

WLA promotes State Library Funding Priorities for 2021-2023 Budget



Governor Tony Evers delivered his Executive Budget proposal to a joint session of the legislature on February 16 where it became [AB68/SB111](#) and moved immediately to the legislature's [Joint Finance Committee \(JFC\)](#). The 16 JFC members' primary responsibility is to serve as the principal legislative committee charged with the review of all state appropriations and revenues. **WVLS area Senators Mary Felzkowski and Kathy Bernier are members of JFC.** The WLA LD&L Budget Team began meeting with JFC members in January.

As anticipated, the Executive Budget proposed an additional \$2.5 million in FY22 and \$4 million in FY23 for **public library system aid** to help local libraries innovate and increase their ability to respond to emerging community needs. The **state resource contracts** line item 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 reflects a modest cost-to-continue increase. **Recollection Wisconsin** received its own line item in the budget for an additional \$100,000 in FY23 over and above the Governor's recommendation to reallocate \$150,000 in FY22 and \$200,000 in FY23 from WISELearn to support public library digital archiving efforts. ([See Executive Budget DPI Section: doc pp. 506-07, Items 38, 40 and 41](#)) WLA budget papers are linked here: [2021-2023 State Budget Priorities](#)

What happens next in the state budget process? Legislative Fiscal Bureau prepares a comprehensive analysis of the Governor's budget bill for JFC. In mid to late March, JFC schedules committee hearings where agency heads appear for testimony and Q&A. Beginning in early April, JFC usually holds three to five crowded **public hearings** in locations around the state. On February 18 [a news release from 105 Wisconsin organizations](#) requested safer alternatives to in-person attendance at these hearings; WLA will apprise members of JFC's decision. Once agency and public hearings are concluded, the committee will meet through the end of May to debate and vote on various pieces of the budget bill. JFC changes to the current budget will then be introduced as a substitute amendment to AB68/SB111 and sent to the full legislature for floor votes in each house. The legislature usually delivers its final product to the governor by the end of June. The governor completes his veto review within 30 days of receiving the bill, and then signs it into law.

2021 Library Legislative Day(s)



WLA [2021 Library Legislative Day](#) was entirely virtual with a videoconference program on February 16, followed by three days of Zoom and Go-to-Meeting appointments with legislators.

Three videos produced by LD&L member Vicki Teal Lovely and her son Thomas to illustrate how Wisconsin Libraries have remained essential to their communities throughout the last challenging year **included patron interviews and scenes from WVLS member libraries in Crandon, Rib Lake, Marathon County, and Three Lakes.**

STRONG LIBRARIES = STRONG COMMUNITIES: LIBRARY PATRON STORIES

[Lifelong Learning & Literacy](#) (4:50)

[Access, Workforce Development & Technology](#) (4:57)

[The Pillar of a Community Through a Pandemic](#) (4:22)

WVLS Member Library attendees (10): Nancy Amacher (Withee Public Library trustee), Erica Brewster (Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes), Carla Chropkowski (Rhineland District Library trustee), Dominic Frandrup (Antigo Public Library), Leah Giordano (Marathon Co. Public Library), Brandon Hardin (Withee Public Library), Heidi O'Hare (Tomahawk Public Library), Laurie Ollhoff (T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill), Virginia Roberts (Rhineland District Library), Stephanie Schmidt (Crandon Public Library). **WVLS Trustees (3):** Sonja Ackerman, Tom Bobrofsky, Louise Olszewski. **WVLS Staff (6):** Anne Hamland, Josh Klingbeil, Jamie Matczak, Marla Sepnafski, Kris Adams Wendt, Katie Zimmermann **(19 Total)**