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UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT



THE LEGISLATURE

Officers of the Senate

President: Roger Roth

President pro tempore: Howard Marklein

Majority leader: Scott L. Fitzgerald

Assistant majority leader: Leah Vukmir

Majority caucus chair: Sheila E. Harsdorf

Majority caucus vice chair: Van Wanggaard

Minority leader: Jennifer Shilling

Assistant minority leader: Janet Bewley

Minority caucus chair: Mark Miller

Minority caucus vice chair: Janis Ringhand

Chief clerk: Jeffrey Renk

Location: B20 South East, State Capitol

Contact: 608-266-2517; PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Sergeant at arms: Edward A. Blazel

Location: B35 South, State Capitol

Contact: 608-266-1801; PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Officers of the Assembly

Speaker: Robin J. Vos

Speaker pro tempore: Tyler August

Majority leader: Jim Steineke

Assistant majority leader: Robert Brooks

Majority caucus chair: Dan Knodl

Majority caucus vice chair: Romaine Quinn

Majority caucus secretary: Jessie Rodriguez

Majority caucus sergeant at arms: Samantha Kerkman

Minority leader: Peter W. Barca

Assistant minority leader: Dianne Hesselbein

Minority caucus chair: Mark Spreitzer

Minority caucus vice chair: Steve Doyle

Minority caucus secretary: Beth Meyers

Minority caucus sergeant at arms: Christine Sinicki

Chief clerk: Patrick E. Fuller

Location: 17 West Main Street (on the Capitol Square), Suite 401

Contact: 608-266-1501; PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

Sergeant at arms: Anne Tonnon Byers

Location: 411 West, State Capitol

Contact: 608-266-1503; PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

Legislative hotline: 608-266-9960; 800-362-9472

Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>

Number of employees: 188 (senate, includes the 33 senators); 330 (assembly, includes the 99 representatives)

Total budget 2015–17: \$152,372,200 (includes the legislative service agencies)

Overview

Wisconsin's legislature makes the laws of the state. The legislature also controls the state's purse strings: no money can be paid out of the treasury unless the legislature enacts a law that specifically appropriates it. At the same time, the legislature is required to raise revenues sufficient to pay for the state's expenditures, and it is required to audit the state's accounts. The legislature can remove any elective office holder in state government, including the governor, from office for wrongdoing. It can also remove a judge or supreme court justice from office for any reason that in its judgment warrants it. The legislature can override the governor's veto of legislation. Finally, the legislature has charge of the two avenues by which the Wisconsin Constitution can be amended. The legislature can propose amendments for the people to vote on; and it can set in motion the process for calling a constitutional convention.

The legislature has two houses: the senate and the assembly. The senate is composed of 33 senators, each elected for a four-year term from a different senate district. The assembly is composed of 99 representatives, each elected for a two-year term from a different assembly district. Each senate district comprises the combined territory of three assembly districts. Elections are held in November of each even-numbered year. The terms of 17 senate seats expire in alternate even-numbered years from the terms of the other 16. If a midterm vacancy occurs in the office of senator or representative, it is filled through a special election called by the governor.



JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER



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On January 3, 2017, senators from even-numbered districts were sworn in for the new legislative session by Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly (*left*). Senators serve four-year terms, and elections alternate every two years between even-numbered and odd-numbered districts.

A new legislature is sworn into office in January of each odd-numbered year, and it meets in continuous session for the full biennium until its successor is convened. The 2017 Legislature is the 103rd Wisconsin Legislature. It convened on January 3, 2017, and will continue until January 7, 2019.

Apparatus for conducting business

Rules. The Wisconsin Constitution prescribes a number of specific procedural requirements for the legislature (for example, that each house must keep and publish a journal of its proceedings; and that a roll-call vote, rather than a voice vote, must be taken in certain circumstances). For the most part, however, the legislature determines for itself the manner in which it conducts its business. Each house of the legislature has adopted rules that codify its own practices, and the two houses have adopted joint rules that deal with relations between the houses and administrative proceedings common to both. Either house can change its own rules by passing a resolution, and the two houses can change the joint rules by passing a joint resolution.

Officers. Each house elects from among its members a presiding officer and an officer to stand in for the presiding officer as needed. The presiding officer or stand-in chairs the house's meetings and authenticates the house's acts, orders, and proceedings. In the senate, these officers are the president and president pro tempore; in the assembly, they are the speaker and speaker pro tempore.

Each house also elects two individuals who are not legislators to serve as the house's chief clerk and sergeant at arms. The chief clerk is the clerk for the house's meetings. The chief clerk also manages the house's paperwork, records, and general operations. The sergeant at arms maintains order in and about the house's meeting chamber and supervises the house's messengers.

Within each house, the members from each political party organize as a caucus and elect officers to coordinate their activity. Caucus officers include the majority leader and assistant majority leader and the minority leader and assistant minority leader.

The senate majority leader and the assembly speaker play major and roughly parallel roles in guiding the activities of their houses, as a result of special responsibilities that the rules in their houses assign to their offices.

Former Senator Mary Lazich (*left*), who served as senate president in 2015 and retired in 2017, passes on the gavel of office to new Senate President Roger Roth of Appleton during Inauguration Day ceremonies.



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Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling (*left*) and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (*right*) steer their respective caucuses. Leaders coordinate with caucus members on policy positions and work to prioritize which legislation will be the focus of each session.

These responsibilities include appointing the members of committees, serving on the committee that determines what business will be scheduled for the house's meetings, and serving on the committee that makes staffing and budget decisions for the house's operations.

Committees. The legislature does much of its work in committees. Legislative committees study proposed legislation to determine whether it should be given further consideration by the houses. They review the performance and expenditures of state agencies. And they conduct inquiries to inform the public and the legislature about important issues facing the state.

Each committee is assigned a general area of responsibility or a particular matter to look into and, within the scope of its assignment, can hold hearings to gather information and executive sessions (deliberative meetings) to decide what recommendations and reports it will make. (Some committees can do more than make recommendations and reports. For example, the Joint Committee on Finance can approve requests from state agencies for supplemental funding.) With rare exceptions, all committee proceedings are open to the public.



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Committee work is where much of the work of developing policy and evaluating legislative proposals is done. (top) Representatives Sondy Pope, Evan Goyke, and Dave Considine (left to right) listen to testimony in the Assembly Committee on Corrections. (above) The Assembly Committee on Children and Families hears testimony from staff of the Department of Children and Families on child abuse and neglect reports in 2016.

Each house has its own committees, and the two houses together have joint committees. Usually, every member of the legislature serves on at least one committee. Each house committee includes members from the two major political parties, but more of the members are from the majority party. On a joint committee, which includes members from both houses, more of the members from each house are from the majority party in that house. For some

members on some committees, membership is automatic and based on another office that they hold (ex officio membership), but otherwise committee members are appointed. The senate majority leader and the assembly speaker make the appointments in their respective houses but honor the nominations of the minority leader for the minority party appointments. They also designate the committee chairs and the joint committee cochairs, except when those positions are held ex officio.

The standing committees in each house operate through the legislature's entire biennial session. They are created under the rules of the house and consist exclusively of legislators from the house. Most of the standing committees have responsibility for one or more specific subject areas—e.g., “transportation” or “health.” However, the Committee on Senate Organization has organizational responsibilities: it schedules, and determines the agendas for, the senate's meetings; and it decides matters pertaining to the senate's personnel, expenditures, and general operations. In the assembly, these organizational responsibilities fall, respectively, to the Assembly Committee on Rules and the Committee on Assembly Organization.

In addition to the standing committees in the houses, there are several joint standing committees, which likewise operate through the entire biennial session. These committees are created in the statutes rather than under the legislature's rules. Three of these committees include nonlegislators in addition to the legislators from both houses. The responsibilities of the joint committees are described on pages 153–172.

Special committees can also be appointed in either house or by the two houses jointly. Committees of this type are created to study a problem or conduct an investigation and report their findings to the house or the legislature. Special committees cease to exist when they have completed their assignments.

Meetings. Early in the biennial session, the legislature adopts a joint resolution to establish its session schedule. The session schedule specifies the floorperiods for the session. A floorperiod is a day or span of days that is reserved for meetings of the full houses. Committees can meet on any day. When a house meets during a floorperiod, it meets in regular session.

The legislature can also call itself into extraordinary session for any day or span of days. The call requires a majority vote of the members of the committee on organization in each house, or the adoption of a joint resolution in both houses, or a joint petition signed by a majority of the members of each house. In addition, the call must specify what business can be considered during the session. An extraordinary session can have the effect of extending



JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

The Assembly Speaker leads the majority party in that house and largely determines the course of its legislative business. Speaker Robin Vos (*left*) has led the assembly since 2013. Here he confers with assembly leadership from both parties during the special session focusing on opioid abuse.

a floorperiod so that it begins earlier or ends later than originally scheduled. In such cases, the terms “extended session” and “extended floorperiod” are sometimes used. An extraordinary session can also overlap a floorperiod, and a house can meet in extraordinary session and in regular session at different times during the same day.

The governor can call the legislature into special session at any time. When the legislature convenes in special session, it can act only upon the matters specified in the governor’s call. Special sessions can occur during floorperiods and during extraordinary sessions, and a house can meet in special session and in regular or extraordinary session at different times during the same day.

Notices and records. Each house issues a calendar for each of its meetings. The calendar lists the business that will be taken up at the meeting.

The legislature publishes on the Internet a schedule of committee activities that indicates the time, place, and business scheduled for each committee meeting.

Each house keeps a record of its actions known as the daily journal.

The legislature issues the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* periodically during the biennial session. Each issue contains a cumulative record of actions taken on bills, resolutions, and joint resolutions;



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Senate President Pro Tempore Howard Marklein (*right*) oversees the floor sessions when the senate president is unavailable. Senate Chief Clerk Jeff Renk (*left*) keeps track of legislative business for the body.

information on administrative rule changes; and a listing of statutes affected by acts.

Employees. Each house employs staff for its members and staff to take care of general administrative matters. In addition, the legislature maintains five service agencies to provide it with legal advice; bill drafting services; budgetary, economic, and fiscal analysis; public policy analysis; research and information services; committee staffing; auditing services; and information technology advice and services.

How a bill becomes a law

A bill is a formal document that proposes to make a new law or change an existing law. For a bill to become a law, two things must happen: 1) The bill must be enacted—that is, it must be passed in identical form by both houses of the legislature and either agreed to by the governor or passed again by both houses over the governor’s veto; and 2) The enacted bill must be published.

First reading. A bill takes the first step toward becoming a law when a member of the legislature introduces it in the member’s house. This is done by filing the bill with the chief clerk. The chief clerk then assigns the bill its



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Senate Assistant Majority Leader Leah Vukmir (*left*) and Senate Assistant Minority Leader Janet Bewley (*right*) help guide their parties on policy issues. In 2017, five women and five men were serving in leadership positions in the senate.

bill number (e.g., Assembly Bill 15), and the presiding officer refers the bill to a standing committee or joint standing committee.

A bill must be given three readings, on three different days, before the house can pass it. Each reading is followed by a different stage in the house's deliberation process. Introduction and referral to committee are considered a bill's first reading and are followed by committee review.

Committee review. When a bill is referred to a committee, it remains in the committee until the committee reports it out to the house or the house acts to withdraw it. The committee chair (or cochairs if a joint committee) determines whether the committee will meet to consider a bill and, if so, whether it will hold a hearing or an executive session or both. In the senate, though not in the assembly, a bill that has not received a public hearing cannot be placed on the calendar for a meeting of the full house. And in both houses, a committee cannot report a bill out to the house unless it holds an executive session.

A committee holds a hearing on a bill to gather information, either from the public at large or from specifically invited persons. A committee holds an executive session on a bill to decide what recommendation it will make to the house. The committee can recommend passage of the bill as originally introduced, passage of the bill with amendments, passage of a substitute amendment, or rejection of the bill. Unless it recommends rejection, the committee reports the bill, together with its recommendation, out to the house. In limited circumstances (such as a tie vote), a committee can report a bill without a recommendation.

If a bill is reported out by a committee, or if it is withdrawn from a committee by the house, it is generally sent to the house's scheduling committee—the Committee on Senate Organization or the Assembly Committee on Rules—so that it can be scheduled for consideration at a meeting of the house. (Sometimes, however, a bill is referred to another committee for that committee to review. In such cases, the bill remains in that other committee, just as it did in the previous committee, until it is reported out or withdrawn.)

Scheduling. A bill that reaches the scheduling committee cannot advance further unless the scheduling committee schedules it for a meeting of the house or the house acts to withdraw it. The scheduling committee is not required to schedule the bill for a meeting of the house. If the house withdraws a bill from the scheduling committee, the bill is automatically scheduled for a future meeting of the house. (In the senate, it is placed on the calendar for the senate's

For the last four sessions, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca of Kenosha has had the task of making sure the minority party in the 99-member body is heard.



GREG ANDERSON, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

next succeeding meeting; in the assembly, on the calendar for the assembly's second succeeding meeting.) If a bill is scheduled for a meeting of the house, it can be given its second reading at that meeting.

Second reading. A bill's second reading is a formal announcement that the chief clerk makes at the time when the bill is about to be considered. Following this announcement, the house debates and votes on amendments and substitute amendments to the bill (any that the standing committee recommended and any that are offered by members). This stage ends if the house votes affirmatively to engross the bill. Such a vote means that the house has decided on the final form that the bill will take and is ready to consider passage of the bill in that final form. However, the house cannot proceed to consider passage until the bill has been given its third reading—and this cannot be done until a different day. The house can suspend this restriction by a unanimous voice vote or a two-thirds roll call vote. If the house does not suspend the restriction, the bill is automatically scheduled for a future meeting of the house. (In the senate, it is placed on the calendar for the senate's next succeeding meeting; in the assembly, on the calendar for the assembly's second succeeding meeting.)

Third reading. A bill's third reading, like its second, is a formal announcement that the chief clerk makes at the time when the bill is about to be considered. Following this announcement, the house debates the question whether the bill, in the final form that the house had decided on previously, should be passed. Members can speak for and against passage only; no further amendments can be offered. When all members finish speaking, they vote. If the bill is passed, it is ready to be messaged to the other house. Messaging occurs automatically following a reconsideration period specified in the rules of the house, unless, within that period, the house chooses to reconsider its action in passing the bill. (In the senate, the reconsideration period extends through the senate's next meeting; in the assembly, through the seventh order of business at the assembly's next meeting. Generally, only a member who voted for passage can make a motion for reconsideration.) Alternatively, the house can suspend its rules to message the bill immediately, by a unanimous voice vote or a two-thirds roll call vote.

Action in the second house. When the bill is received in the other house, it goes through substantially the same process as in the first house. If the second house ultimately passes the bill, which it can do with or without additional amendments, it messages the bill back to the house of origin.

Subsequent action in the houses. If the second house adopted additional amendments, the house of origin must determine whether it agrees to those

amendments. If the house of origin rejects or amends the amendments, it can message the bill back to the second house. The houses can message the bill back and forth repeatedly until it has been passed in identical form by both. Alternatively, the houses can create a conference committee, consisting of members from each house, to develop a compromise version. If the conference committee proposes a compromise version, the houses can vote on it but cannot adopt amendments. The compromise version is considered in

Committee attendance makes up a large part of the legislative workload. (*below*) Senator Alberta Darling (*left*) and Senator Jerry Petrowski enjoy a lighter moment during a January committee meeting. (*bottom*) At a meeting of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Chief Deputy Ed Janke of the Oconto County Sheriff's Office, Representative David Steffen of Green Bay, and Deputy Adam Day (*left to right*) speak in favor of a bill that would expand the definition of "hate crime" to include law enforcement officers.





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Groups of legislators will often hold a press conference at the capitol to announce legislative initiatives for specific issues. Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke was joined by Representative Treig Pronschinske and Representative Jessie Rodriguez (*left to right*) to announce their work on a package of bills to address homelessness in Wisconsin.

the second house first; if it passes in the second house, it is messaged to the house of origin.

Action by the governor. If a bill is passed in identical form by both houses, it is sent to the governor. The governor has six days (excluding Sundays) in which to take action on a bill after receiving it. If the governor takes no action, the bill is enacted on the seventh day. If the governor signs the bill, the bill is enacted on the day it is signed. If the governor vetoes the bill, it goes back to the house of origin. If the governor signs the bill but vetoes part of it—which is permitted in the case of appropriation bills—the signed part is enacted on the day it is signed and the vetoed part goes back to the house of origin.

Publication and effective date. A bill or part of a bill that has been enacted



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Seeing their bill signed by the governor is a high point of many legislators' careers. Freshman Representative Rob Summerfield (*far right*) shepherded Assembly Bill 194 through the legislative process and saw it enacted by Governor Walker on May 24, 2017, as Act 7. Senator Terry Moulton, next to Summerfield, was the main co-sponsor of the bill.

is called an act. An act becomes a law when it is published in the manner prescribed by the legislature. The legislature has provided for each act to be published on the Internet no later than the day after its date of enactment. An act goes into effect on the second day after its date of enactment, unless the act specifies that it goes into effect on a different date.

Veto override. A bill or part of a bill that the governor has vetoed can become a law if the legislature passes it again over the governor's veto. The procedure is different than when the bill was passed the first time. The only question considered is passage, and this question can be taken up immediately; the three-readings process is not repeated and amendments cannot be offered. In addition, passage requires a two-thirds vote in each house, rather than a simple majority vote. Any action on a veto begins in the house of origin. If a vote is taken in the house of origin and two-thirds of the members present and voting agree to pass the vetoed bill or vetoed part of a bill, the bill or part is messaged to the other house. If a vote is taken in the second house and two-thirds of the members present and voting agree to pass the bill or part, the bill or part is enacted on the day the vote is taken. The enacted bill or part is then published and becomes a law in the same way as other acts. If either house does not take a vote or fails to muster a two-thirds vote, the bill or part advances no further, and the governor's veto stands.



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Senator David Craig, chair of the Committee on Financial Services, Constitution and Federalism, asks questions during a joint hearing on proposals related to calling a national constitutional convention in order to add an amendment requiring a balanced budget.

Senate standing committees

Administrative Rules Nass, *chair*; LeMahieu, *vice chair*; Stroebel; Larson, *ranking minority member*; Wirch

Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism Moulton, *chair*; Tiffany, *vice chair*; Harsdorf, Petrowski, Testin; Taylor, *ranking minority member*; Miller, Larson, Vinehout

Economic Development, Commerce and Local Government Feyen, *chair*; Petrowski, *vice chair*; Darling, Testin; Ringhand, *ranking minority member*; Bewley, Johnson

Education Olsen, *chair*; Darling, *vice chair*; Nass, Vukmir; Larson, *ranking minority member*; Bewley, Johnson

Elections and Utilities LeMahieu, *chair*; Kapenga, *vice chair*; Wanggaard; Miller, *ranking minority member*; Risser

Finance Darling, *chair*; Olsen, *vice chair*; Harsdorf, Marklein, Tiffany, Vukmir; Taylor, *ranking minority member*; Erpenbach

Financial Services, Constitution and Federalism Craig, *chair*; Stroebel, *vice chair*; Feyen; Vinehout, *ranking minority member*; Risser

Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection Stroebel, *chair*; Craig, *vice chair*; Kapenga; Wirch, *ranking minority member*; Carpenter

Health and Human Services Vukmir, *chair*; Moulton, *vice chair*; LeMahieu; Erpenbach, *ranking minority member*; Johnson

Insurance, Housing and Trade Lasee, *chair*; Olsen, *vice chair*; Craig; Bewley, *ranking minority member*; Larson

Judiciary and Public Safety Wanggaard, *chair*; Testin, *vice chair*; Stroebel; Risser, *ranking minority member*; Taylor

Labor and Regulatory Reform Nass, *chair*; Wanggaard, *vice chair*; Lasee; Wirch, *ranking minority member*; Ringhand

Natural Resources and Energy Cowles, *chair*; Lasee, *vice chair*; Olsen; Miller, *ranking minority member*; Hansen

Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations Kapenga, *chair*; Harsdorf, *vice chair*; Craig; Johnson, *ranking minority member*; Vinehout

Revenue, Financial Institutions and Rural Issues Marklein, *chair*; LeMahieu, *vice chair*; Tiffany; Ringhand, *ranking minority member*; Vinehout

Senate Organization Fitzgerald, *chair*; Roth, *vice chair*; Vukmir; Shilling, *ranking minority member*; Bewley

Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Tiffany, *chair*; Testin, *vice chair*; Moulton; Wirch, *ranking minority member*; Erpenbach

Transportation and Veterans Affairs Petrowski, *chair*; Marklein, *vice chair*; Cowles; Carpenter, *ranking minority member*; Hansen

Universities and Technical Colleges Harsdorf, *chair*; Nass, *vice chair*; Feyen; Hansen, *ranking minority member*; Bewley

Workforce Development, Military Affairs and Senior Issues Testin, *chair*; Feyen, *vice chair*; Marklein; Ringhand, *ranking minority member*; Erpenbach

Assembly standing committees

Administrative Rules Ballweg, *chair*; Neylon, Ott; Hebl, *ranking minority member*; Anderson

Aging and Long-Term Care Weatherston, *chair*; Petryk, *vice chair*; Bernier, Snyder, Macco, Kremer; Meyers, *ranking minority member*; Kolste, Brostoff

Agriculture Nerison, *chair*; Novak, *vice chair*; Tauchen, Ripp, Tranel, E. Brooks, Kitchens, VanderMeer, Mursau, Edming, Horlacher; Considine, *ranking minority member*; Kessler, Spreitzer, Fields, Vruwink

Assembly Organization Vos, *chair*; Steineke, *vice chair*; R. Brooks, August, Knodl; Barca, *ranking minority member*; Hesselbein, Spreitzer

Audit Kerkman, *chair*; Macco, *vice chair*; Nygren; Sargent, *ranking minority member*; Berceau

Campaigns and Elections Bernier, *chair*; Sanfelippo, *vice chair*; Snyder, Horlacher, Schraa, Murphy; Kessler, *ranking minority member*; Zamarripa, Taylor

Children and Families Kitchens, *chair*; Gannon, *vice chair*; Snyder, Vorpapel, Kerkman, Ballweg, Pronschinske, Krug; Taylor, *ranking minority member*; Billings, Subeck, Bowen

Colleges and Universities Murphy, *chair*; Tranel, *vice chair*; Zimmerman, Quinn, Summerfield, Petryk, Ballweg, Krug, Stafsholt, Kremer; Berceau, *ranking minority member*; Wachs, Billings, Hebl, Vruwink, Anderson

Constitution and Ethics Allen, *chair*; Thiesfeldt, *vice chair*; Jagler, Kremer, Wichgers, Jarchow; Kessler, *ranking minority member*; Berceau, Wachs

Consumer Protection Duchow, *chair*; Tittl, *vice chair*; Skowronski, Nerison, Macco, VanderMeer; Berceau, *ranking minority member*; Sinicki, Pope

Corrections Schraa, *chair*; Hutton, *vice chair*; Brandtjen, E. Brooks, Kremer, Kleefisch, Gannon; Bowen, *ranking minority member*; Pope, Goyke, Considine

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Spiros, *chair*; Kremer, *vice chair*; Bernier, Ott, Jacque, Horlacher, Novak, Krug; Goyke, *ranking minority member*; Kessler, Zamarripa, Crowley

Education Thiesfeldt, *chair*; Kitchens, *vice chair*; Jagler, Zimmerman,



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Senator Chris Kapenga, Representative Kathy Bernier, and Representative Daniel Knodl (left to right) testify at a joint public hearing in March 2017.

Rodriguez, Tusler, Mursau, Quinn, Duchow, Wichgers; Pope, *ranking minority member*; Genrich, Considine, Hebl, Bowen, Vruwink

Employment Relations Vos, *chair*; Steineke, *vice chair*; Nygren; Barca, *ranking minority member*

Energy and Utilities Kuglitsch, *chair*; Steffen, *vice chair*; Rodriguez, Weatherston, Petersen, Tauchen, Tranel, Jarchow, Petryk, Neylon; Zepnick, *ranking minority member*; Sargent, Genrich, Stuck, Meyers

Environment and Forestry Mursau, *chair*; Krug, *vice chair*; Pronschinske, Kitchens, Swearingen, Edming, Wichgers, Tusler; Mason, *ranking minority member*; Hebl, Milroy, Anderson

Family Law Rodriguez, *chair*; Duchow, *vice chair*; Thiesfeldt, Tauchen, Krug, Kleefisch; Goyke, *ranking minority member*; Subeck, Zepnick

Federalism and Interstate Relations Vorpagel, *chair*; Schraa, *vice chair*; Kerkman, Hutton, Katsma; Zepnick, *ranking minority member*; Anderson

Finance Nygren, *chair*; Kooyenga, *vice chair*; Loudenbeck, Felzkowski, Born, Rohrkaste; Hintz, *ranking minority member*; Shankland

Financial Institutions Katsma, *chair*; Jarchow, *vice chair*; Allen, Sanfelippo, Stafholt, Petryk, Weatherston, Murphy, Petersen, Kitchens; Doyle, *ranking minority member*; Young, Zepnick, Bowen, Meyers, Fields

Government Accountability and Oversight Hutton, *chair*; Brandtjen, *vice*



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Addressing the floor for the first time is an important moment in every legislator's tenure. Representative Jimmy Anderson of Fitchburg made his first address in May 2017 and was greeted with applause from members of both parties.

chair; Krug, Wichgers, Kuglitsch, August; Pope, *ranking minority member*; Hintz, Brostoff

Health Sanfelippo, *chair*; Bernier, *vice chair*; Edming, Skowronski, Kremer, Wichgers, Murphy, Jacque; Kolste, *ranking minority member*; Zamarripa, Subeck, Taylor

Housing and Real Estate Jagler, *chair*; Allen, *vice chair*; Katsma, R. Brooks, Murphy, Pronschinske; Stuck, *ranking minority member*; Young, Goyke

Insurance Petersen, *chair*; Duchow, *vice chair*; Gannon, Steffen, Jagler,

Petryk, Tusler, Tranel, Katsma, August, Stafsholt; Genrich, *ranking minority member*; Young, Berceau, Doyle, Kessler

Jobs and the Economy Neylon, *chair*; E. Brooks, *vice chair*; Zimmerman, Kulp, Tittl, Macco, Snyder, Wichgers; Ohnstad, *ranking minority member*; Stuck, Fields, Crowley

Judiciary Ott, *chair*; Horlacher, *vice chair*; Thiesfeldt, Jacque, Tusler, Kerkman; Wachs, *ranking minority member*; Hebl, Taylor

Labor Kulp, *chair*; Kuglitsch, *vice chair*; Spiros, Knodl, Schraa, Quinn; Sinicki, *ranking minority member*; Bowen, Ohnstad

Local Government E. Brooks, *chair*; Ripp, *vice chair*; Novak, Duchow, Steffen, Skowronski; Subeck, *ranking minority member*; Berceau, Spreitzer

Mental Health Tittl, *chair*; Jagler, *vice chair*; Ballweg, Novak, Sanfelippo, Snyder, VanderMeer, Spiros; Considine, *ranking minority member*; Sargent, Brostoff, Zepnick

Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Kleefisch, *chair*; Quinn, *vice chair*; Tittl, Edming, Nerison, Mursau, Skowronski, Ripp, Tusler, Stafsholt; Milroy, *ranking minority member*; Hesselbein, Spreitzer, Stuck, Brostoff

Public Benefit Reform Krug, *chair*; Vorpapel, *vice chair*; Brandtjen, Schraa, Kremer, Petersen; Subeck, *ranking minority member*; Kolste, Riemer

Regulatory Licensing Reform Horlacher, *chair*; Ballweg, *vice chair*; Hutton, Jacque, Macco, Quinn; Brostoff, *ranking minority member*; Genrich, Anderson

Rules Steineke, *chair*; Vos, August, R. Brooks, Knodl, Ballweg, Kuglitsch, Jagler, Born; Barca, *ranking minority member*; Hesselbein, Spreitzer, Doyle, Pope, Kolste

Rural Development and Mining VanderMeer, *chair*; Kulp, *vice chair*; Novak, R. Brooks, Quinn, E. Brooks, Kuglitsch, Pronschinske; Spreitzer, *ranking minority member*; Milroy, Shankland, Vruwink

Science and Technology Quinn, *chair*; Petersen, *vice chair*; Brandtjen, Allen, Neylon, VanderMeer; Genrich, *ranking minority member*; Kolste, Anderson

Small Business Development Tauchen, *chair*; Edming, *vice chair*; Tranel, Hutton, Allen, Swearingen, Summerfield, Duchow, VanderMeer,

Skowronski; Sargent, *ranking minority member*; Zamarripa, Billings, Kolste, Crowley

State Affairs Swearingen, *chair*; Tauchen, *vice chair*; Jagler, Jacque, Knodl, Kleefisch, Gannon, Summerfield, Kulp, Vorpapel; Zamarripa, *ranking minority member*; Sinicki, Ohnstad, Hesselbein, Doyle

Tourism Tranel, *chair*; Swearingen, *vice chair*; Jarchow, Ballweg, Tauchen, Summerfield, Kitchens, Bernier, Mursau, Zimmerman; Billings, *ranking minority member*; Ohnstad, Mason, Considine, Vruwink

Transportation Ripp, *chair*; Spiros, *vice chair*; Thiesfeldt, Weatherston, Kulp, Sanfelippo, Vorpapel, E. Brooks, Skowronski, Macco; Wachs, *ranking minority member*; Kolste, Meyers, Billings, Crowley

Urban Revitalization Gannon, *chair*; Fields, *vice chair*; Steffen, Snyder, Weatherston, Sanfelippo, Brandtjen; Sinicki, Bowen

Veterans and Military Affairs Skowronski, *chair*; VanderMeer, *vice chair*; Petryk, Allen, Edming, Nerison, Summerfield, Ott, Tittl, Weatherston; Hesselbein, *ranking minority member*; Milroy, Sinicki, Goyke, Riemer

Assembly Assistant Majority Leader Robert Brooks answers questions and clarifies information for committee members on a proposal he has co-sponsored.



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Ways and Means Macco, *chair*; Katsma, *vice chair*; Kerkman, Novak, Steffen, Jacque, Bernier, Petersen; Taylor, *ranking minority member*; Riemer, Ohnstad, Doyle

Workforce Development Petryk, *chair*; Weatherston, *vice chair*; Murphy, Ripp, Allen, Katsma, Kulp, E. Brooks, Brandtjen, Snyder; Billings, *ranking minority member*; Spreitzer, Riemer, Ohnstad, Crowley

Joint legislative committees and commissions

Joint committees and commissions are created by statute and include members from both houses. Three joint committees include members who are not legislators. Commissions include gubernatorial appointees and, in two cases, the governor.

Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules

Senators: Nass, *cochair*; LeMahieu, Stroebel; Larson, *ranking minority member*; Wirch

Representatives: Ballweg, *cochair*; Neylon, Ott; Hebl, *ranking minority member*; Anderson

Senator Nass: Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-2635; Room 10 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Ballweg: Rep.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-8077; Room 210 North, State Capitol, PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules must review proposed rules and may object to the promulgation of rules as part of the legislative oversight of the rule-making process. It also may suspend rules that have been promulgated; suspend or extend the effective period of emergency rules; and order an agency to put policies in rule form.

Following standing committee review, a proposed rule must be referred to the joint committee. The joint committee must meet to review proposed rules that receive standing committee objections, and may meet to review any rule received without objection. The joint committee generally has 30 days to review the rule, but that period may be extended in certain cases. The joint committee may concur or nonconcur in the standing committee's action or may on its own accord object to a proposed rule or portion of a rule. If it objects or concurs in a standing committee's objection, it must introduce bills concurrently in both houses to prevent promulgation of the rule. If either bill

is enacted, the agency may not adopt the rule unless specifically authorized to do so by a subsequent legislative enactment. The joint committee may also request that an agency modify a proposed rule.

The joint committee may suspend a rule that was previously promulgated after holding a public hearing. Within 30 days following the suspension, the joint committee must introduce bills concurrently in both houses to repeal the suspended rule. If either bill is enacted, the rule is repealed and the agency may not promulgate it again unless authorized by a subsequent legislative action. If both bills fail to pass, the rule remains in effect and may not be suspended again.

The joint committee receives notice of any action in a circuit court for declaratory judgments about the validity of a rule and may intervene in the action with the consent of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

The joint committee is composed of five senators and five representatives, and the membership from each house must include representatives of both the majority and minority parties.

State of Wisconsin Building Commission

Governor: Scott Walker, *chair*

Senators: Moulton, *vice chair*; Petrowski; Ringhand

Representatives: Swearingen, Katsma; Wachs

Other members: Bob Brandherm (citizen member appointed by governor)

Nonvoting advisory members from Department of Administration: John Klenke (administrator, Division of Facilities Development), *commission secretary*; Kevin Trinastic, R. J. Binau, David Erdman, Jillian Quarne

Contact: 608-266-1855; 101 East Wilson Street, 7th Floor, Madison, WI 53703; PO Box 7866, Madison, WI 53707-7866

The State of Wisconsin Building Commission coordinates the state building program, which includes the construction of new buildings; the remodeling, renovation, and maintenance of existing facilities; and the acquisition of lands and capital equipment. The commission determines the projects to be incorporated into the building program and biennially makes recommendations concerning the building program to the legislature, including the amount to be appropriated in the biennial budget. The budget for the state building program for 2015–17 was \$848,728,000. The commission oversees all state construction, except highway development. In addition, the commission may authorize expenditures from the State Building Trust Fund for construction, remodeling, maintenance, and planning of future development. The commission has supervision over all matters relating to the contracting of state debt.



GREG ANDERSON, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

A group of assembly Democrats held a press conference in March 2017 to announce that they would introduce legislation to prohibit the state from investing in companies that contract to build a border wall between the United States and Mexico. Representative JoCasta Zamarripa, Representative David Bowen, and Representative Lisa Subeck (*left to right*) present their case to the media.

All transactions for the sale of instruments that result in a state debt liability must be approved by official resolution of the commission.

The eight-member commission includes three senators and three representatives. Both the majority and minority parties in each house must be represented, and one legislator from each house must also be a member of the State Supported Programs Study and Advisory Committee. The governor serves as chair. One citizen member serves at the pleasure of the governor. The Department of Administration provides staffing for the commission, and several department employees serve as nonvoting, advisory members.

Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties

Senators: Wanggaard, *cochair*; Taylor

Representatives: Jarchow, *cochair*; Riemer

Other members: Brad D. Schimel (attorney general); Jon E. Litscher (secretary of corrections); Kelli S. Thompson (state public defender); James T. Bayorgeon, David G. Deininger (reserve judges appointed by supreme court); Bradley Gehring, Maury Straub (public members appointed by governor)

Senator Wanggaard: Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-1832; Room 319 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Jarchow: Rep.Jarchow@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-267-2365; Room 19 North, State Capitol, PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

The Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties reviews any bill that creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime when requested to do so by the chair of a standing committee in the house of origin to which the bill was referred. The presiding officer in the house of origin may also request a report from the joint committee if the bill is not referred to a standing committee.

Reports of the joint committee on bills submitted for its review concern the costs or savings to public agencies; the consistency of proposed penalties with existing penalties; whether alternative language is needed to conform the proposed penalties to existing penalties; and whether any acts prohibited by the bill are already prohibited under existing law.

Once a report is requested for a bill, a standing committee may not vote on the bill and the house of origin may not pass the bill before the joint committee submits its report or before the 30th day after the request is made, whichever is earlier.

The joint committee includes one majority and one minority party member from each house of the legislature; the members from the majority party serve as cochairs. The attorney general, secretary of corrections, and state public defender serve *ex officio*. The supreme court appoints one reserve judge residing somewhere within judicial administrative districts 1 to 5 and another from

Floor sessions can be as much about strategy as they are about policy. Speaker Pro Tempore Tyler August (*right*) and Majority Caucus Secretary Jessie Rodriguez confer during a break in action.



JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

districts 6 to 10. The governor appoints two public members—an individual with law enforcement experience and an elected county official.

Joint Committee on Employment Relations

Senators: Roth (senate president), *cochair*; Fitzgerald (majority leader), Darling (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance); Shilling (minority leader)
Representatives: Vos (assembly speaker), *cochair*; Steineke (majority leader), Nygren (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance); Barca (minority leader)

Contact: Legislative Council Staff, 608-266-1304; 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703-3382

The Joint Committee on Employment Relations approves all changes to the collective bargaining agreements that cover state employees represented by unions, and the compensation plans for nonrepresented state employees. These plans and agreements include pay adjustments; fringe benefits; performance awards; pay equity adjustments; and other items related to wages, hours, and conditions of employment. The committee also approves the assignment of certain unclassified positions to the executive salary group ranges.

The Division of Personnel Management in the Department of Administration submits the compensation plans for nonrepresented employees to the committee. One plan covers all nonrepresented classified employees and certain officials outside the classified service, including legislators, justices of the supreme court, court of appeals judges, circuit court judges, constitutional officers, district attorneys, heads of executive agencies, division administrators, and others designated by law. The faculty and academic staff of the University of Wisconsin System are covered by a separate compensation plan, which is based on recommendations made by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

After public hearings on the nonrepresented employee plans, the committee may modify the plans, but the committee's modifications may be disapproved by the governor. The committee may set aside the governor's disapproval by a vote of six committee members.

In the case of unionized employees, the Division of Personnel Management or, for University of Wisconsin bargaining units, the Board of Regents or the University of Wisconsin-Madison, submits tentative agreements negotiated between it and certified labor organizations to the committee. If the committee disapproves an agreement, it is returned to the bargaining parties for renegotiation.

When the committee approves an agreement for unionized employees, it introduces those portions requiring legislative approval in bill form and rec-

ommends passage without change. If the legislature fails to pass the bill, the agreement is returned to the bargaining parties for renegotiation.

The committee is composed of eight members: the presiding officers of each house; the majority and minority leaders of each house; and the cochairs of the Joint Committee on Finance. It is assisted in its work by the Legislative Council Staff and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Joint Committee on Finance

Senators: Darling, *cochair*; Olsen, *vice chair*; Harsdorf, Marklein, Tiffany, Vukmir; Taylor, *ranking minority member*; Erpenbach

Representatives: Nygren, *cochair*; Kooyenga, *vice chair*; Loudenbeck, Felzkowski, Born, Rohrkaste; Hintz, *ranking minority member*; Shankland

Senator Darling: Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-5830; Room 317 East, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Nygren: Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-2343; Room 309 East, State Capitol, PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

The Joint Committee on Finance examines legislation that deals with state income and spending. The committee also gives final approval to a wide variety of state payments and assessments. Any bill introduced in the legislature that appropriates money, provides for revenue, or relates to taxation must be referred to the committee.

The committee introduces the biennial budget as recommended by the governor. After holding a series of public hearings and executive sessions, it submits its own version of the budget as a substitute amendment to the governor's budget bill for consideration by the legislature.

At regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, the committee considers agency requests to adjust their budgets. It may approve a request for emergency funds if it finds that the legislature has authorized the activities for which the appropriation is sought. It may also transfer funds between existing appropriations and change the number of positions authorized to an agency in the budget process.

When required, the committee introduces legislation to pay claims against the state, resolve shortages in funds, and restore capital reserve funds of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to the required level. As an emergency measure, it may reduce certain state agency appropriations when there is a decrease in state revenues.

The committee is composed of the eight senators on the Senate Finance Committee and the eight representatives on the Assembly Finance Commit-



(BOTH PHOTOS) GREG ANDERSON, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

(top) The assembly conducts business in a chamber that is over 100 years old yet makes use of advanced tools and technology to administer its operations. (above) The grand settings are open to the public and allow present and future voters of Wisconsin, such as this group of students, to visit the corridors of power and learn how their government functions.

tee. It includes members of the majority and minority party in each house. The cochairs are appointed in the same manner as are the chairs of standing committees in their respective houses.

Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology

Senators: Harsdorf, *cochair*; Cowles, Roth; Carpenter, *ranking minority member*; Vinehout

Representatives: Knodl, *cochair*; Jacque, Brandtjen; Barca, *ranking minority member*; Sargent

Senator Harsdorf: Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-7745; Room 122 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Knodl: Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-3796; Room 218 North, State Capitol, PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

The Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology reviews information management practices and technology systems of state and local units of government to ensure economic and efficient service, maintain data security and integrity, and protect the privacy of individuals who are subjects of the databases. It studies the effects of proposals by the state to expand existing information technology or implement new technologies. With the concurrence of the Joint Committee on Finance, it may direct the Department of Administration to report on any information technology system project that could cost \$1 million or more in the current or succeeding biennium. The committee may direct the Department of Administration to prepare reports or conduct studies and may make recommendations to the governor, the legislature, state agencies, or local governments based on this information. The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents is required to submit a report to the committee semiannually, detailing each information technology project in the University of Wisconsin System costing more than \$1 million or deemed “high-risk” by the board. The committee may make recommendations on the identified projects to the governor and the legislature. The committee is composed of three majority and two minority party members from each house of the legislature.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Senators: Cowles, *cochair*; Darling (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance), Kapenga; Vinehout, *ranking minority member*; Miller

Representatives: Kerkman, *cochair*; Macco, Nygren (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance); Sargent, *ranking minority member*; Berceau



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The senate and assembly parlors can function as retreats for quiet work or private conversation among legislators. Senator Chris Larson of Milwaukee takes a moment to work on his laptop in 2015.

Senator Cowles: Sen.Cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-0484; Room 118 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Kerkman: Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-2530; Room 315 North, State Capitol, PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee advises the Legislative Audit Bureau, subject to general supervision of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. The committee is composed of the cochairs of the Joint Committee on Finance, plus two majority and two minority party members from each house of the legislature. The committee evaluates candidates for the office of state auditor and makes recommendations to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, which selects the auditor.

The committee may direct the state auditor to undertake specific audits and review requests for special audits from individual legislators or standing committees, but no legislator or standing committee may interfere with the auditor in the conduct of an audit.

The committee reviews each report of the Legislative Audit Bureau and then confers with the state auditor, other legislative committees, and the audited agencies on the report's findings. It may propose corrective action and direct that follow-up reports be submitted to it.



GREG ANDERSON, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER



JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

The annual State of the State address brings both houses together in the assembly chamber (*top*), where the governor (*above*) greets legislators and lays out his agenda for the new year.

The committee may hold hearings on audit reports, request the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization to investigate any matter within the scope of the audit, and request investigation of any matter relative to the fiscal and performance responsibilities of a state agency. If an audit report cites financial deficiencies, the head of the agency must report to the Joint Legislative Audit

Committee on remedial actions taken. Should the agency head fail to report, the committee may refer the matter to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and the appropriate standing committees.

When the committee determines that legislative action is needed, it may refer the necessary information to the legislature or a standing committee. It can also request information from a committee on action taken or seek advice of a standing committee on program portions of an audit. The committee may introduce legislation to address issues covered in audit reports.

Joint Legislative Council

Senators: Roth (senate president), *cochair*; Darling (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance), Fitzgerald (majority leader), Marklein (president pro tempore), Moulton, Petrowski, Wanggaard; Shilling (minority leader), *ranking minority member*; Taylor (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), Risser, Miller

Representatives: R. Brooks (designated by assembly speaker), *cochair*; Vos (assembly speaker), Steineke (majority leader), August (speaker pro tempore), Nygren (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance), Ballweg, Spiros; Barca (minority leader), *ranking minority member*; Hintz (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), Mason, Hesselbein

Legislative Council Staff: Terry C. Anderson, *director*; Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, *deputy director*; Scott Grosz, *rules clearinghouse director*; Margit Kelley, *rules clearinghouse assistant director*

Contact: leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-1304; 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703-3382

Website: <http://lc.legis.wisconsin.gov>

Publications: *General Report of the Joint Legislative Council to the Legislature*; *State Agency Staff Members with Responsibilities Related to the Legislature*; *Wisconsin Legislator Briefing Book*; *Directory of Joint Legislative Council Committees*; *Comparative Retirement Study*; *A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Wisconsin State Legislature*; rules clearinghouse reports; staff briefs; information memoranda on substantive issues considered by council committees; staff memoranda; amendment and act memoranda.

Number of employees: 34.17

Total budget 2015–17: \$7,897,200

The Joint Legislative Council creates special committees made up of legisla-

tors and members of the public to study various problems of state and local government. Study topics are selected from requests presented to the council by law, joint resolution, and individual legislators. After research, expert testimony, and public hearings, the study committees draft proposals and submit them to the council, which must approve those drafts it wants introduced in the legislature as council bills.

The council is assisted in its work by the Legislative Council Staff. The staff provides legal and research assistance to all of the legislature's substantive standing committees and joint statutory committees (except the Joint Committee on Finance) and assists individual legislators on request. The staff operates the rules clearinghouse to review proposed administrative rules and assists standing committees in their oversight of rulemaking. The staff also assists the legislature in identifying and responding to issues relating to the Wisconsin Retirement System.

By law, the Legislative Council Staff must be strictly nonpartisan and must observe the confidential nature of the research and drafting requests it receives. The law requires that state agencies and local governmental units cooperate fully with the council staff in its carrying out of its statutory duties. The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization appoints the director of the Legislative Council Staff from outside the classified service. The director appoints the other staff members from outside the classified service.

The council consists of 22 legislators. The majority of them serve *ex officio*, and the remainder are appointed in the same manner as members of standing committees. The president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly serve as cochair, but each may designate another member to serve as cochair and each may decline to serve on the council. The council operates two permanent statutory committees and various special committees appointed to study selected subjects.

PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations Representative Mursau, *chair*; Senator Vinehout, *vice chair*; Senators Carpenter, Lazich; Representatives Edming, Meyers; Dee Ann Allen (Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), Bryan Bainbridge (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), Russell Barber (Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board), Gary Besaw (Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin), Wilfrid Cleveland (Ho-Chunk Nation), Michael Decorah (St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin), Harold Frank (Forest County Potawatomi

Community), Shannon Holsey (Stockbridge-Munsee Community), Chris McGeshick (Sokaogon Chippewa Community), Lisa Summers (Oneida Nation)

State-Tribal Relations Technical Advisory Committee Tom Bellavia (Department of Justice), Kelly Jackson (Department of Transportation), David O'Connor (Department of Public Instruction), Michele Allness (Department of Natural Resources), Andrew Evenson (Department of Workforce Development), Thomas Ourada (Department of Revenue), Gail Nahwahquaw (Department of Health Services), Stephanie Lozano (Department of Children and Families)

The Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations is appointed by the Joint Legislative Council each biennium to study issues related to American Indians and the Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to such issues. Legislative membership includes not fewer than six nor more than 12 members with at least one member of the majority and the minority party from each house. The council appoints no fewer than six and no more than 11 members from names submitted by federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribes or bands

Another occasion for a joint meeting of the senate and the assembly is the annual State of the Tribes address. During his 2016 address, speaker Mic Isham of the Lac Courte Oreilles recognized Wilfrid Cleveland (*standing*), President of the Ho-Chunk Nation; Brooks Boyd of the Forest County Potawatomi Community; and Melinda Danforth of the Oneida Nation (*left to right*).



GREG ANDERSON, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER



JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

With only 33 members in the senate and four-year terms, senators have a chance to form working relationships that reach across the aisle. Senator Mark Miller (*left*) and Senator Alberta Darling have worked together for more than ten years.

or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. The council may not appoint more than one member recommended by any one tribe or band or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council.

The Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of eight major executive agencies, assists the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

Law Revision Committee Senators Wanggaard, *cochair*, LeMahieu, Risser, Taylor; Representatives Ott, *cochair*, August, Riemer, Wachs

The Law Revision Committee is appointed each biennium by the Joint Legislative Council. The membership of the committee is not specified, but it must include majority and minority party representation from each house. The committee reviews minor, remedial changes to the statutes as proposed by state agencies and reviews opinions of the attorney general and court decisions declaring a Wisconsin statute unconstitutional, ambiguous, or otherwise in need of revision. It considers proposals by the Legislative Reference Bureau to correct statutory language and session laws that conflict or need revision, and it may submit recommendations for major law revision projects to the Joint Legislative Council. It

also serves as the repository for interstate compacts and agreements and makes recommendations to the legislature regarding revision of such agreements.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL REPORTING IN 2017

Legislative Council Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services

Representative Horlacher, *chair*; Senator Stroebel, *vice chair*; Senator Wirch; Representatives Ballweg, Stuck, Subeck; Erin Boyd, Rick Esenberg, James Gramling, Kimberly Haas, Gregg Moore, David Pifer, David Prosser, Michael Rust, Amy Wochos, Glenn Yamahiro

The study committee is directed to review the funding and delivery of legal services for the indigent in civil cases. The committee shall review the need for legal services by indigent civil litigants, identify additional non-GPR sources of revenue to provide civil legal services for the indigent, and review current operations.

Legislative Council Study Committee on Publication of Government

Documents and Legal Notices Representative Spiros, *chair*; Senator Miller, *vice chair*; Representatives Genrich, Jacque; Matt Blessing, Caroline Burmaster, Tim Lyke, Heather Rogge, Michael Schlaak, Mark Stodder, Maribeth Witzel-Behl

The study committee is directed to update and recodify Wis. Stats. Chapters 35 and 985, relating to the publication and distribution of government documents and legal notices respectively, to reflect technological advances and remove obsolete provisions. The committee shall also study whether, and in what circumstances, current law regarding the publication and distribution of government documents and legal notices, including qualifications for official newspapers, should be modified to allow for information to be made available only electronically or through nontraditional media outlets. The committee shall recommend legislation regarding any such modifications.

Legislative Council Study Committee on Reducing Recidivism and Removing Impediments to Ex-Offender Employment

Senator Darling, *chair*; Representative Hutton, *vice chair*; Senator Taylor; Representatives Billings, Goyke, Nygren; Edward Bailey, David Borowski, Earl Buford, Jerome Dillard, Sadique Isahaku, Eric Johnson, Mary Prosser, Amy Schabel, Lisa Stark, Kelli Thompson

The study committee is directed to review effective strategies and best practices for reducing recidivism. The committee shall consider evidence-based strategies to decrease recidivism that have achieved success in Wisconsin or

in other states for possible expansion or implementation, investigate systems of earned-time credits for possible implementation as part of a recidivism reduction program, and explore existing impediments to reacclimating to society, including: continuity of medication, impediments to occupational licensure and professional credentials, and other collateral consequences of conviction.

Legislative Council Study Committee on Rural Broadband Senator Marklein, *chair*; Representative Petryk, *vice chair*; Representatives Meyers, Spreitzer; Scott Behn, Ronald Brisbois, Jim Costello, Philip Hejtmanek, Mike Hill, Michelle Olson, Jean Pauk, Ben Rivard, Kelly Shipley

The study committee is directed to review the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant Program and the extent to which it has encouraged construction of broadband infrastructure in areas of the state with few broadband service providers. The committee shall discuss the criteria used to evaluate applications and award grants, consider alternatives for determining eligibility and prioritizing proposed projects, consider alternative methods for encouraging construction of broadband infrastructure, and identify options to recommend.

Legislative Council Study Committee on School Data Representative Thiesfeldt, *chair*; Senator LeMahieu, *vice chair*; Senator Larson; Representatives Bowen, Murphy, Pope; Kevin Bruggink, Sally Flaschberger, Wendy Greenfield, Nicole Hafele, Kelly Hoyland, John Humphries, Kim Kaukl, Margaret Murphy, Ann Steenwyk

The study committee is directed to review all student data gathered by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the data security measures that protect student privacy. The committee will study whether the data is required by federal law, state statute, or administrative rule and the purposes for which the data is utilized, and consider developing legislation to limit the types of student data collected by DPI and to improve the security of that data.

Legislative Council Study Committee on the Preservation of Burial Sites Representative Loudenberg, *chair*; Representative R. Brooks, *vice chair*; Senator Erpenbach; Representative Considine; Conrad Goodkind, William Green, David Grignon, Kira Kaufmann, Justin Oeth, E. Glen Porter, Bill Quackenbush, Robert Shea, Chad Wuebben

The study committee is directed to review section 157.70, Wisconsin Statutes, to determine whether the statute adequately balances the interests of scientists, landowners, developers, and others with an interest in a burial site, including those with a kinship interest and those with a general cultural, tribal, or re-



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Assistant Minority Leader Dianne Hesselbein makes a point during the debate about Assembly Bill 109, relating to towns withdrawing from county zoning ordinances. Hesselbein was able to give her personal perspective, as she formerly served on the Dane County Board.

ligious affiliation with the burial site. The committee shall consider whether modifications to these procedures are necessary to protect all interests related to any human burial site encountered during archaeological excavation, metallic or nonmetallic mining, construction, agricultural activities, environmental impact assessments, or other ground-disturbing activities, without causing avoidable or undue delay or hardship to any person who has an interest in using the land on which the burial site is located.

Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Shortages Senator Nass, *chair*; Representative Kremer, *vice chair*; Senator Bewley; Representative Kolste; John Eich, J. Timothy Hillebrand, Gregory Michalek, Jodie Olson, Jeff Rickaby, David Seager Jr., Dana Sechler, James Small, Jody Stoker, Jay Tousey, Gene Wright

The study committee is directed to examine issues related to the shortage of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in the state,

particularly in rural areas, and propose measures to address the shortage. Specifically, the committee shall study: the magnitude of volunteer shortages, the areas of the state most affected, and the potential impact of shortages on public health and safety and economic development; whether current training and continuing education requirements contribute to the shortage; relationships between full-time and volunteer emergency response departments and the impact that the shortage of volunteers has on non-volunteer departments in neighboring communities; and whether the creation of organizations, particularly in rural areas, may help address the shortage. The committee shall develop legislative options to meet the needs of full-time and volunteer fire departments, including proposals designed to increase the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters throughout the state.

Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

Senators: Roth (senate president), *cochair*; Fitzgerald (majority leader), Vukmir (assistant majority leader); Shilling (minority leader), Bewley (assistant minority leader)

Representatives: Vos (assembly speaker), *cochair*; Steineke (majority leader), R. Brooks (assistant majority leader); Barca (minority leader), Hesselbein (assistant minority leader)

Contact: Legislative Council Staff, 608-266-1304; 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703-3382

The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the Legislative Audit Bureau, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Legislative Technology Services Bureau. In this capacity, it assigns tasks to each bureau, approves bureau budgets, and sets the salary of bureau heads. The committee selects the four bureau heads, but it acts on the recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee when appointing the state auditor. The committee also selects the director of the Legislative Council Staff.

The committee may inquire into misconduct by members and employees of the legislature. It oversees a variety of operations, including the work schedule for the legislative session, computer use, space allocation for legislative offices and legislative service agencies, parking on the State Capitol Park grounds, and sale and distribution of legislative documents. The committee recommends which newspaper should serve as the official state newspaper for publication of state legal notices. It advises the Elections Commission on its operations and, upon recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, may

investigate any problems the Legislative Audit Bureau finds during its audits. The committee may employ outside consultants to study ways to improve legislative staff services and organization.

The ten-member committee consists of the presiding officers and party leadership of both houses. The committee has established a Subcommittee on Legislative Services to advise it on matters pertaining to the legislative institution, including the review of computer technology purchases. The Legislative Council Staff provides staff assistance to the committee.

Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems

Senators: Testin, *cochair*; Craig; Erpenbach

Representatives: Novak, *cochair*; Kuglitsch; Mason

Other members: Charlotte Gibson (assistant attorney general appointed by attorney general), Robert J. Conlin (secretary of employee trust funds), Ted Nickel (insurance commissioner), Tim Pederson (public member appointed by governor)

Contact: Legislative Council Staff, 608-266-1304; 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703-3382

The Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems makes recommendations on legislation that affects retirement and pension plans for public officers and employees, and its recommendations must be attached as an appendix to each retirement bill. Neither house of the legislature may consider such a bill until the committee submits a written report that describes the proposal's purpose, probable costs, actuarial effect, and desirability as a matter of public policy.

The ten-member committee includes two majority party members and one minority party member from each house of the legislature. An experienced actuary from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance may be designated to serve in the commissioner's place on the committee. The public member cannot be a participant in any public retirement system in the state and is expected to "represent the interests of the taxpayers." Appointed members serve four-year terms unless they lose the status upon which the appointment was based. The committee is assisted by the Legislative Council Staff in the performance of its duties, but may contract for actuarial assistance outside the classified service.

Joint Legislative State Supported Programs Study and Advisory Committee (Appointments had not yet been made as of June 1, 2017.)

Members of the Joint Legislative State Supported Programs Study and Advisory Committee visit and inspect the State Capitol and all institutions and office

buildings owned or leased by the state. They are granted free and full access to all parts of the buildings, the surrounding grounds, and all persons associated with the buildings. The committee may also examine any institution, program, or organization that receives direct or indirect state financial support.

The committee consists of five senators and six representatives. Members appointed from each house must represent the two major political parties, and one legislator from each house must also be a member of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission. Assistance to the committee is provided by the Legislative Council Staff.

Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions

Senators: Feyen, *cochair*; Tiffany; Carpenter

Representatives: August, *cochair*; Swearingen; Young

Other members: Richard G. Chandler (secretary of revenue), Paul Connell (Department of Justice representative appointed by attorney general), Kimberly Shaul (public member appointed by governor)

Contact: Legislative Council Staff, 608-266-1304; 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703-3382

The Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions considers all legislation related to the exemption of persons or property from state or local taxes. It is assisted by the Legislative Council Staff.

Any legislative proposal that provides a tax exemption must be referred to the committee immediately upon introduction. Neither house of the legislature may consider the proposal until the committee has issued its report, attached as an appendix to the bill, describing the proposal's legality, desirability as public policy, and fiscal effect. In the course of its review, the committee is authorized to conduct investigations, hold hearings, and subpoena witnesses. For an executive budget bill that provides a tax exemption, the committee must prepare its report within 60 days.

The committee includes two majority party members and one minority party member from each house of the legislature. The public member must be familiar with the tax problems of local government. Members' terms expire on January 15 of odd-numbered years.

Transportation Projects Commission

Governor: Scott Walker, *chair*

Senators: Cowles, Marklein, Petrowski; Carpenter, Hansen



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Ann O'Leary of Evansville, the 69th person to hold the title of Alice in Dairyland, addresses the assembly from the rostrum. Alice in Dairyland travels the state as Wisconsin's agricultural ambassador. Behind her is Representative Mark Spreitzer, whose district includes the Evansville area.

Representatives: Ripp, Spiros, 1 vacancy; Spreitzer, 1 vacancy

Other members: Jean Jacobson, Barbara Fleisner LaMue, Michael Ryan (citizen members appointed by governor)

Nonvoting members: Dave Ross (secretary of transportation)

Commission secretary: Kris Sommers

Contact: 608-266-3341; Hill Farms State Transportation Building, Room 901, 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison, WI 53705; PO Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707-7913

The Transportation Projects Commission includes three majority party and two minority party members from each house of the legislature. The commission reviews Department of Transportation recommendations for major highway projects. The department must report its recommendations to the commission by September 15 of each even-numbered year, and the commission, in turn, reports its recommendations to the governor or governor-elect, the

legislature, and the Joint Committee on Finance before December 15 of each even-numbered year. The department must also provide the commission with a status report on major transportation projects every six months. The commission also approves the preparation of environmental impact or assessment statements for potential major highway projects.

Commission on Uniform State Laws

Members: Joanne Huelsman (former state senator), *chair*; Aaron Gary (designated by Legislative Reference Bureau chief), *secretary*; Senator Risser; Representatives Tusler, Riemer; Margit Kelley (designated by director, Legislative Council Staff); John Macy, Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler (public members appointed by governor)

Contact: 608-261-6926; 1 East Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53701-2037

The Commission on Uniform State Laws examines subjects on which interstate uniformity is desirable, cooperates with the national Uniform Law Commission, and advises the legislature on uniform laws and model laws.

The commission consists of four current or former legislators, two public members, and two members representing legislative service agencies.

Legislative service agencies

Legislative Audit Bureau

State auditor: Joe Chrisman

Special assistant to the state auditor: Anne Sappenfield

Deputy state auditor for program evaluation: Paul Stuiber

Audit directors: Sherry Haakenson, Carolyn Stittleburg, Dean Swenson, Kendra Eppler

Contact: AskLAB@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-2818; 877-FRAUD-17 (fraud, waste, and mismanagement hotline); 22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703-2512

Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>

Publications: Audit reports of individual state agencies and programs; biennial reports.

Number of employees: 86.80

Total budget 2015–17: \$16,641,400

The Legislative Audit Bureau is responsible for conducting financial and pro-

gram audits to assist the legislature in its oversight function. The bureau performs financial audits to determine whether agencies have conducted and reported their financial transactions legally and properly. It undertakes program audits to analyze whether agencies have managed their programs efficiently and effectively and have carried out the policies prescribed by law.

The bureau's authority extends to executive, legislative, and judicial agencies; authorities created by the legislature; special districts; and certain service providers that receive state funds. The bureau may audit any county, city, village, town, or school district at the request of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

The bureau provides an annual audit opinion on the state's comprehensive financial statements by the Department of Administration and prepares audits and reports on the financial transactions and records of state agencies at the state auditor's discretion or at the direction of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. The bureau maintains a toll-free number to receive reports of fraud, waste, and mismanagement in state government.

Typically, the bureau's program audits are conducted at the request of the

Two of the younger members of the assembly include Representative Tyler Vorpapel (*left*), age 32, who is serving in his second session, and Representative Daniel Riemer, age 30, who is serving in his third session.



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JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER

New legislators find they can turn to their colleagues for guidance in navigating the legislative environment. Representative Cindi Duchow (*right*), who is beginning her first full term, consults with Representative Mary Felzkowski.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee, initiated by the state auditor, or required by legislation. The reports are reviewed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, which may hold hearings on them and may introduce legislation in response to audit recommendations.

The director of the bureau is the state auditor, who is appointed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization upon the recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Both the state auditor and the bureau's staff are appointed from outside the classified service and are strictly nonpartisan.

STATUTORY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Municipal Best Practices Reviews Advisory Council Steve O'Malley, Adam Payne (representing the Wisconsin Counties Association); Mark Rohloff (representing the League of Wisconsin Municipalities); Richard Nawrocki (representing the Wisconsin Towns Association) (All are appointed by the state auditor.)

The Municipal Best Practices Reviews Advisory Council advises the state auditor on the selection of county and municipal service delivery practices to be reviewed by the state auditor. The state auditor conducts periodic reviews of procedures and practices used by local governments in the delivery of governmental services; identifies variations in costs and effectiveness of such

services between counties and municipalities; and recommends practices to save money or provide more effective service delivery. Council members are chosen from candidates submitted by the organizations represented.

Legislative Council Staff

Director: Terry C. Anderson

Deputy director: Jessica Karls-Ruplinger

Rules clearinghouse director: Scott Grosz

Rules clearinghouse assistant director: Margit Kelley

Contact: 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703-3382; 608-266-1304; leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov

Website: <http://lc.legis.wisconsin.gov>

See the entry for the Joint Legislative Council, beginning on page 163.

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Director: Robert Wm. Lang

Assistant director: David Loppnow

Program supervisors: Jere Bauer, Paul Ferguson, Charles Morgan, Rob Reinhardt, Al Runde

Supervising analysts: Kendra Bonderud, Jon Dyck

Administrative assistant: Becky Hannah

Supervising program assistant: Sandy Swain

Contact: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov; 608-266-3847; 1 East Main Street, Suite 301, Madison, WI 53703

Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

Publications: Biennial budget and budget adjustment summaries: summaries of state agency budget requests; cumulative and comparative summaries of the governor's proposals, Joint Committee on Finance provisions and legislative amendments, and separate summaries of legislative amendments when necessary; summary of governor's partial vetoes. Informational reports on various state programs, budget issue papers, and revenue estimates. (Reports and papers available on the Internet or upon request.)

Number of employees: 35.00

Total budget 2015-17: \$7,995,400

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau develops fiscal information for the legislature, and its services must be impartial and nonpartisan. One of the bureau's principal duties is to staff the Joint Committee on Finance and assist its members. As

part of this responsibility, the bureau studies the state budget and its long-range implications, reviews state revenues and expenditures, suggests alternatives to the committee and the legislature, and prepares a report detailing earmarks in the budget bill. In addition, the bureau provides information on all other bills before the committee and analyzes agency requests for new positions and appropriation supplements outside of the budget process.

The bureau provides fiscal information to any legislative committee or legislator upon request. On its own initiative, or at legislative direction, the bureau may conduct studies of any financial issue affecting the state. To aid the bureau in performing its duties, the director or designated employees are granted access to all state departments and to any records maintained by the agencies relating to their expenditures, revenues, operations, and structure.

The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, and it selects the bureau's director. The director is assisted by program supervisors responsible for broadly defined subject areas of government budgeting and fiscal operations. The director and all bureau staff are chosen outside the classified service.

Legislative Reference Bureau

Chief: Richard A. Champagne

Deputy chief: Cathlene M. Hanaman

Legal services manager: Joe Kreye

Information services manager: Stefanie Rose

Administrative services manager: Wendy L. Jackson

Contact: 608-266-3561 (legal); 608-266-0341 (reference); 1 East Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703; PO Box 2037, Madison, WI 53701-2037

Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb>

Publications: Wisconsin Statutes; Laws of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register; *Wisconsin Blue Book*; informational, legal, and research reports.

Number of employees: 60.00

Total budget 2015–17: \$12,383,800

The Legislative Reference Bureau provides nonpartisan, confidential bill drafting and other legal services to the Wisconsin Legislature. The bureau employs a staff of attorneys and editors who serve the legislature and its members and who draft and prepare all legislation, including the executive budget bill, for introduction in the legislature. Bureau attorneys also draft legislation at the request of state agencies. The bureau publishes all laws enacted during each

biennial legislative session and incorporates the laws into the Wisconsin Statutes. The bureau prints the Wisconsin Statutes every two years and updates continuously the Wisconsin Statutes on the Wisconsin Legislature's Internet site. The bureau publishes and updates the Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Wisconsin Administrative Register on the Internet site.

The Legislative Reference Bureau also employs research analysts and librarians who provide information and research services to the legislature and the public. The bureau publishes the *Wisconsin Blue Book* and informational, legal, and research reports. The bureau responds to inquiries from legislators, legislative staff, and the public on current law and pending legislation and the operations of the legislature and state government. The bureau operates a legislative library that contains an extensive collection of materials pertaining to Wisconsin government and politics. The bureau compiles and publishes the Assembly Rules, Senate Rules, and Joint Rules. The bureau maintains for public inspection the drafting records of all legislation introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature, beginning with the 1927 session.

The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the Legislative Reference Bureau, and it selects the bureau chief. The chief employs all bureau staff. The chief and the bureau staff serve outside the classified service.

The state capitol is celebrating its centennial in 2017 with several events, including this kick-off in the rotunda in January. The current capitol was completed in 1917 after nearly ten years of planning and construction. More information can be found at <https://capitol100th.wisconsin.gov>.



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Legislative Technology Services Bureau

Director: Jeff Ylvisaker

Business manager: Erin Esser

Enterprise operations manager: Matt Harned

Geographic information systems manager: Tony Van Der Wielen

Software development manager: Doug DeMuth

Technical support manager: Nate Rohan

Contact: 608-264-8582; 17 West Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703

Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb>

Number of employees: 43.00

Total budget 2015–17: \$8,545,200

The Legislative Technology Services Bureau provides confidential, nonpartisan information technology services and support to the Wisconsin Legislature. The bureau creates, maintains, and enhances specialized software used for bill drafting, floor session activity, and committee activity, managing constituent interactions, producing the Wisconsin Statutes and the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and publishing the *Wisconsin Blue Book*. It supports the publication of legislative documents including bills and amendments, house journals, daily calendars, and the *Bulletin of the Proceedings*. The bureau also maintains network infrastructure, data center operations, electronic communications, desktops, laptops, printers, and other technology devices. It keeps an inventory of computer hardware and software assets and manages technology replacement schedules. It supports the redistricting project following each decennial U.S. Census and provides mapping services throughout the decade. The bureau also supports the legislature during floor sessions, delivers audio and video services, manages the technology for the Wisconsin Legislature's websites, and offers training services for legislators and staff in the use of information technology.

The bureau's director is appointed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and has overall management responsibilities for the bureau. The director appoints bureau staff; both the director and the staff serve outside the classified service.