



Monday, April 2, 2018



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

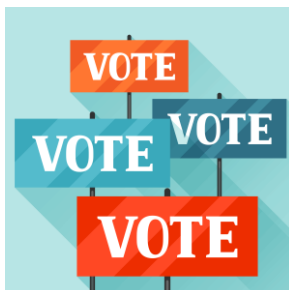
...from Wisconsin Library Association

CONTENTS:

- **ELECTION NEWS**
 - **Spring General Election is April 3 – GO VOTE!**
 - **Two Special Legislative Elections called for June 12**
 - **Candidates file for Fall Election 2018**
- **2019 Federal Budget **Call to Action** – contact Wisconsin US senators!**
- **National Library Legislative Day is May 7-8**
- **Public Library Data and Technology Bill is now Act 142**
- **Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine Features Libraries**

ELECTION NEWS

Spring Election Day is Tuesday, April 3 – GO VOTE!



The only statewide race on the April 3 ballot is for Justice of the Supreme Court, where Judge [Rebecca Dallet](#), and Judge [Michael Screnock](#) are competing for an open seat.

County circuit court judgeships, plus many school board seats, local municipal, and county races will be decided.

A statewide referendum on whether Wisconsin should amend its Constitution to eliminate the Office of the State Treasurer is also on the April 3 ballot. The Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA) has posted information about the referendum question on its [legislative blogspot](#).

Go to [My Vote Wisconsin](http://www.vote411.org), click on **What's on My Ballot?** and enter your address to see a preview before you go to the polls. Or visit the Wisconsin League of Women Voters website <http://www.vote411.org/ballot>.

Special Legislative Elections called for June 12 Primaries on May 15 for two seats vacant since December



Representative Keith Ripp of Lodi who represented the 42nd Assembly District, and Senator Frank Lasee of DePere who represented the 1st Senate District both left their legislative seats to pursue positions in the governor's administration at the end of 2017. **Special elections for these vacant state Senate and state Assembly seats will now proceed, with primaries on May 15 and general elections on June 12.** Candidates have until April 17 to file nomination papers. The seats will again be on the ballot in November.

[Senate District 1](#) which includes parts of Brown, Door, Calumet, Kewaunee and Manitowoc counties has three potential candidates so far: Republican Assembly District 2 Representative Andre Jacque, Republican manufacturing executive Alex Renard and Democratic Door County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Caleb Frostman.

[Assembly District 42](#) which includes parts of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette counties has two potential candidates so far: Republican Jon Plumer, a Lodi town board member, and Democrat Ann Groves Lloyd, also of Lodi.

Candidates File for Fall Election 2018 Will they know where your library is?

[Keep your eye on this page](#) as potential candidates register with the Wisconsin Elections Commission for the Fall 2018 General Election. Scroll down to the Fall 2018 section and click on **Candidates Tracking by Office** for the latest updates.

The first day to circulate nomination papers is April 15 with a filing deadline of 5 PM on June 1. Partisan primaries will be held on August 14 where necessary, with the General Election on November 6.



Vote
for
Libraries

This election is for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator (odd-numbered districts) Representatives to the Assembly (all districts). County offices up for election are Sheriff, Clerk of Circuit Court and Coroner (where applicable).

Advocacy work with officials elected at both the local and state levels never stops. Every season is advocacy season. Every opportunity for relationship building and

demonstration of how LIBRARIES TRANSFORM LIVES is important. WLA members have made tremendous strides in this regard during the past four years. Librarians and library supporters have stepped up to proactively establish relationships with legislators and acquaint them with the vital work that libraries do as a prelude to deliberations for the next state budget, rather than waiting to be merely reactive.

Setting partisan politics aside, focus on getting to know current legislators better as members of "the incumbent party!" Acknowledgment of all candidates running for open seats, as well as candidates running against incumbents, provides an additional opportunity to meet, greet and inform potential new friends who, if not elected, will nonetheless become more knowledgeable about library value.

2019 Federal Budget Call to Action!

Contact Senators Baldwin and Johnson before April 10!



Librarians are thrilled that **Congress passed a FY2018 omnibus bill** signed by the President on March 23 that included significant federal funding increases for critical Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding allocated as Grants to States, as well as the smaller Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program which primarily supports childhood literacy and book distribution activities.

We must, however, persist in our efforts to maintain these vital pockets of funding because the White House FY2019 budget once again calls for eliminating LSTA and IAL as well as the entire Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) which is the only federal agency charged with providing support to libraries and museums.

In the March 13 issue of this newsletter, we asked for your assistance in calling on Wisconsin's U.S. House Representatives to maintain these programs. **Now we need to gently remind Wisconsin's U.S. Senators that we're still paying attention and are appreciative when they support federal funds for libraries.**

The [IMLS Grants to States Program LSTA dollars allocated to Wisconsin](#) pay for a significant portion of the DPI staff members responsible for leadership and coordination of Wisconsin library services such as the [BadgerLink](#) online database, [WISCAT](#) inter-library loan, Wisconsin [Document Depository Program](#) and [Wisconsin Digital Archives](#). For more information about Wisconsin LSTA [GO HERE](#).

Two "Dear Appropriator" letters asking the Senate Appropriations Committee to fully fund LSTA and IAL have started to circulate in the Senate, asking Senators to preserve over \$210 million in federal library funding in the FY2019 budget.

Please contact Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin to ask that they sign on to both letters. The deadline is April 10th.

This is the basic message: *"Hello, my name is [your name here] from [where you live]. I am [insert your relationship to libraries here – librarian, trustee, library*

friend/supporter]. I am requesting Senator [Baldwin/Johnson] to sign two Dear Appropriator letters supporting \$210 million in vital library funding in the FY19 budget – one letter for the Library Services and Technology Act and one for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. This funding is important for Wisconsin Libraries. Thank you!”

[Make a Call](#) to the Senators’ Washington offices OR [Send an Email](#) OR [Send a Tweet](#).

Questions? Contact Sherry Machones sherrymachones@gmail.com, Wisconsin’s ALA Chapter Councilor and the WLA Library Development & Legislation Committee’s Federal Relations Coordinator.

National Library Legislative Day is May 7-8



Sherry Machones is also coordinating the Wisconsin delegation going to ALA **NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY** in Washington, D.C. on May 7-8. [Registration is open!](#) Or sign up for [Virtual National Library Legislative Day](#).

Public Library Data and Technology Bill is now Act 142

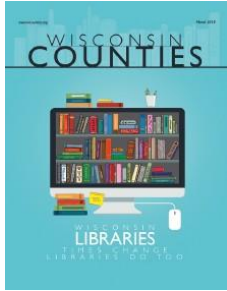
The **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill** ([2017 Assembly Bill 572](#) and [2017 Senate Bill 491](#)) was signed into law by Governor Walker on March 14 at the Florence County Library in Florence, WI. Thank you for all your advocacy efforts!



Seated: Governor Scott Walker **Front Row (L to R):** Brandon Jurue (Florence MS/HS Principal), Ron Yadro (Florence School Board member), Holly Stratton (Florence County and Library Board member), Nancy Miller (Florence Library Board and Friends of the Library member), Debbie DeMuri (Florence Library Board and Friends of the Library member), Jeanette Bomberg (Florence County Board chair),

Jan Gehlhoff (Florence Library Board and Nicolet Federated Library System Board), Steph Weber (Florence Library Director), Tracy Vreeke (Nicolet Federated Library System Director), **Back Row (L to R):** Representative Jeff Mursau and Ben Neihaus (Florence School District Superintendent).

Wisconsin Counties Magazine Features Libraries



Have you seen the latest issue of *Wisconsin Counties* magazine? Wisconsin residents love libraries! Our state ranks eighth in the nation for public library visits per capita. The Wisconsin Counties Association has dedicated their March magazine to libraries – from funding sources and county library planning, to library profiles and visions for the future! To view the entire edition, [click here](#).

In case you missed it, libraries were also featured in the [League of Wisconsin Municipalities February *Municipality* magazine](#).

Concluding Thought

"If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks."
– Wendell H. Ford (1924-2015), U.S. Senator from Kentucky

2018 LD&L Co-Chairs:

Kathy Pletcher
klpletcher@gmail.com

Connie Meyer
cmeyer@bridgeslibrarysystem.org

WLA Legislative Newsletter editor:

Kris Adams Wendt
kawendt@wvls.org

*** ***If you prefer to receive our legislative newsletter at a different email address***, please select the "Update Profile/Email Address" link at the very end of this email. If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, simply select the unsubscribe button.

About the WLA...

The Wisconsin Library Association engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about us and how you can get involved.

Become a WLA
Member >>

Join Us



Check out WLA Upcoming events and

Subscribe to Our Newsletter!

conferences [here!](#)



Wisconsin Library Association, 608.245.3640, wla@wisconsinlibraries.org,
4610 South Biltmore Lane #100, Madison, WI 53718-2153