



Tuesday, December 5, 2017



# "Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association



WLA members testify for AB572/SB491 at an Assembly committee hearing on November 16.

## **AB 572/SB 491** **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill**

**ACTION NEEDED! (see below)**

What WLA is calling the **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill** (formerly LRB-2650/1) has been introduced as [2017 Assembly Bill 572](#) and [2017 Senate Bill 491](#).

**Basic Facts: AB 572/SB491** seeks no additional funding. It adds language to expand the use of the DPI WISEdata and WISEdash information system appropriations beyond K-12 schools to include applications of potential benefit to individual public libraries and Wisconsin's 16 regional public library systems. It also opens TEACH block grants, which are now available through the Department of Administration to small and rural schools, to their counterparts in education: small and rural libraries. DPI has assured that there is adequate capacity in both programs to include libraries without negatively impacting K-12 schools.

The bill was assigned to the **Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Mining** chaired by Rep. VanderMeer. WLA members Heather Johnson (River Falls Public Library), Kathy Klager (Pauline Haass Public Library, Sussex), Connie Meyer (Bridges Library System) and WLA President Jean Anderson (South Central Library System), testified on behalf of the bill at a hearing held on November 16.

The bill has been assigned to the **Senate Education Committee** chaired by Senator Olsen. Members of the WLA LD&L team will also testify for the bill at a Senate committee hearing yet to be scheduled. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities has taken an official position [supporting this legislation](#).

## **ACTION NEEDED!**

### **Calls Needed to Members of Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Mining**

#### **Executive Session Vote will be taken soon!**

The [Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Mining](#) will be scheduling an Executive Session very soon and voting whether to approve sending AB 572/SB491 for consideration before the full Assembly.

**TAKE ACTION!** **Is your Representative a member of this committee?** Please click on his/her linked name below to access contact information. **Call or email and ask for his/her support when the committee votes on AB 572/SB491.**

**Committee members are:** Representatives [VanderMeer \(Chair\)](#) (R-Tomah), [Kulp \(Vice-Chair\)](#) (R-Stratford), [Novak](#) (R-Dodgeville), [R. Brooks](#) (R-Saukville), [Quinn](#) (R-Rice Lake), [E. Brooks](#) (R-Reedsburg), [Kuglitsch](#) (R-New Berlin), [Pronschinske](#) (R-Mondovi), [Spreitzer](#) (D-Beloit), [Milroy](#) (D-South Range), [Shankland](#) (D-Stevens Point), and [Vruwink](#) (D-Milton).

A list of committee members and libraries in their districts is [LINKED HERE](#).

[Verify your legislators HERE](#) by clicking on the map or typing your street address into the search box in the upper right corner.

An excellent show of bi-partisan support for this bill will further legislative relationships as well as confirm WLA's track record as a reliable non-partisan partner.

WLA members and library supporters will be asked to contact their legislators several times during various steps in [THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS](#) as this bill moves forward through committee review to floor action.



WLA Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway strategizes with Jean Anderson, Kathy Klager, Connie Meyer and Heather Johnson prior to their testimony before the Assembly committee hearing.

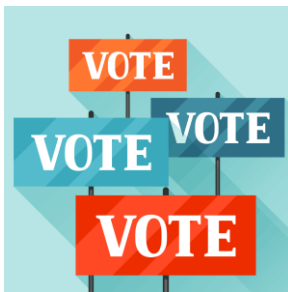
## **Library Legislative Day is February 20, 2018 Registration is open!**



[Register Online for Library Legislative Day](#) or download the [PDF](#) and send to WLA! [GO HERE](#) for information about hotel reservations at the Madison Concourse Hotel.

The program agenda begins at 8:30 AM with registration and continental breakfast. A briefing session and presentation of Library Champion Awards follows between 9:00 and 10:30 AM, with two 30 minute blocks of morning appointments between 11:00 and noon, lunch on your own, and four 30 minute afternoon appointment blocks between 1:30 and 3:30 PM. **As always, the appointments will be scheduled for attendees by the Legislative Day Committee!** WLA has made enormous strides in relationship building and legislative achievements since 2015. **Please register today!!**

## **Special Election Schedule for Three Legislative Seats Senate District 10 and Assembly Districts 58 and 66 will hold Primary on December 19, Final Election on January 16**



Governor Walker has called a special election to fill three legislative seats. Former Senator Sheila Harsdorf (SD10) has been appointed Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. AD58 Representative Bob Gannon died in office on October 3. AD66 Representative Cory Mason has been elected Mayor of Racine and is resigning from the Assembly effective January 15. **The AD66 race is between two Democrats and likely to be decided by the Primary Election, while candidates from multiple parties are registered for the other two races.**

**Constituents registering for Library Legislative Day prior to January 17 should note there will be changes.** Click on the [WI Election Commission](#) links below for candidates in each district. A WisPolitics.com [summary of all three races is found HERE.](#)

- [Senate District 10 \(parts of Burnett, Polk, St. Croix, Pierce and Dunn counties\)](#)
- [Assembly District 58 \(within Washington County\)](#)

- [Assembly District 66 \(within the City of Racine\)](#)

## Steve Conway Receives WLA Special Service Award Becomes honored GRAAPF!



WLA Government Relations Advisor [Steve Conway](#) was presented with WLA's Special Service Award at 2017 Annual Conference. Steve has transformed our strategy, teaching us how to build relationships and get our message across in a memorable and timely manner. Thanks to his guidance and hard work, WLA has significantly improved its influence in state government and achieved unprecedented success with our legislative agenda. LD&L members and others who supported Steve's nomination, recalling his teasing about all the acronyms librarians use, presented him with one of his own at the awards reception. He will henceforth be known as WLA's G-R-A-A-P-F, pronounced 'GRAPH' as in "Steve's service to WLA is so far off the charts that no graph is tall enough to hold it!" GRAAPF is for "Government Relations Advisor and Phenomenal Friend."



Members of the WLA Synchronized Acronym Team (WLASAT)

### Concluding Thought

*"Many people think politics is all money. In reality, relationships and constituent activity are the true drivers of legislative change. Fortunately, relationship building is what libraries do best – at Legislative Day and all year 'round."*

*-- Steven Conway, WLA GRAAPF*

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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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conferences [here!](#)



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