



Tuesday, September 26, 2017



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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2017-2019 State Budget Update



The 2017-2019 State Budget signed by Governor Walker on September 21 reflects bipartisan support for an important investment in public library services – **the approval of an additional \$1.5 million investment in state aids to Wisconsin's 16 public library systems** and the 382 local public library locations they serve. This modest increase requested by WLA will support new technology resources and enhanced services in the areas of broadband access, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

Funding was also maintained at levels included in the Governor's original executive budget for core library services – including Wisconsin's online BadgerLink library, Newline for the Blind, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, the Cooperative Children's Book Center, and statewide inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections.

The budget included a new line item allocating \$875,000 in both 2017-18 and 2018-19 "for a contract with a single provider of **information technology education for public school pupils in grades 6-12, technical college students, and library patrons.**" The program is required to operate in 225 sites, *including 16 public libraries*, with funding awarded as a competitive grant following a RFP process. More details will be forthcoming.

ACTION ITEM: THANK YOU NOTE BLITZ REQUESTED

The Budget Successes Outlined Above Are a Big Win for the Library Community!



The Joint Finance Committee's unanimous approval of our budget initiatives was affirmed by the Legislature and Governor Walker. All members of the minority party plus Representatives Allen, Brandtjen, Gannon, Jarchow and Sanfelippo and Senator Craig voted against the budget for various reasons. Every single one of them can and should still be thanked for their support of public libraries during the budget process. **Stick a pin in this paragraph and look for the * below.**

Personal handwritten thank you notes from library supporters sent through the US Mail have (literally) become our "signature brand" in Madison capitol offices, much appreciated by members of the legislature and legislative staff. Positive thank you notes stand out. They enhance our relationships to further our agenda. [WLA thank you press release.](#)

WLA's Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway is recommending Six Important Thank You Notes be written by librarians and friends. The basic message is appreciation for library support during the budget process. Add a sentence linking your library's programs and services to any of the budget program topics found in the State Budget Update paragraphs above.

1. Governor Scott Walker, 115 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702
2. Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, 19 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702
3. Representative Mary Felzkowski, P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
4. Representative Amy Loudenberg, P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708

34th Assembly District Representative Felzkowski from Irma and 31st Assembly District Representative Loudenberg from Clinton are members of the Joint Finance Committee who took the lead on securing the modest \$1.5 million increase for public library system aids.

In addition, please send two more personal handwritten thank you notes to

5. Your own Senator
6. Your own Assembly Representative

***Please notice the first paragraph of this article regarding messaging to legislators who voted against the budget.**

BONUS POINTS for writing notes to *staff members for your own Senator and Assembly Representative*, to the same addresses c/o their boss, thanking them for all they do. They are the gatekeepers who work hard and seldom receive any recognition. You will want to consult the [Assembly Staff](#) and Senate [Office and Staff Directory](#)

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

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

Please note that Rep. Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) recently stepped down as Assembly Minority Leader; the new Minority Leader is Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh).

WLA Honors Steve Conway with Special Service Award

WLA Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway will be honored with a Special Service Award at WLA Fall Conference held at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. The Awards & Honors Reception is scheduled for Thursday, October 19 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Whether or not you can attend the presentation, LD&L is requesting that you please...

Send Thank You Notes and Congratulations to Steve!

DeWitt Ross & Stevens, Two East Mifflin Street, Suite 600, Madison, WI 53703.

The Special Service Award is the closest thing WLA has to conferring a stellar friend with the title of Honorary Librarian. Steve joined the WLA advocacy team in January 2015, transitioning seamlessly into the role of primary advisor six months later following the retirement of Tony Driessen. His extensive legislative relationships opened new doors. Under his direction, the WLA team acquired new confidence, focus and skills for success during the biennial budget process and saw an unprecedented three pieces of library-related legislation passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Steve will say this has been a team effort, and he would be correct. However, his leadership, passion for libraries, and hard work has made all the difference in our success!

Federal Budget Update – So far, So good



Since our last update, the full House of Representatives voted as part of a large spending package ([H.R. 3354](#)) not to make *any* cuts in federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including all funding for its programs under the Library Services and

Technology Act, and for the Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. Notably, the package also increased funding for the National Library of Medicine by \$6 million.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an increase of \$4 million in funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), all of which would go to the formula-based Grants to States program. The full Senate is not likely to take up its own appropriations bill until late this year. **Once the Senate has acted on a spending bill and the process of resolving differences with the House bill begins, ALA and library supporters everywhere may need to again push hard to retain funding gains made in the Senate.** We will keep you posted.

Don't Miss These Two Great Fall Conference Programs!

Wednesday, October 18 - 1:20-2:05 "It's All About the Pen!"...and Relationships

Speakers: Steve Conway & Nick Dimassis

Relationships turn requests into legislation, and then into bills that the governor signs: it's all about the pen. Come hear how Wisconsin's library advocates are successfully building relationships with their legislators so they know how libraries are bringing value to their constituents. There is lots of exciting relationship-building going on – come get ideas and ask questions!

Thursday, October 19 - 1:20-2:05 "Simple, Effective Ways to Create a Partnership with Your Local Workforce Development Centers"

Speakers: Cate Zeuske, Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Administration; David Anderson, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; and Mark E. Mundl, Racine County Workforce Solutions Manager.

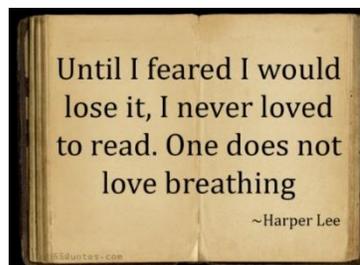
Libraries have long provided valuable support to people seeking to improve their career skills, change careers, and apply for jobs. Let's take it to the next level by partnering with Workforce Development Boards/Centers to have greater impact! Our speakers will share stories of successful partnerships, offer strategies to initiate partnerships, and provide tips on avoiding political missteps.

Hurricane Relief Funds for Damaged Libraries

Recovering communities need their libraries! The ALA also offers a list of resources for dealing with natural disasters at [Libraries Respond](#).

- [ALA, library community work to support Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts](#)
- [Texas Library Association's Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- [Florida Library Association's Libraries Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- [ALA Disaster Relief Fund to support Caribbean island, Puerto Rico and Mexico efforts](#)

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.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about us and how you can get involved.



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