

State of Wisconsin

1997–1998
Blue Book

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The legislative analysts and publications editors of the Reference and Library section of the Legislative Reference Bureau have primary responsibility for compiling each biennial edition of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*. However, virtually the entire LRB staff participates in some manner in helping to produce this 1000–page almanac of state government. Data is collected and validated, legislative biographies and photographs are checked and rechecked, state agency personnel and functions are revised and updated, legislation and court decisions are summarized, tabular and graphical information is created and the individual parts must be proofed, edited, organized and composed into what eventually becomes the *Blue Book*.

Two staff members in particular deserve special recognition for their contributions in compiling the 1997–1998 edition. Lead Legislative Analyst Patricia Meloy worked tirelessly and purposefully in coordinating the efforts of the staff and in editing the entire volume. Publications Editor Lynn Lemanski was responsible for technical editing and the electronic composition and formatting of the book. Although producing the *Blue Book* is a collaborative effort, it could not have been completed as efficiently and accurately without the dedication and contributions of these two staff members.

The following staff members produced the 1997–1998 *Blue Book*:

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The photograph of the Governor’s Conference Room appearing on the front cover is by James T. Potter, AIA Emeritus. The 14 color photographs in the supplement, which portray various exterior and interior features of the State Capitol, are also the work of Mr. Potter. The editors express their sincere appreciation to James Potter for allowing the use of his copyrighted photographs in the *Blue Book*.

The back cover illustrates the 3 state capitol buildings built in Madison. The photograph of the first capitol and the reprint of a post card showing the second capitol are from the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The photograph of the current state capitol building is by Kathleen Sitter of the LRB.





TOMMY G. THOMPSON

**Governor
State of Wisconsin**

July 1997

Dear Readers:

We live at a remarkable time in Wisconsin's history. Our state serves as a model for the nation across a broad range of program areas, including welfare reform, education and environmental protection. We continue to enjoy unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. All of us can take pride in the work we have done to make Wisconsin the envy of the nation.

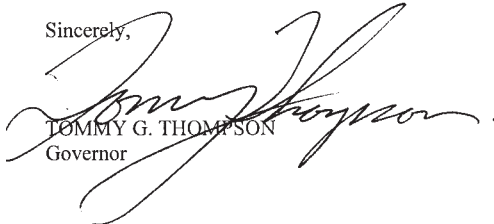
Our success during the past decade, however, has been built on the foundation that was laid by the men and women who labored before us during our state's great 150-year history. We must always be mindful of their contributions to our success.

Wisconsin's sesquicentennial year – 1998 – will give each of us the chance to recognize those who, since 1848, have contributed to Wisconsin's many achievements. I hope that all Wisconsinites will take part during 1998 in the many activities that are being planned at the local and state levels to celebrate our history and heritage.

The 1997-98 State of Wisconsin Blue Book serves as an outstanding guide for our sesquicentennial commemoration, detailing Wisconsin's impressive record of innovation in government and public policy, welfare reform, education, commerce, agriculture and conservation. The book also includes a special section on the role of local government, highlighting its development during the state's history.

This Blue Book helps us to better understand Wisconsin's rich history and the men and women who contributed to it. As we examine the progress of our state, we also see clearly the many contributions that Wisconsin has made to our great country. As Wisconsin has developed, we have helped to shape America.

Sincerely,



TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor



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INTRODUCTION

The *1997-1998 Wisconsin Blue Book* is the 83rd in a series which originated in 1853 as a compilation of assembly rules and precedents. The *1853 Legislative Manual* was published by the Assembly Chief Clerk and offered little in the way of statistical information about our fledgling state, just 7 years into statehood. It was apparently a slow seller because the 750 copies that were printed in 1853 were reduced to 500 copies for the second edition published in 1859. The 1859 edition was also a slim volume of less than 100 pages but it included a modest amount of statistical data. For the first time, basic data, such as a list of Wisconsin post offices and a description of the counties and towns making up each legislative and congressional district, were included. Over time, both the content and number of copies printed gradually increased, reflecting Wisconsin's growth and the corresponding growing need for information. Thus, the *1862 Legislative Manual*, published jointly by the Senate and Assembly Chief Clerks, contained additional information, including an organizational chart of the "Rebel National Government" and the salaries, terms and officers of the "Rebel State Governments". The 1878 edition was the first to use the title "Blue Book" and continued the trend toward providing detailed information about government.

From these modest beginnings, the *Blue Book* has evolved into a comprehensive almanac of Wisconsin State Government. Recent editions have also included a feature article dealing with some aspect of government. The current edition contains 2 such articles. "The Changing World of Wisconsin Local Government", contributed by Professor Susan D. Paddock of University of Wisconsin Extension provides a detailed description of the local government infrastructure and how its functions have evolved in response to new demands placed upon it. A second article, "Wisconsin at 150 Years", compiled by Michael Keane and Daniel Ritsche of the LRB staff, provides a snapshot of our state as we prepare to celebrate our sesquicentennial in 1998. It is illustrated with color photographs and graphics and offers a capsule view of Wisconsin through a description of our economy, resources, physical attributes and those characteristics which define our state and give it its unique personality.

Newly available tools have made the process of compiling the book more efficient, and allowed us to provide more useful content for the reader. Beginning with the *1995-1996 Blue Book*, we have electronically composed and formatted the book in-house. We also produced a CD-ROM version of the 1995-1996 edition, which incorporated a multimedia quiz on state symbols and additional information about the legislative process. The compact disk product was not intended as a replacement for the printed book but as a supplement suitable for classroom use. Consequently, legislators distributed the Blue Book on CD-ROM to each school and public library in Wisconsin.

We intend to continue to capitalize on information technology to produce the best product possible. It is you the reader, however, who is the final judge of how well we have met our goal of informing you about your government. We hope that you find the current edition succeeds in this effort. As always, we sincerely appreciate your comments and suggestions about how we can improve the *Blue Book*.

Lawrence S. Barish
Blue Book Editor

