organizations engaged in nonpartisan, independent research and civic education on fiscal and policy issues affecting state and local governments and school districts in Wisconsin. WPF is committed to those same activities and that same spirit of nonpartisanship.*