

Resources for Legislators

Compiled by Marian G. Rogers, Updated January 2009

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm

Like the previous four bibliographies on this topic, a wide range of print and electronic resources helpful to legislators and legislative staff are presented. Links to Wisconsin legislative service agencies' Web sites as well as government and other online information are included.

***The Art of Legislative Politics* / Tom Loftus. 1994. (328.11/L82)**
Written by a former Assembly Speaker (1983-1991), this is an insider's account of the Wisconsin Legislature and its leaders.

Asking Key Questions: How to Review Program Results / National Conference of State Legislatures and The Urban Institute. 2005. (354.1/N211)

Blue Book / Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. (328.3/W7c) The almanac of Wisconsin government. Library copies: circulating (1901-2007) and library use only (1859-2007). 1995-2007: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/bluebook.htm University of Wisconsin Digital Collections, 1853-2003: <http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/WI/subcollections/WIBlueBksAbout.html>

Building a True Partnership with Your Constituents / National Conference of State Legislatures. 2005. (321.1/N21)

Clippings Collection. (library use only) Newspaper clippings arranged chronologically by over 1,900 subjects. Older clippings are on microfiche or paper; more recent clippings are scanned.

Constitutional Highlights [series] / Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. 2001 to date. Each issue explains a particular provision of the Wisconsin constitution and how it affects the legislative process. www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/conhigh.htm

Crane and Hagensick's Wisconsin Government and Politics, 9th ed. / Thomas Holbrook, editor, McGraw-Hill Primus Custom Publishing. 2008. (Ref./354/W7d/2008) (library use only) Library has earlier editions which may be checked out.

The Framework of Your Wisconsin Government, 17th ed. / Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. 2007. (354/W751a) Used primarily as a teaching aid, the purpose of this book is to help citizens understand how Wisconsin government is organized, how different levels relate to each other, and where to begin in order to participate.

Governing Wisconsin [series] / Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. 2005 to date. Primarily prepared for civics classes, these constituent-oriented two-page publications explain how Wisconsin government works. www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/gw ***Teacher's Guide to Governing Wisconsin.*** Fall 2008. www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/gw/GWTeachersGuide.pdf

Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature / Alan Rosenthal. 2004. (328.11/R72c) This book "offers a unique in-depth view of state legislators as they represent their constituents, negotiate the law making process, and interact with other political officials."—Kathleen Bratton, Louisiana State University.

How to Be an Effective Legislator: Advice from the Experts (CD series and guidebooks) / National Conference of State Legislatures. (328.142/N212c/v.5) pt.1: *Mastering the Legislative Process.* pt.2: *Managing the Budget.* pt.3: *Dealing with the Media.* pt.4: *Chairing a Committee.* pt.5: *Serving Your Constituents.* pt.6: *Working with Staff and Lobbyists.* pt.7: *Mastering the Rules.* pt.8: *Effective Legislative Leadership.* v.2: *Building Consensus* (audiotape). www.ncsl.org/newmember/cd.htm

Inside the Legislative Process / American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries in cooperation with the National Conference of State Legislatures. Revised October 2007. (328.4/N21d) This resource "provides some of the best information on state legislative processes and procedures."—Page 1-1. As of November 2007, available online free to legislators and staff nationwide. www.ncsl.org/legis/legismgt/ILP/ILP_Intro.htm

Learning the Game: How the Legislative Process Works / National Conference of State Legislatures. 2005. (328.4/N212c) Outlines the basic steps of the legislative process.

Legislating for Results / National Conference of State Legislatures. 2003. (328.11/N212i) (Guidebook and CD-ROM) A guide to gathering performance information about state programs.

The Legislative Process in Wisconsin / Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. 1993. (328.4/W7b9) Reprint of the feature article in the 1993-1994 *Wisconsin Blue Book*. www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/feature/legispro.pdf

Legislative Studies Quarterly / University of Iowa, Comparative Legislative Research Center. February 2000 to date. (328.1/Io9) <http://lrbcat.legis.wisconsin.gov> provides full-text access for authorized users on the Wisconsin legislative intranet.

LRBCat: <http://lrbcat.legis.wisconsin.gov/> The Web-based catalog of the Theobald Legislative Library. Many titles contain direct links to full-text versions available on the Internet. ⇒

Legislative Reference Bureau

Library Circulation Desk: (608) 266-7040
LRB.Library@legis.state.wi.us
Research Questions: (608) 266-0341
One East Main Street, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703



We bring knowledge to you

The Legislative Reference Bureau invites legislators to suggest topics for future annotated bibliographies.

Resources for Legislators Continued

Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure / National Conference of State Legislatures in cooperation with the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, Paul Mason. 2000. (328.4/M38/2000)

NCSL 50-State Legislative Tracking Web Resources / National Conference of State Legislatures. Updated in November 2008, this vast resource links to comparative information on the states. www.ncsl.org/programs/lis/lrl/50statetracking.htm

Reflections: Being Ethical in Today's Legislature / National Conference of State Legislatures, Center for Ethics in Government. 2005. (322/N213c) A training kit (DVD and Facilitator's Guide) for use at community meetings or training workshops.

Tap the Power: Knowledge is Power [series] / Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Two-page bibliographies on current topics such as health care reform, identity theft, and climate change. Previous issues of "Resources for Legislators" (January 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007) contain resources not mentioned in this 2009 update. www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm

What Have You Gotten Yourself Into? A Guide for New Legislative Leaders / State Legislative Leaders Foundation. January 2007. (328.14/St2) www.sllf.org/media/file/5.117.pdf

Wisconsin Politics and Government: America's Laboratory of Democracy / James K. Conant. 2006. (354/C74) Traces "the development of the state and its Progressive heritage."—Publisher's description.

The Wisconsin State Constitution: A Reference Guide / Jack Stark. 1997. (342.32/St2) A "comprehensive, convenient, and accessible resource on the Wisconsin constitution for both lawyers and non-lawyers alike."—Page xviii.

Working with the Media: A Handbook for State Legislators / State Legislative Leaders Foundation. June 2002. (328.142/St2) www.sllf.org/media/file/3.Working-with-the-Media.pdf

Wisconsin Legislative Service Agencies

Joint Legislative Council (LC): www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc
This site provides links to council study committees, publications, standing committees, administrative rules, and staff contact information. Includes the *2008-09 Legislator Briefing Book*.

Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB): www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab
The LAB "was created to assist the Legislature in maintaining effective oversight of state operations."—Web page. Links to general agency information as well as reports and audits in progress.

Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB): www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb
The LFB "provides fiscal and program information and analyses to the Wisconsin Legislature, its committees, and individual legislators."—Web page. Links to many of its fiscal publications, as well as information on LFB and the Joint Committee on Finance.

Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB):

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb Links to LRBCat (online library catalog), research publications and topical bibliographies, and indices to Wisconsin legislation. 2007 Wisconsin Act 20 transferred **Revisor of Statutes Bureau** staff and duties to the Legislative Reference Bureau. The LRB is now the source of information on Wisconsin statutes, acts, and constitutions; *Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register*; Supreme Court rules; Attorney General opinions; town law forms; and WisLaw on CD-ROM.

Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB):

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb LTSB is "the single point of responsibility for providing technological services and support for the Wisconsin Legislature and its service agencies."—Web page.

Other Useful Web Sites

BadgerLink: www.badgerlink.net A project of the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning; provides free access to thousands of magazines and newspapers, image files, specialized reference materials, and Web sites.

Council of State Governments (CSG): www.csg.org

Established in 1933, CSG provides information, trend-setting ideas, and support to the states. This site includes policy expertise, innovations, research, state trends, and numerous other resources.

GPO Access: www.gpoaccess.gov A service of the U.S. Government Printing Office which provides "free electronic access to a wealth of important information products. ... The information provided on this site is the official, published version and ... can be used without restriction, unless specifically noted."—Web page.

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws: www.nccusl.org/Update/

Established 116 years ago, NCCUSL works to draft proposals for uniform and model laws, and works toward the enactment of such laws in the state legislatures. This site has the full-text, summary, and enactment history of acts recommended by the conference.

National Conference of State Legislatures: www.ncsl.org

An excellent source of information on current issues of the day. Links to state and legislative Web sites, publications, policy issues of current interest, and welcome page for new members: www.ncsl.org/newmember

State and Local Government on the Net, compiled by Piper Resources: www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm This site provides "convenient one-stop access to the websites of thousands of state agencies and city and county governments."—Web page.

State Legislative Leaders Foundation:

www.sllf.org/leadersfoundation.php/cat/1/title/Home

Thomas: <http://thomas.loc.gov> "In the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, legislative information from the Library of Congress."

USA.gov "Government Made Easy": www.usa.gov Search by topics, agencies, images, news, maps, and much more.
