



Thursday, June 2, 2017



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- State Budget update – **BREAKING NEWS!**
- Federal Budget update
- Libraries Transform poster project
- Legislators @ Your Library
- Legislative Reference Resources

2017-2019 State Budget BREAKING NEWS! Unanimous JFC Approval for \$1.5M in Extra System Funds!



At its Executive Session on May 31, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) added \$1.5 million in state aid for public library systems to the 2017-2019 biennial budget! The vote was bipartisan and unanimous with all 16 members in support. Distribution of the additional dollars was negotiated over the 2-year budget biennium as follows: \$500,000 in the first year and \$1,000,000 in the second year.

Please note that while a 16-0 vote in favor of our budget amendment from JFC is also a strong indication of legislative leadership support, there are two important steps yet to be accomplished:

1. approval of the final budget bill recommended by JFC through both houses of the legislature and
2. approval by the Governor, who could still veto the extra funding that wasn't in the executive budget proposal he introduced in February.

WLA's legislative committee is working behind the scenes to make sure number 2 doesn't happen. **If you know of any library supporters in your communities who have a connection to the Governor, please let us know.**

Assuming a successful remaining journey through the legislature and past the Governor's desk – as the new dollars are invested to enhance Internet/broadband, workforce development, and lifelong learning in our member libraries, it will be important to document and publicize the value of this investment at the local level. New success stories in 2019 can potentially leverage additional funds in the *next* budget cycle.

WLA LD&L is especially grateful to all those who attended and spoke at the six Joint Finance Committee public hearings around the state, literally standing up for libraries!

ACTION ITEM: It's Thank You Note Writing Time!



Considering the unanimous vote for our budget amendment, it's important that every single member of the Joint Finance Committee receives thank you notes from WLA members.

For this assignment, it doesn't matter whether or not you are a constituent of any of these legislators. The whole state benefits, therefore we are ALL their constituents.

Representative Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), pictured at left, was the primary Library Champion guiding the successful \$1.5M public library system motion through the Joint Finance Committee. Special appreciation should also be conveyed to committee members **Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green)** and **Representative Amy Loudenberg (R-Clinton)** for the key roles they played in the process.

In addition to JFC members, WLA is grateful to **Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland)** and **Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake)** for timely assistance during the \$1.5M budget amendment process.

Handwritten thank you notes are recommended. Doing a mail merge to all using one short letter on library letterhead is acceptable if a handwritten note appears under your signature at the bottom. Please do not email. Receiving an appreciative note delivered by U.S. Mail is a Big Event in legislative offices at any time of the year. It is remembered!

Members of the Joint Finance Committee are: [Senator Darling \(Co-Chair\)](#), [Representative Nygren \(Co-Chair\)](#), [Representative Kooyenga \(Vice-Chair\)](#), [Senator Olsen \(Vice-Chair\)](#), [Senator Harsdorf](#), [Senator Marklein](#), [Senator Tiffany](#), [Senator Vukmir](#), [Senator L. Taylor](#), [Senator Erpenbach](#), [Representative Loudenberg](#), [Representative Felzkowski](#), [Representative Born](#), [Representative Rohrkaste](#), [Representative Hintz](#), and [Representative Shankland](#)

Click on each name above to access contact information for your thank you notes. [CLICK HERE](#) for a list of Joint Finance Committee members showing which public library systems and local public libraries are included in their district. If any of the names mentioned above are YOUR legislators, please also include recognition for their hard-working staff members.

Federal Budget Update



As previously reported, the FY18 White House budget called 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. 2016 [IMLS Grants to States Program allocated \\$2,670,703 to Wisconsin](#).

GOOD NEWS FROM THE U.S. SENATE: Last week, the Senate "Dear Appropriator" campaign ended, concluding over two months of intense advocacy work by library supporters all over the country. The ALA Washington Office reports that both letters, one supporting the Library and Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the other supporting the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program that benefits school libraries, have been delivered to the Senate Appropriations Committee by Senator Reed's staff with 45 and 37 signatures respectively - a new high-water mark for ALA. [Read more about the results of the campaign here](#) and [check ALA's online table for the full list](#) of Senate supporters.

Kevin Maher is the Assistant Director of the ALA Office of Government Relations. He wrote last week about the President's most recent FY 2018 Budget submission to Congress and its potential effect on many programs that allow Americans to improve their education and career opportunities – often through libraries – which might be reduced or eliminated. [Read more.](#)

Congress is out of session until Monday, June 5. While everyone is at home, look for opportunities to introduce your House Representative, Senator Baldwin or Senator Johnson to the wonderful things going on at your library! [Use ALA's action center to send a quick and easy email to Senator Tammy Baldwin who signed both "Appropriator" letters and say thanks.](#) Or write to her at any one of her Wisconsin office locations. [CLICK HERE and scroll down.](#)

Libraries Transform! Poster Project

NEW! The poster project is being expanded to include Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional Delegation! WLA is looking for volunteers to contact Wisconsin US Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as the eight members of the House of Representatives and arrange for photo sessions in local libraries. **Interested? Contact co-chairs Kathy or Connie using the emails at the end of this newsletter!**

A Wisconsin Library Association Foundation grant will enable the creation of one presentation poster copy for every legislator, to be awarded at their home library.

WLA is in the process of updating the inventory of legislators immortalized on a *Libraries Transform!* poster. More faces still need to be collected! Contacts will be made with local libraries from the remaining legislative districts to help with this continuing project. **We need your help coordinating in-district photos at library locations for legislators whose posters have not yet been added to the collection and then presenting the finished posters to legislators with attendant local publicity.** Each legislator holds a composite library card showing system logos. It's the perfect way to enhance

relationships and generate positive local publicity while supporting the modest public library system funding increase for 2017-2019!

Legislators @ the Library

Send us your "Libraries Transform!" News! Summer is the perfect time to invite your legislators to the library! 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

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!**
- 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



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About the WLA...

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