



November 30, 2020



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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WLA's 2021-2022 Legislative Guide

2020 General Election Summary



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

Republicans flipped two seats in the state Senate and will have a 21 to 12 majority for the 2021-2022 legislative session. There are eight new Senators, four of which are current Assembly Representatives.

Democrats flipped two seats in the state Assembly where the Republicans will have a 61 to 38 majority. There are sixteen new Assembly Representatives.

U.S. CONGRESS - The partisan composition of Wisconsin's congressional delegation remains the same, with six current U.S. House incumbents returning and State Senator Scott Fitzgerald elected to replace retiring U.S. Representative Jim Sensenbrenner in the 5th District. (Neither of Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators ran for re-election this year.)

ACTION ITEM: Post-Election Relationship Building
Congratulatory notes need to be written!



Efforts by WLA members to build relationships with members of the legislature in recent years have yielded tremendous success! **2021 is a budget year and successful advocacy for state library aids is of critical importance.**

Handwritten notes from the library community have become WLA's "brand." Now is the time to congratulate all newly elected legislators and old friends! All returning legislators provided unanimous support for library funding in the last session!

The **list of state legislators [linked here](#)** is sorted so you can easily separate the newbies from the incumbents, and occupants of the even numbered senate districts elected in 2020 from the rest whose terms expire in 2022. Addresses are provided for all. You just need to invest two first class stamps to reach out to your own Senator and Assembly Representative.

No need for complex messaging this time. We're aiming at an introductory note that establishes a friendly connection for future communications when we can focus on WLA's state budget agenda. Legislators may be wondering "Are the libraries in my district even open? How are library resources helping citizens cope with daily life?"

- Start with a simple sentence of congratulations – on either the legislator's first-time election or re-election to the Wisconsin Legislature.
- Follow with an "I am..." statement identifying your connection to Libraryland.
- End with simple statement of one way the library you most closely associate with within the legislator's district is a vital community partner.

Got one more stamp? Federal funding is equally important to Wisconsin libraries.

Send congratulatory notes to Wisconsin U.S. House Representatives addressed to one of their Wisconsin offices: 1st District [Rep. Bryan Steil](#), 2nd District [Rep. Mark Pocan](#), 3rd District [Rep. Ron Kind](#), 4th District [Rep. Gwen Moore](#), 5th District Representative-elect Scott Fitzgerald (P.O. Box 102, Juneau, WI 53039), 6th District [Rep. Glenn Grothman](#), 7th District [Rep. Tom Tiffany](#), 8th District [Rep. Mike Gallagher](#).

To verify your correct Senate, Assembly and Congressional districts, enter your personal address in the search box at [Who are my legislators?](#)

2021-2023 Biennial Budget Information **WLA supports DPI request for state library funding**

The Wisconsin Library Association is advocating for these library items which are included in the [2021-2023 Department of Public Instruction budget request](#) on pages 114-123. **Click on the links below for proposal papers** developed by the WLA Library Development and Legislation (LD&L) committee.

- [Overview of WLA Priorities](#). One-page summary document.
- [Additional aid for Public Library Systems](#): Requesting an additional \$2.5 million in FY22 and \$4 million in FY23, resulting in a total of \$20,013,100 for

library system aid in the second year to help local libraries innovate and increase their ability to respond to emerging community needs.

- **[Cost to continue funding for Library Service Contracts](#)**: Requesting modest increases to maintain core library services for the four statewide library service contracts (Cooperative Children’s Book Center, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections).
- **[New state funding for Recollection Wisconsin](#)**: Requesting a new line item in the amount of \$150,000 in FY22 and \$300,000 in FY23 to ensure the state’s one-of-a-kind archival materials are preserved and made digitally accessible to anyone in the world.

Governor Evers will introduce his state budget proposal to the legislature in early February. The legislative Joint Finance Committee will next be able to rewrite it with the approval of both houses. The Governor then has extensive veto power over the final document. The legislature can only achieve a large enough majority to override those vetoes with bipartisan support.

WLA has established relationships with returning library champions on both sides of the legislative aisle, as well as an excellent working relationship with the Governor. Library values are neither Republican nor Democrat; we serve all Wisconsin citizens. Stay tuned for opportunities to be library advocates as the budget process unfolds.

2021 Library Legislative Day Goes Virtual!

Save the dates: February 16-17-18



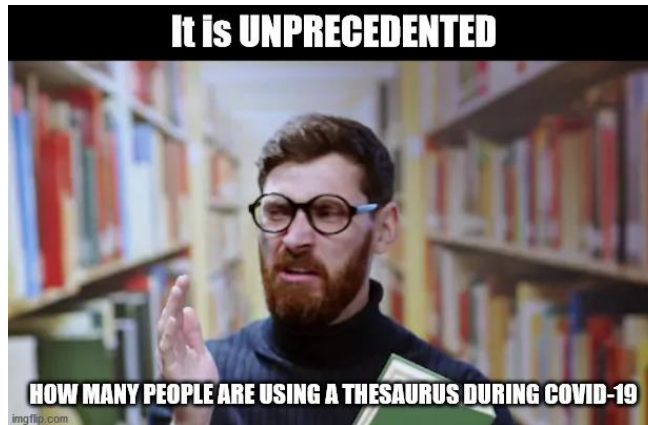
WLA’s annual Library Legislative Day will be even easier to attend next year – it’s expanding and going virtual! The traditional morning agenda will be held via video conference on February 16. Virtual appointments with legislators will be spread out during the week. We’ll miss seeing all of you in person, but are excited that we can still safely gather together online, regardless of whether the capitol is open to visitors due to COVID-19. Please keep the dates on your calendar and watch for more details to follow in upcoming newsletters and on the [WLA website](#).

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.

- **NEW!** [WLA's 2021-2022 Legislative Guide](#) is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.
- 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 November 4, 2020)

Concluding Thought



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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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