



Monday, January 29, 2018



# "Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

## CONTENTS:

- **Library Legislative Day is February 20 – Register today!**
- **February 20 Primary Election information**
- **AB 572/SB 491 UPDATE: Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill Passes Senate on January 23 – Sent to Governor!**
- **Thank you notes requested for Senators**
- **WLA Supports WEMTA, Registers Against AB857/SB713**

**Library Legislative Day is February 20, 2018  
Deadline extended; REGISTER TODAY!**



[Register Online for Library Legislative Day](#) or download the [PDF](#) and send to WLA! [GO HERE](#) for information about hotel reservations at the Madison Concourse Hotel.

The program agenda begins at 8:30 AM with registration and continental breakfast. A briefing session and presentation of Library Champion Awards follows between 9:00 and 10:30 AM, with two 30 minute blocks of morning appointments between 11:00 and noon, lunch on your own, and four 30-minute afternoon appointment blocks between 1:30 and 3:30 PM. **As always, the appointments will be scheduled for attendees by the Legislative Day Committee!** Join your colleagues at the capitol to celebrate WLA success in 2017-2018, recognize 2018 Legislative Champions, say thank you to our legislators and strengthen relationships for the future!

**NOTE:** Assembly District 42 (formerly Keith Ripp) and Senate District 1 (formerly Frank Lasee) are Vacant Seats until the November 2018 election. The offices will still be staffed on Legislative Day to handle district constituent business and should be visited.

February 20 was chosen to best coordinate available downtown Madison meeting space with the legislative session calendar. **If you're attending, please note ABSENTEE BALLOT information below.**

## **February 20 Primary Election Information**

**February 20 is Spring Primary Election Day.** The only statewide race on the primary ballot is for Justice of the Supreme Court, where there are three candidates for an open seat: [Tim Burns](#), [Rebecca Dallet](#), and [Michael Screnock](#). The top two vote-getters will face off in the general Spring Election on April 3. There are also primary races for circuit court judge in Columbia and Manitowoc Counties, and many local municipal and county races.

If you are attending Library Legislative Day and cannot return to your polling place before 8 PM on Primary Election Day, you can either do **in-person (early) voting** OR **request an absentee ballot** from your municipal clerk. February 1 is the last day to register online; after that date you'll have to register at your polling place on Election Day. February 15 is the last day to request an absentee ballot. For more information: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> or <http://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/absentee>

## **AB 572/SB 491 UPDATE Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill Passes Senate on January 23**

The **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill** ([2017 Assembly Bill 572](#) and [2017 Senate Bill 491](#)) unanimously passed the Senate on January 23! The bill awaits the signature of Governor Scott Walker!

**Basic Facts: AB572/SB491** seeks no additional funding. It adds language to expand the use of the DPI WISEdata and WISEdash information system appropriations beyond K-12 schools to include applications of potential benefit to individual public libraries and Wisconsin's 16 regional public library systems. It also opens TEACH block grants, which are now available through the Department of Administration to small and rural schools, to their counterparts in education: small and rural libraries. DPI has assured that there is adequate capacity in both programs to include libraries without negatively impacting K-12 schools.

The twin bills were co-authored by Representatives [Felzkowski](#) and Senator Harsdorf who was replaced by Senator [Testin](#) as co-author on December 18 after Harsdorf became Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Co-sponsors include Senators [Olsen](#) and [Tiffany](#); Representatives [Swearingen](#), [Loudenbeck](#), [Horlacher](#), [Mursau](#), [Novak](#), [Ripp](#), [Skowronski](#), [Tranel](#), [Tusler](#), [Kooyenga](#), [Considine](#), [Shankland](#) and [Barca](#).

**Thank you notes requested for Senators!**



WLA has made *handwritten thank you notes* its “brand” in the legislature. During the past year, as WLA LD&L members visited Senate and Assembly offices for strategic conversations, we have witnessed happy legislators and staff members holding a fist full of WLA envelopes and grinning broadly. It really makes a difference to our relationship building!

**Please snail mail your thanks to your State Senator for supporting AB572 /SB471.** There were only “yes” votes on the Senate floor on January 23! **BONUS POINTS** if you see your Senator listed either among the bill’s co-sponsors above or as members of the Senate [Committee on Education](#) (which also unanimously endorsed the bill) and mention their extra lift to advance the bill thus far.

**Addresses for all State Senators:** P. O. BOX 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

## **WLA Supports WEMTA, Registers Against [AB857/SB713](#) Bill would change Common School Fund expenditures**

WLA has joined the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA), the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Wisconsin Towns Association in registering its opposition to AB857/SB713. Click here for [Bill Text](#).

The bill has the potential to significantly reduce funding for school library media centers. It would eliminate the authority of the [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands](#) (BCPL) to make [State Trust Fund Loans](#), broadens the authority of the BCPL to invest state trust fund moneys including the [Common School Fund](#) (CSF) and would strike the word “library” from statute 20.255 (2)(s) regarding a school district’s expenditure of CSF income, allowing it to be used for other purposes.

Most Wisconsin school libraries depend on annual CSF disbursements as their only revenue source for the purchase of books, newspapers, periodicals, web-based resources, and computer hardware and software. CSF earnings are generated in part through the State Trust Fund Loan Program which invests in community projects across the state. The State Trust Fund Loan Program not only benefits Wisconsin municipal library capital projects, but also enables fiscally responsible municipal management of infrastructure that impacts available revenue for local public library operations. WLA supports conscientious state investment authority and earnings management that continues to generate revenue through the Common School Fund to purchase books and digital materials for school libraries.

WEMTA is taking the lead on this bill. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Concluding Thought**

"A LIBRARY IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMMUNITY IS A CROSS BETWEEN AN EMERGENCY EXIT, A LIFE RAFT, AND A FESTIVAL. THEY ARE CATHEDRALS OF THE MIND; HOSPITALS OF THE SOUL; THEME PARKS OF THE IMAGINATION."

CATLIN MORAN

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