

State of Wisconsin 2013 - 2014 Blue Book

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SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863 Madison, WI 53707

July 2013

Fellow Wisconsinites,

Over the past two years, we have worked together to move Wisconsin forward. We turned a \$3.6 billion dollar deficit into a surplus of more than a half billion dollars. The improved business climate is getting people back to work by giving job creators the confidence and optimism they need to grow and expand in Wisconsin. Four years ago, the statewide chamber did a survey of employers and found that just 4 percent said we were heading in the right direction. Today, 94 percent say Wisconsin is heading in the right direction.

Our tough, but prudent, decisions are allowing us to invest in our priorities – growing our economy, developing our workforce, transforming education, reforming government, and investing in infrastructure.

Our current budget includes more than \$1 billion in tax relief for the hard-working people of Wisconsin, a \$322 million investment in our public schools, and a 2-year tuition freeze at all of our UW campuses.

We're not going back to the days of overspending. For the first time in state history, we are making the third consecutive deposit into the Rainy Day Fund. Our pension system is fully funded and our bond rating is solid. We are putting our state on sound fiscal footing, so future generations can enjoy prosperity here in Wisconsin.

Our priorities pave the way for more prosperity, better performance, and true independence for all. By working together, we have achieved success. Our goal is to continue the important work of ensuring every citizen of Wisconsin has the best opportunities available to them.

This year, the 2013-2014 Wisconsin Blue Book focuses on our state's history with a featured article titled, "The Wisconsin Historical Society: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846." Wisconsin has a rich history, which continuously influences the way we live, work, and play. As you delve into the 2013-2014 Blue Book, I hope you take the opportunity to also explore something new in our great state.

It is my honor to serve as Governor of Wisconsin. I hope the *Blue Book* is a useful tool for each of you as you learn more about our state government, both past and present.

Together, we are moving Wisconsin forward.

Scott Walker Governor



State of Wisconsin Legislative reference bureau



INTRODUCTION

There is a tremendous amount of information available today across mediums and on every manner of topics. For those who are doing the looking, the difficultly lies in identifying a source that is both accurate as well as comprehensive. The *Wisconsin Blue Book* is such a source for information on the state and people of Wisconsin and has been for over 150 years. Its pages detail names and biographies of officials and agencies; statutory references and the complete state constitution; assembly and senate district maps; election information; municipal contacts; population, economical and commercial data, and more. Each biennium, the release of a new *Blue Book* provides the most current intelligence on the state, its people, and those who represent it. It is documentation of where the state is situated at the time of publication and provides the background on how it got there by including relevant historical details. This amalgamation of currency and history documented in the *Blue Book* reflects a parallel in the works of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

The feature article for this, the 91st edition of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, is entitled *The Wisconsin Historical Society: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846*. Written by John Zimm at the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, with contributions from other staff and society departments, the article provides a singular, comprehensive look at the history, innovations, and contributions the society has made to Wisconsin.

It was in 1846 that territorial residents first conceived of a historical society and the actual formation occurred a full two years before statehood. In 1853, the same year the first *Blue Book* was published, the Wisconsin State Historical Society began receiving state funding – the first such institution in the country to do so. The society became an example to others across the nation for its inclusionary nature: its membership open to anyone who wanted to join, the partnerships it formed with schools, as well as its broad and varied collections and services.

Today the Wisconsin Historical Society is more than just a library or a museum. It is a press, producing textbooks, magazines, and books; it is a partner in public television and radio; it is the manager of national registers and archaeological programs; and it is an administrator of historical and recreational sites. The society still provides high quality research services and archiving of Wisconsin's rich history, however its recognition should not only be for preserving the past, but encompass its provision for the needs of the present and future.

This edition of the *Blue Book* continues the tradition of providing up-to-date information and historical perspective on Wisconsin government. In particular, there are a few notable updates to watch for in this edition. All the maps found in the legislative biography section are new, reflecting the 2010 redistricting, and includes the adjustments to Assembly Districts 8 and 9 as a result of subsequent judicial action. Agency changes that occurred during the 2011-2012 biennium are more fully detailed as their organization and structure were completed. There is also expanded coverage of elections to accommodate both the 2012 recalls as well as the presidential election. Finally, in June of this year, the state gained a new state symbol in the kringle as state pastry; the endpaper at the back of the book has been updated to include an image of this latest addition.

For this, my first edition as editor of the *Blue Book*, I'm grateful to have had the expertise and professionalism of the entire research staff at the Legislative Reference Bureau. With over 120 combined years of experience, the legislative analysts and publications editor have a keen commitment and skill creating and compiling the information found throughout the book. Their knowledge and dedication are invaluable. I would also like to thank the director of the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Kathy Borkowski, and editor Barbara Walsh for coordinating the feature article and arranging the amazing images and maps found in both the article and on the divider pages. To successfully summarize such a vast amount of information is not a simple undertaking, and the resulting article is an excellent addition to 2013-2014 Wisconsin Blue Book.

We hope readers enjoy this latest inclusion to the *Blue Book* series, and that the information within continues to impart knowledge and appreciation for the people and operations of the state.

Julie Pohlman *Blue Book* Editor

July 2013

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