



State of Wisconsin

2011 - 2012

Blue Book

Compiled by the
Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau



Sold and Distributed By:

Document Sales Unit
Department of Administration
4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705-2156
Telephone: (608) 266-3358

*Published Biennially
In Odd-Numbered Years*

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Wisconsin Legislature
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The following LRB staff members produced the
2011-2012 Wisconsin Blue Book:

Lynn Lemanski, lead publications editor and co-editor
Kathleen Sitter, photo editor

Jason Anderson, legislative analyst
Kinnic Eagan, legislative analyst
Lauren Jackson, legislative analyst
Michael J. Keane, senior legislative analyst
Ryan Miller, legislative analyst
Robert A. Paolino, senior legislative analyst
Clark G. Radatz, senior legislative analyst
Daniel F. Ritsche, senior legislative analyst

Lawrence S. Barish, editor

ISBN 978-0-9752820-1-4

Front and back cover photographs by Kathleen Sitter, LRB.



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

July 2011

Fellow Wisconsinites,

Wisconsin is open for business.

This is my pledge to every Wisconsin citizen. Whether you're enjoying one of our fifteen-thousand inland lakes or experiencing a game at historic Lambeau Field, we hope you enjoy all that Wisconsin has to offer. As a state, we are blessed with abundant natural resources and a rich history that offers a variety of uniquely Wisconsin experiences. I am proud to call this state my home; there is no place better in the world to live, work, and vacation than Wisconsin.

Our state's greatest asset is the extraordinary people who call Wisconsin home. There is no other population that demonstrates the innovation, spirit of service, and work ethic common to the people of Wisconsin.

As we blaze the trail to move Wisconsin forward, our past successes provide challenging and inspiring benchmarks. Appropriately, the *2011-2012 Blue Book* highlights our state's reputation as a national leader of government reform, specifically examining the accomplishments of the 1911 Legislature. We are continuing this great tradition by leading the way in education reform and the nation's economic upswing.

As Governor, I am honored to serve and work closely with the citizens of Wisconsin because they consistently demonstrate unparalleled levels of passion for our glorious home. I encourage each of you to utilize the *2011-2012 Blue Book* as an exceptional guide to state government. It will assist you to most effectively communicate with and contribute to our government.

Together, with your involvement, we can work to move Wisconsin forward.

On Wisconsin,

Scott Walker
Governor



State of Wisconsin

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU



INTRODUCTION

This edition of the *Wisconsin Blue Book* is the 90th in the series which began in 1853. From its modest beginnings as a compilation of Assembly rules, it has evolved into the almanac of Wisconsin state government. As such, it offers the most current and complete information available about the organization and functions of Wisconsin state government and the elected and appointed officials responsible for developing and implementing public policy. Producing the *2011-2012 Wisconsin Blue Book* on our typical mid-July printing schedule while including an unusual number of last minute changes presented some unique challenges. This was because nine legislators faced recall elections scheduled in July and August 2011. The elections stemmed from the uproar which greeted Governor Scott Walker's proposal to limit the collective bargaining rights of state and local government employees. The proposal was part of a budget repair bill introduced in a special session in January 2011. The bill's introduction stirred up a hornet's nest of protests and counter protests. During the debate, 14 Democratic Senators left the state to deprive the Republican majority of the necessary quorum to pass a fiscal bill. The controversy grew to involve the courts, the Secretary of State, and thousands of protesters who descended on the state capitol to register their opposition. The proposal was eventually enacted but not before nine state senators – six Republicans and three Democrats – faced recall elections.

We have delayed sending the *Blue Book* to press in order to include the results of the recall elections. We have also included newly drawn maps of the congressional and legislative district boundaries that were enacted after what would have been our normal production deadline. We were also able to reflect the changes in the executive branch including the newly formed Department of Safety and Professional Services and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation which replaced the Department of Commerce. We hope that by including these later developments we have enhanced the usefulness of the 2011-2012 edition of the *Blue Book*.

Currency was not an issue with the feature article in that it describes events that occurred 100 years ago. The feature article in this edition, "Progressivism Triumphant: The 1911 Wisconsin Legislature," is authored by Professor John D. Buenker. Professor Buenker, emeritus professor of history at the UW-Parkside, has written extensively about the Progressive era and is one of its foremost scholars. His article appears on the 100th anniversary of the 1911 Legislature, widely considered to be one of the most successful and productive in state history. Professor Buenker traces the social, economic and political elements that came together to produce a remarkable range of reforms in such diverse areas as election administration, railroad regulation,

taxation, education, and industrial health and safety. We are indebted to Professor Buenker for his contribution to the *Blue Book* and to our understanding of the Progressive era. Parts of his article are based on his widely acclaimed study of that period published as Volume IV of the *History of Wisconsin* series by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1998. We are grateful to the Society for allowing us to use this material in the *Blue Book*.

The article is supplemented by a series of sidebars which offer additional background and context about the factors leading up to and following the enactment of the worker's compensation law. They are contributed by Greg Krohm, former Administrator of the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Division and current Executive Director of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions.

On a personal note, this is the final *Blue Book* that I will edit. It has been a privilege to serve as editor of the last 12 editions. I have greatly benefited from the knowledge, skill, and leadership of my predecessors, Dr. H. Rupert Theobald, former chief of the LRB, and Patricia V. Robbins who demonstrated extraordinary dedication and competence in compiling the *Blue Book* and serving as its editor for many years. The standards of excellence that they set remain the benchmarks that we strive to meet in producing each edition. Of course, the *Blue Book* cannot be produced without the contributions of the LRB staff, and particularly, the legislative analysts and editors. I have been ably assisted by co-editor Lynn Lemanski, who has worked tirelessly on the *Blue Book* during the entire time I have served as editor; photo editor and graphic artist Kathleen Sitter, and legislative analysts Michael Keane, Daniel Ritsche, Clark Radatz, Robert Paolino, Lauren Jackson, Jason Anderson, Kinnic Eagan, and Ryan Miller. I leave the task of compiling future editions in their capable hands, secure in the knowledge that they will continue to do their best to provide the citizens of Wisconsin with the most useful resource possible.



Lawrence S. Barish
Blue Book Editor
July 2011

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