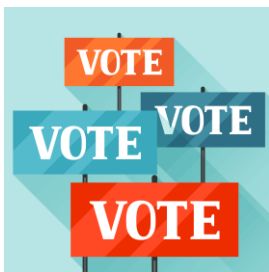# "Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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2020 Fall 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 info on remaining 2020 elections and windows of opportunity for "early voting."

Technically, Wisconsin doesn't have early voting, only in person absentee or mail absentee ballot. Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. 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.

An appeals court ruling at the end of June reduced the time for in-person absentee voting from six weeks to two and reinstated a requirement that voters maintain

residency for at least 28 days before casting a ballot for most offices. Voters who move to a new house or residence during that time would have to vote absentee from their old address under the appeals court's ruling.

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 11 primary. **Early voting window is October 20 – October 30.**

Who is Running for the Wisconsin Legislature?

A list of candidates running for the Wisconsin Assembly (all districts) and Senate (even numbered districts) is **LINKED HERE**. The list is organized by public library system boundaries and is searchable by using Ctrl + F. Legislators running unopposed and districts where partisan primary contests will be on the August 11 ballot are noted.

The following legislators are not running for reelection or higher office and should be thanked for their service: David Craig (SD-28), **David Crowley** (AD-17), **Jason Fields** (AD-11), **Dave Hansen** (SD-30), **Debra Kolste** (AD-44), **Bob Kulp** (AD-69), **Mark Miller** (SD-16), **Luther Olsen** (SD-14), **Romaine Quinn** (AD-75), **Fred Risser** (SD-26), **Mike Rohrkaste** (AD-55), **Jennifer Shilling** (SD-32), **Chris Taylor** (AD-76), and **JoCasta Zamarripa** (AD-8).

Address for all 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.

WI Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access

On July 14, Gov. Tony Evers signed Executive Order #80 creating the **Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access**. The task force will "advise the governor and Wisconsin State Legislature on broadband actions and policy, including strategies for successfully expanding high speed internet access to every residence, business, and institution in the state; initiatives for digital inclusion; and pathways to unlocking and optimizing the benefits of statewide, affordable access to broadband for all communities in Wisconsin." **Legislators appointed to the task force are Senators Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Patty Schachtner (D-Somerset) and Representatives Beth Meyers (D-Bayfield) and Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz).** *Librarian constituents are encouraged to reach out to these four and provide a window to their community's access needs!* **Full press release HERE.**

ALA Report on Federal Broadband Bills

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide now that learning, work, and much of our daily life has moved online. As a result, the imperative to pass **broadband legislation in Congress** is greater than ever. In recent months, the House and Senate have introduced several bills that include provisions to ensure libraries are equipped to address the digital needs of their communities, and the American Library Association (ALA) has supported many of them. The nation needs to address this gap on all fronts, and libraries are part of the solution. **Read more about it HERE.**

LD&L Webinar Shares Tips for Local Budget Discussions

One of the highlights of the **June 5 WLA LD&L webinar "Positioning the Library for a Post-Pandemic Sustainable Future,"** was the section describing potential pandemic related impacts on the revenue stream for Wisconsin municipalities. Wauwatosa Public Library Director Pete Loeffel advised library directors and their library board presidents to meet with their municipal administrator or finance officer ahead of budget discussions in order to better understand anticipated fiscal challenges. Loeffel's comprehensive list of municipal revenue sources which may have been impacted by the 2020 pandemic has been added as a reference tool to the webinar links posted on the WLA LD&L webpage under **Resources**. If you have not yet had an opportunity to view the 90 minute webinar, click here for Positioning the Library for a Post-pandemic Sustainable Future | Timestamps | Advocacy Supplement | Post-pandemic impacts on municipal revenue.

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 July 1, 2020)

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.

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