



Wednesday, November 21, 2018



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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ELECTION NEWS

The 2018 Midterms are History – what do we know?



Democrats swept all five constitutional executive offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer and Secretary of State for the first time since 1986. The last three officers comprise the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands which oversees the Common School Fund benefitting Wisconsin's school libraries. The last time Wisconsin had a similar divided government with different parties in control of the executive and legislative branches was 2003-2006.

The transition website for Governor-Elect Tony Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes is <https://evers.wi.gov> Dr. Evers is not expected to resign as State Superintendent of Schools until Inauguration Day on January 7 when, as Governor, he can name his own replacement to head DPI. [CLICK HERE for a Wisconsin Public Radio story](#) providing more details regarding the DPI transition.

Republicans flipped one seat in the state Senate and have a 19 to 14 majority for the 2019-2020 legislative session. There are four new Senators, all of whom have previously served in the Assembly.

Democrats flipped one seat in the state Assembly where the Republicans will have a 63 to 36 majority. There are fourteen new Assembly Representatives.

Meanwhile, the partisan composition of Wisconsin's congressional delegation remains the same, with Senator Tammy Baldwin and all current U.S. House incumbents re-elected except for House District 1 where Republican Bryan Steil won the open seat race to replace retiring House Speaker Paul Ryan.

ACTION ITEM: Post-Election Relationship Building **Congratulatory notes need to be written!**



Efforts by WLA members to build relationships with members of the legislature and executive branch in recent years have yielded tremendous success! **2019 is a budget-producing year with the potential to provide another boost to state library aids – as you'll find explained further down this newsletter page....**

Handwritten notes from the library community have become WLA's "brand." Now is the time to congratulate our next Governor and Lt. Governor, as well all newly elected legislators and old friends!

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/LDLcongrats> for a list of recently elected legislative seats, sorted for your convenience so you can separate the newbies from the incumbents, and occupants of the odd numbered senate districts elected this year from the rest whose terms expire in 2020. Addresses are provided for all. You just need to invest two first class stamps to reach out to your own Senator and Assembly Representative.

All returning legislators provided unanimous support for library funding and related legislative initiatives in the last session!

Got two more stamps? **Send congratulations to Governor-Elect Tony Evers at P.O. Box 1789, Madison, WI 53701 and Lt. Governor-Elect Mandela Barnes at P.O. Box 90541, Milwaukee, WI 53209.**

Finally, WLA understands the value of *maintaining as well as building relationships* and always encourages members to send handwritten notes to *outgoing* elected officials. Such notes can briefly state the importance of library services and either thank the official for their support of libraries or simply wish them well and note that as they go forward with their lives, Wisconsin public libraries stand ready to serve them. Go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/> to identify current members of the legislature who are retiring when compared to the list linked above. Governor Scott Walker, PO Box 7863, Madison, WI 53707. Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, P.O. Box 2043, Madison, WI 53702.

The few minutes you spend writing these notes can make a difference to your library for years to come!

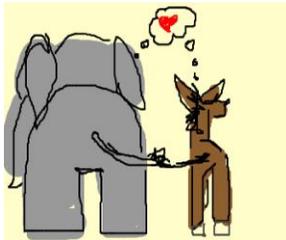
Biennial Budget Process Update

WLA supports DPI 2019-2021 biennial budget request for state library funding

The Wisconsin Library Association is advocating for these library items which are included in the 2019-2021 Department of Public Instruction budget:

- **Additional aid for Public Library Systems:** Requesting continuation of the \$1.5 million gained in FY2017-2019 plus \$2.5 million in 2019-2020 and \$4 million in 2020-2021, resulting in a total of \$19,013,100 for library system aid in the second year. (Emphasis on system support for local library services in the areas of improved access through technology, workforce development and lifelong learning).
- **Cost to continue funding for other core library services:** Modest increases to maintain core library services are requested for BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind and the four statewide resource contracts (Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections).

[The entire DPI biennial budget request is linked HERE.](#) The sections related to the library items listed above are found on document pages 163-173.



As Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Evers submitted the DPI budget request to the governor's office in September, along with all the other state agencies. As Governor, Evers will examine all those requests before delivering to the legislature sometime in February a state budget proposal that reflects his administration's priorities. The legislative Joint Finance Committee will next be able to rewrite it with the approval of both houses. The Governor then has extensive veto power over the final document. The legislature can only achieve a large enough majority to override those vetoes with bipartisan support.

WLA has established relationships with returning library champions on both sides of the legislative aisle, as well as an excellent working relationship with the Governor-Elect. Library values are neither Republican nor Democrat; we serve all Wisconsin citizens. Stay tuned for more opportunities to be library advocates as the budget process unfolds, as well as an updated budget timetable reflecting the complex administrative transition process.

Library Legislative Day is February 12, 2019 SAVE THE DATE!



Library Legislative Day will be held at the Madison Concourse Hotel on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/legday2019> to print a registration form and FAX or mail it to the WLA Office at the number and address provided. Please consult the form for additional information about making hotel reservations. On line registration will be available at the WLA website as soon as the list of legislators is updated to reflect the November 6 election. **As always, the appointments will be scheduled for attendees by the Legislative Day Committee!** Please register by January 13, 2019.

Concluding Thought

"If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks."

--Wendell H. Ford

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