



Tuesday, March 04, 2020



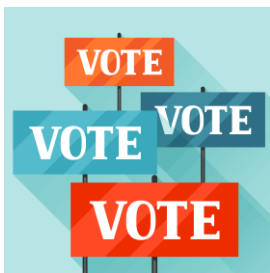
"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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2020 Election Dates and Early Voting Windows



Voters depend upon libraries as a trusted source for impartial information about candidates, election dates and voter registration! See below for a list of upcoming 2020 elections and windows of opportunity for "early voting."

Technically, Wisconsin doesn't have early voting, only in person absentee or [mail absentee ballot](#). Municipal clerks may post hours to accommodate early in-person absentee voting at the town hall or another location or make individual appointments with voters.

A list of municipal clerks, organized by county, is [linked here](#). Registered voters can also find themselves in the system and search for municipal clerks using [myvote.wi.gov](#). Unregistered citizens can use the "address search" feature, enter a street address and find their clerk for that municipality. The "[What's on My Ballot?](#)" address search will become active 47 days before an election with federal contests and 21 days before state and local contests. More detailed information on all elections may be found at the [Wisconsin Elections Commission elections page](#).

April 7 – Spring Election including Presidential Primary, State Supreme Court race between [Justice Daniel Kelly](#) and Dane County [Judge Jill Karofsky](#), various [Court of Appeals and Circuit Court Judges](#), non-partisan county and local municipal officials and school board. **Early voting window is March 23 – April 3.**

May 12 – U.S. Congressional District 7 Special Election. Candidates for the May 12 Special Election in [WI Congressional District 7](#) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Representative Sean Duffy are 12th District State Senator [Tom Tiffany](#) (R-Minocqua) and Democratic nominee [Tricia Zunker](#), a Ho-Chunk Supreme Court justice who is also president of the Wausau School Board. Tiffany was elected to the state Assembly in 2010 and to the state Senate in 2012. If elected, Zunker would become only the third Native American congresswoman in the nation’s history. **Early voting window is April 28 - May 8.**

NOTE: The candidate elected on May 12 for the balance of Rep. Duffy’s unexpired term will also need to stand for re-election in the August 18 partisan primary (if challenged from within his/her own party) and November 3 General Election.

August 11 – Partisan Primary (races where there is more than one candidate for any party) for Congressional Representatives, State Senators from even numbered districts, and all 99 State Assembly Representatives, all county district attorneys and other partisan county officials where applicable. **Early voting window is July 28 – August 7.**

November 3 – General and Presidential Election for the offices listed under August 18 primary. **Early voting window is October 20 – October 30.**

Voter Registration and Education Tools for Libraries



This is a reminder that the League of Women Voters of the Northwoods (LWVNOW) has developed a set of voter registration tools for libraries.

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) has partnered with LWVNOW to distribute the tools to all WVLS public library locations. LWVNOW Voter Registration Committee members monitor election laws and regulations for any changes and distribute updates to participating libraries.

Any library can download the tools from the [LWVNOW Voter Education & Registration Assistance Project webpage](#) where there are also links to an [Acceptable Photo IDs](#) poster and [information about all of the 2020 election dates](#). A 45-minute video presentation by LWVNOW members at the 2019 WLA Annual Conference is [linked here](#). Contact: information@lwvnow.org

2020 Library Legislative Day Report

WLA’s annual Library Legislative Day was held Tuesday, February 11, at the Madison Concourse Hotel. Nearly 170 attendees gathered for a morning briefing featuring remarks by Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Carolyn Stanford Taylor. Senator Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) was joined by Bob Delaporte representing Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Stamen Ivanov from the office of Assembly Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) in a panel discussion about effective legislative advocacy.

2020 is our “thank you” messaging year with emphasis on all the reasons that the legislators’ constituents value library services. Please look for opportunities throughout the year to express appreciation for additional state aid

dollars appropriated for public library system support in the current budget. Share stories illustrating the impact this new funding has had on local library programs that improve the lives of Wisconsin residents, particularly in the areas of workforce development, technology and lifelong learning.



Above: Library Legislative Day attendees at the morning briefing. **Below:** Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, WI Valley Library Service group selfie in a capitol elevator, Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor.



Legislative and State Government Reference Resources

The [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) web pages provide details on legislative leadership, as well as contact information and committee assignments for individual members.

- [WLA's 2019-2020 Legislative Guide](#) 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](#).
- [State of Wisconsin Employee Telephone & Email Directory](#)
- [State Agency Staff with Responsibilities to the Legislature Directory for 2019-2020 Legislative Session](#) (updated February 10, 2020)

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

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