



**Tuesday, March 28, 2017**



# **"Need to Know"** **Legislative Newsletter** **for Library Leaders**

**...from Wisconsin Library Association**

**CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS: Federal Budget Update and ACTION ITEMS, State Budget update and CALL TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARINGS, Spring Election Day is April 4, Library Legislative Day Photo Gallery**

## **Federal Budget Update – ACT NOW to save LSTA funding!**



The White House budget calls for eliminating the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency charged with providing support to libraries and museums. Shutting down IMLS would subtract a total

\$231 million (\$183 million of which are LSTA funds) from the three-legged stool of federal, state and local funding support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums.

Library champions in the House have begun circulating what are called "Dear Appropriator" letters to their colleagues. [More information here.](#)

## **MAKE THREE CALLS BY APRIL 3!**

**Please call your US House representative and Wisconsin's US Senators to ask that they sign on to the letters. The House deadline is April 3.**

Use [ALA's Legislative Action Center](#) or call direct using office numbers linked below.

### **Wisconsin members of the US House of Representatives:**

[Paul Ryan – Wisconsin 1<sup>st</sup> district offices](#)

[Mark Pocan – Wisconsin 2<sup>nd</sup> district offices](#)

[Ron Kind – Wisconsin 3<sup>rd</sup> district offices](#)  
[Gwen Moore – Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)  
[James Sensenbrenner – Wisconsin 5<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)  
[Glenn Grothman – Wisconsin 6<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)  
[Sean Duffy – Wisconsin 7<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)  
[Mike Gallagher – Wisconsin 8<sup>th</sup> district offices](#)

### **Wisconsin members of the US Senate:**

[Tammy Baldwin](#)  
[Ron Johnson](#)

### **Whether the call is answered by voice mail or a staff member, do this:**

- **WHO/WHY:** My name is [insert] and I'm calling to register support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services budget. I am **not** in favor of eliminating this agency from the federal budget.
- **WHERE:** My home town library is located in [insert municipality name] Wisconsin.
- **THE ASK:** Please ask [insert Representative or Senator name] to sign on to the "Dear Appropriator" letters being circulated to request full funding for the Institute of Museum Services.
- **THE STORY:** Funding the IMLS is important to me and my community because those federal library dollars make it possible for.... [pick a service or program **from the list below** connected to your local library experience]

### **2016 [IMLS Grants to States Program allocated \\$2,670,703 to Wisconsin.](#)**

- LSTA funding pays for 65% of the 20.8 FTE [staff members at DPI](#) responsible for leadership and coordination of Wisconsin library services statewide.
- LSTA funded staff manage the [BadgerLink](#) online database, [WISCAT](#) inter-library loan, Wisconsin [Document Depository Program](#) and [Wisconsin Digital Archives](#).
- LSTA funded staff provide basic development support for Wisconsin public library jobseekers (in collaboration with Wisconsin Job Centers), legal consultation to public libraries and public library systems, early literacy and youth services, the Coordinated Summer Library Program, inclusive services for all ages, continuing education, new library director training, data collection and annual reports, technology guidance and other services.
- LSTA funding supports programs like [The Coding Initiative](#) and [Growing Wisconsin Readers](#) in Wisconsin.
- LSTA enabled the development of [Wisconsin's Digital Library](#) (e-content collection available through the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium).
- Technology block grants to individual public library systems support regional services and programs.

### **OTHER ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE**

- Share your library's IMLS story using the [#SaveIMLS](#) tag. Tell how IMLS funding supports your local community. If you aren't sure which IMLS grants your library has received, you can check the [searchable database](#) available on the IMLS website.
- Add the [#saveIMLS/I love libraries frame](#) to your Facebook profile picture. EveryLibrary also [has a frame option](#).
- [After you call Congress, write a letter to the editor](#)
- Support continued funding for all arts and cultural heritage organizations by signing [EveryLibrary's petition](#). You can also follow EveryLibrary on [Facebook](#)

and [Twitter](#) for updates and action items to support library funding across the country.

## **ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING CONCERNS**

The proposed budget cut to the federal, Institute of Museum and Library Services will have a tremendous negative impact on the services that public libraries provide for their communities. In addition, there are several proposed cuts to other federal agencies that may have negative impacts on school, academic and special libraries. For example, a cut of 20% to the budget of the National Institutes of Health would likely impact many of their institutes including the National Library of Medicine. A cut of services, resources and tools by the National Library of Medicine would be significantly problematic for medical and health science libraries.

Per a statement issued by ALA, "library funding that comes through other sources such as the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and the National Endowment for the Humanities is also affected. Just how deeply overall federal library funding is impacted is unclear at this point. The Washington Office is working closely with our contacts in the federal government to gather detailed information. We will provide the analysis of the total impact when it is complete and as quickly as possible."

## **2017-2019 State Budget Update**

The Governor's Executive Budget Proposal has become twin finance bills AB64 and SB30 and been assigned to the powerful [Joint Committee on Finance](#) where the legislative review process begins. The committee of 16 legislators includes 8 each from the senate and assembly (12 from the majority party and 4 from the minority party). **Click on the link above to find out if your legislators are members. Contact with all legislators is important during this time in the budget process.** Other legislators communicate their priorities to their JFC member "budget buddies."

## **The Wisconsin Library Association is advocating for these library items in the 2017-2019 Wisconsin Biennial Budget:**

1. Support a modest increase of \$1,500,000 for public library system aids in fiscal year 2018 for an ongoing annual allocation of \$16,513,100.
2. Support cost-to-continue funding in the Governor's budget to maintain core state library services: BadgerLink, Newslines for the Blind, and Library Service Contracts (Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL), Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC), and inter-loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections).

## **WLA Needs Member TURN OUT for Joint Finance Committee hearings!**

- Details of time/location <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1377201>
  - April 3 - Platteville
  - April 5 - West Allis
  - April 7 - Berlin
- Details of time/location <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1377207>
  - April 18 - Spooner

- April 19 – Ellsworth
- April 21 – Marinette

**Delegations are being recruited and coordinated at each location by members of WLA's Library Development and Legislation Committee.** If you are interested in participating, please contact LD&L Co-Chairs Kathy Pletcher [klpletcher@gmail.com](mailto:klpletcher@gmail.com) and Connie Meyer [cmeyer@bridgeslibrarysystem.org](mailto:cmeyer@bridgeslibrarysystem.org)

## **\*\*VOTE\*\* Spring Election Day is April 4 \*\*VOTE\*\* State Superintendent of Public Instruction Race**

The only statewide race on April 4 is for an office that is very important to libraries: State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSOPI). Incumbent Tony Evers is running for re-election against former Beloit School District superintendent Lowell Holtz. There is also one [write-in candidate](#).

Before the February 21 primary, WLA's Library Development and Legislation Committee (LD&L) asked the two registered candidates whose names will appear on the ballot to respond to this question: **"How do libraries (public, school, academic) fit into your vision for an educated and economically strong Wisconsin?"** [Their responses are linked here in a single document.](#)

**For more information about voting on April 4:** <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

## **Librarians and Legislators @ Library Legislative Day!**

Many thanks to the 2017 WLA Library Legislative Day team headed up by Nick Dimassis and Jim Ramsey, as well as members who contributed to the morning briefing and the close to 200 attendees for an excellent day!



**LEFT:** Rep. Rob Swearingen declares his love for libraries! (See the hodag?)

**RIGHT:** Kristin Stoeger and Rep. Paul Tittl





Rep. Dale Kooyenga with members of the Milwaukee and Waukesha Co. delegations



**LEFT:** Larry Oathout, Rep. Katrina Shankland, and Andy Barnett  
**RIGHT:** Mike Otten, Rep. John Spiros, and Ralph Illick



Sen. Tom Tiffany with Sarah Steinbacher, Mary Dunn and Virginia Roberts



Rep. Pat Snyder with members of the WVLS and Marathon Co. delegation



Rep. Kathy Bernier with Louise Olszewski, Christina Jones and Joe Niese



Rep. Bob Kulp with members of the WVLS and Marathon Co. delegation.





Rep. Joan Ballweg (center front) and delegation from the Winnefox Library System

**Send us your "Libraries Transform!" News!** Do you have stories or photos from Library Legislative Day, legislative listening sessions held at your library or other visits with legislators to share? Contact Kris at [kawendt@wvls.org](mailto:kawendt@wvls.org)

## Legislative Reference Resources

[WLA's 2017-2018 Legislative Guide](#) is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.

- Click links for companion guides listing [Wisconsin Legislative Leaders](#) (including members of Joint Finance Committee) and [New Members of the Assembly and Senate](#). FRESHMAN legislators need library love! **If your Senator or Representative is on the new members list, invite them to your library!**
- Check here to see if your legislators are members of the budget-writing [Joint Finance Committee](#). Their review is the next step in the budget process.
- 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?](#)

**Addresses for 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

## Concluding Thought

*Doctor Who: "You want weapons? We're in a library! Books are the best weapons in the world. This room's the greatest arsenal we could have. Arm yourself!" (from "Tooth and Claw" episode in Season 2)*

**2017 LD&L Co-Chairs:**

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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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