



Tuesday, January 15, 2019



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

CONTENTS:

- **REGISTER:** Library Legislative Day is Tuesday, February 12, 2019
- Biennial Budget Process is focus for Legislative Day
- **RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACTION ITEM** – Keep sending notes and cards!
- Legislative Reference Resources
- Looking Ahead to the Spring General Election

Library Legislative Day is February 12, 2019



Library Legislative Day will be held at the Madison Concourse Hotel on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. [GO HERE for more information about hotel reservations.](#)

[Register online](#) or use the [PDF registration form](#) to mail or fax your reservation to the WLA Office at the number and address provided. Please do not register to see more than 6 legislators.

Program details are being finalized. Invited speakers are Governor Tony Evers, newly appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Representative Amy Loudenberg, Representative Mary Felzkowski and others to be announced. **As always, the appointments will be scheduled for attendees by the Legislative Day Committee! Registration deadline is January 28.**

Biennial Budget Process is Focus for Legislative Day
WLA Budget Team promotes 2019-2021 State Library Funding Priorities



The focus for this year's Library Legislative Day is the 2019-2021 Biennial Budget Process and library items expected to be included in Governor Evers' budget proposal.

WLA has released information summaries on state aid requests for [public library systems](#) and [core library services](#) including BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind and state resource contracts for the Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin

Talking Book and Braille Library, and inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections.

While the Governor's executive budget will not be released prior to February 12 we anticipate it will include a \$4 million increase for public library system aids, and an additional library contract for [Recollection Wisconsin](#).

Members of the WLA's Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee and our Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway began visiting the offices of [Joint Finance Committee](#) members and Legislative Leadership the day after members were sworn in on January 7.

The WLA budget team is delivering this message: "Thank you for the \$1.5 million additional funding for public library systems in the current budget. The money was used for workforce development, technology, and life-long learning. (Specific examples are provided.) We need your support to continue this important work by retaining the \$1.5 million and a modest increase in 2019-2021."

Further appointments are being scheduled for the budget team prior to Library Legislative Day in order to acquaint key legislators with the high level message prior to receiving the local impact message on February 12 from colleagues who are directly serving the legislators' constituents. Your local impact stories and examples of the many ways citizens use libraries are important!



The WLA LD&L Budget Team in action! **L to R:** Jean Anderson, Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Joint Finance Committee member Rep. Amy Loudenberg (R-Beloit), Steve Conway. (Photo by Plumer Lovelace.)

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ACTION ITEM: **More reasons to send a congratulatory note or card!**



Handwritten notes from the library community have become WLA's "brand." Kudos to those of you who already congratulated your legislators after November 6 or sent them a holiday card!

If you missed those opportunities... notes and cards congratulating legislators on being sworn into office for the new session on January 7 are now in order...**OR** you can drop a note saying you're looking forward to seeing them on February 12 for Library Legislative Day...**OR** invite them to hold their next Town Hall meeting in your library...**OR** all of the above!

Addresses for State Senators: P. O. BOX 7882, MADISON, WI 53707-7882

Addresses for Assembly Representatives: LAST NAMES A-L: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952; LAST NAMES M-Z: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Here are the addresses for the five constitutional officers sworn in on January 7:

Governor **Tony Evers**, 115 East State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

Lt. Governor **Mandela Barnes**, 19 East State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

Attorney General **Josh Kaul**, P.O. Box 7857, Madison, WI 53707-7857

Secretary of State **Doug La Follette**, P.O. Box 7848, Madison, WI 53707-7848

State Treasurer **Sarah Godlewski**, PO Box 7871 Madison, WI 53707

Kaul, Godlewski and La Follette constitute the three member [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands](#) which administers the Common School Fund benefitting Wisconsin public school libraries.

Legislative Reference Resources

The [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) web pages have been updated to reflect new members and changes in leadership and committee assignments.

- [WLA's 2019-2020 Legislative Guide](#) was revised after the November 6 election. It is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.
- Click here for [Wisconsin Legislative Leaders](#) (including members of Joint Finance Committee)
- To verify your correct Senate and Assembly districts, enter your personal address or the address of your library in the search box at [Who are my legislators?](#)
- Information about Governor Evers, Lt. Governor Barnes and the executive branch is found [HERE](#).

Looking Ahead to the Spring General Election

The **2019 Spring Primary Election is Tuesday, February 19**. Many municipalities and school districts will have nonpartisan primary elections to decide candidates for important local races such as mayor, school board, city council, etc. The **2019 Spring General Election will**

be held on Tuesday, April 2. Statewide court races (including a seat for the Wisconsin Supreme Court) as well as key local officials will be decided by the April election.

Concluding Thought



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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.



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