



Thursday, March 28, 2019



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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Biennial Budget in Brief

WLA promotes 2019-2021 State Library Funding Priorities



Governor Tony Evers delivered his executive budget proposal to a joint session of the legislature on February 28 where it became AB56/SB59 and moved immediately to the legislature's [Joint Finance Committee \(JFC\)](#). The Committee's primary responsibility is to serve as the principal legislative committee charged with the review of all state appropriations and revenues. This [map](#) shows the home of each of its members. It's now the JFC's turn to craft their budget version.

As anticipated, the Governor requested a \$4 million increase for state aid to [public library systems](#) over the 2019-2021 biennium, as well as modest cost-to-continue increases for [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.

WLA's Library Development & Legislation Committee (LD&L) had originally proposed sustainable funding for [Recollection Wisconsin](#) as a fifth state resource contract. However, the executive budget transitions Recollection Wisconsin program costs from grants to inclusion under an existing appropriation for the Department of Public Instruction's [WISELearn](#) resource portal.

Joint Finance Committee Public Hearings Scheduled **Stand Up for Libraries at One of Four Locations in April!**



The legislature's Joint Finance Committee has released the dates of four public hearings scheduled for the month of April. [CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.](#)

The LD&L members listed below have volunteered as site captains who will coordinate colleague recruitment, provide more detailed orientation and select one or two speakers for each city. Literally standing up for

libraries in a group behind your colleagues who speak earns 5 minutes of testimony time, as opposed to only 2 minutes allotted for testimony by a person standing alone. Members of a delegation who are constituents of one or more [JFC members](#) earn extra smiles!

Please get in touch with the site captains if you are available to attend one or more of the following hearings. More details will be shared as soon as they are released by JFC.

April 5 – Janesville

Pontiac Convention Center

2809 N. Pontiac Drive

Nick Dimassis (ndimassis@beloitlibrary.org)

Steve Ohs (sohs@lakeshores.lib.wi.us)

April 10 – Oak Creek

Oak Creek Community Center

8580 S. Howell Ave.

Kathy Klager (kbklager@phpl.lib.wi.us)

April 15 – River Falls

UW-River Falls University Center, Riverview Ballroom #260

500 Wild Rose Ave

Heather Johnson (heatherj@riverfallspubliclibrary.org)

April 24 – Green Bay

UW-Green Bay, University Union, Phoenix Rooms

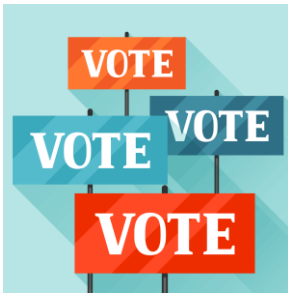
2430 Campus Court

Kathy Pletcher (klpletcher@gmail.com)

2017 JFC hearings were held in six locations, all of which were video-archived by WisconsinEye. For a taste of what a hearing is like, visit the WisconsinEye record of the April 21, [2017 Marinette JFC hearing on YouTube](#), and view your colleagues' five minutes of advocacy starting at time mark 1:55:00. Amy Peterson from Lena Public Library is pictured above giving testimony at that hearing.

SPRING GENERAL ELECTION IS APRIL 2

Assembly District 64 Special Election Primary also April 2

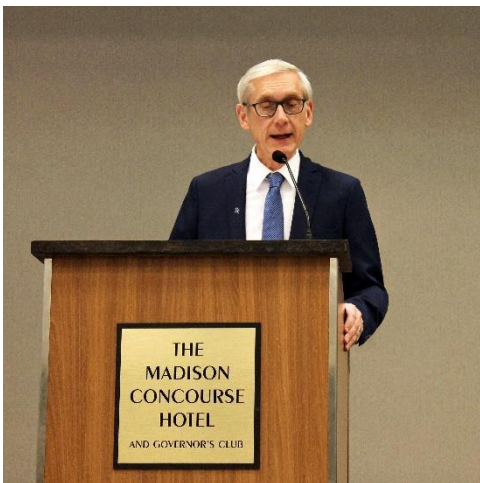


The **2019 Spring General Election is Tuesday, April 2.** There is a statewide race for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court between Chief Appellate Judge [Lisa Neubauer](#) and Judge [Brian Hagedorn](#), as well as other key judicial, local municipal and school board races to be decided. [Check what's on your ballot here.](#)

April 2 is also Primary Day for the Special Election to fill the State Assembly District 64 vacancy created by the resignation of Representative Peter Barca to become Department of Revenue Secretary. [The district includes parts of Kenosha and Racine counties.](#) Three candidates are running as Democrats: [Tip McGuire](#) from Kenosha, [Gina Walkington](#) from Bristol, and [Spencer Zimmerman](#) from Janesville. The winner on April 2 will face Republican [Mark Stalker](#) from Kenosha on April 30.

Library Legislative Day Report

(The North Pole called...it wants its weather back!)



First of all, colleagues and friends, let's give a tremendous shout out to the dedicated souls among us who attended 2019 Library Legislative Day in Madison on February 12 despite the statewide blizzard. You have earned gratitude times infinity from your Wisconsin Library Association!

Registration as of February 11 was just shy of 200, with everyone making their own best decisions for safety's sake in the 24 hours that followed. Especially appreciated are the attendees who, after keeping their own appointments, volunteered to drop off information folders in the offices of legislators whose constituents were unable to be there.

Why is Library Legislative Day held in February instead of a balmy day in July? The timing of our annual event during the legislative session is for important strategic reasons, especially during a budget producing year.

Thank you to **Governor Tony Evers** (pictured above) and **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Carolyn Stanford Taylor** for their part in the morning program. Due to the weather, **Senator Alberta Darling, Representative Mary Felzkowski and Representative Amy Loudbeck** were unable to join us for a discussion of the budget process, as well as to accept well deserved recognition for their continuing efforts as champions of library initiatives during the last session, but they will all receive their accolades at special library events back in their districts. A WLA Library Champion Award was presented to **Dee Pettack**, for her essential assistance as Legislative Liaison for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. LD&L Co-Chairs **Connie Meyer** and **Kathy Pletcher** were honored with 2019 WLA Leadership Awards.



WLA Executive Director Plumer Lovelace presents awards to Dee Pettack (left) and Kathy Pletcher (right).



Plumer Lovelace, WLA Vice President Sherry Machones, and Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor.



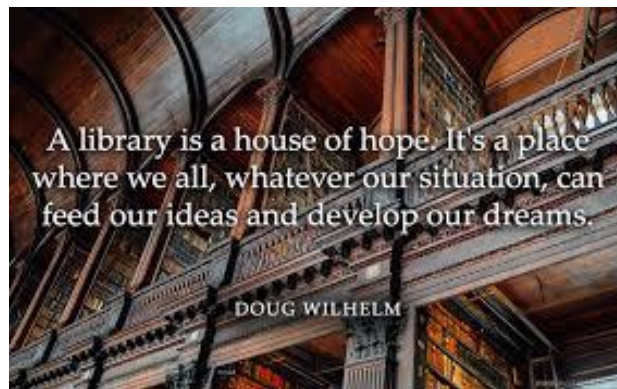
Representative Mary Felzkowski (center) is bookended by Antigo Public Library Director Dominic Frandrup (left), T.B. Scott Library (Merrill) Assistant Director Laurie Ollhoff (right) and members of the Antigo Public Library Board of Trustees and Library Foundation at her Library Champion award presentation on March 26 in Antigo.

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](#).

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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