



LaTonya's Guide To

GETTING INVOLVED IN STATE GOVERNMENT

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO LEVEL UP YOUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



WHERE SHOULD I START?

Since being elected to the State Legislature, I have engaged in many conversations with friends and neighbors eager to stay informed and involved. Active participation is essential for a thriving democracy. This involves staying informed about government affairs and communicating your thoughts and opinions to elected officials.

Important Tip: GOV 101

Becoming an active participant in state government is quite easy! Whether it's contacting state representatives about issues you care about, or testifying at a public hearing on a bill you support or oppose, there are numerous ways to get involved. It all starts with understanding the basics of the legislative process.

For a comprehensive overview of how a bill becomes a law, [click here](#).

The nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Council has created "***A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Wisconsin State Legislature***," which provides a thorough explanation of our state government's policies and procedures. You can explore the entire guide [here](#).

Additionally, the guide is divided into sections for easy navigation:

- [Introduction to the Legislature](#)
 - [Finding Legislative Documents and Following the Process](#)
 - [How to Contact Your Legislator](#)
 - [How to Testify at a Public Hearing](#)
 - [Glossary of Common Legislative Terms](#)
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HOW CAN I MAKE MY VOICE HEARD?

One of the cornerstone elements of participating in our democracy is through voting!

VISIT [MYVOTE.WI.GOV](https://myvote.wi.gov) TO:

- Find your polling place
- See what's on your ballot
- Register to vote
- Request an absentee ballot
- Track your ballot
- Look up your voting history
- Find In-Person absentee voting locations

ELECTION DAY REMINDERS:

- On Election Day you can register to vote for the first time or update your name or address. To register, voters will need to show a **proof of residence** document, which must contain the voter's name and current residential address. Examples include a bank statement, recent electric bill, or a current and valid Wisconsin driver's license or state ID card.



- Bring your photo ID to your polling place. Those without an acceptable photo ID can get one for free at their local Division of Motor Vehicles office. An acceptable photo ID for voting does not need to show the voter's current address. See a list of acceptable IDs, **here**.

ACCEPTABLE IDs INCLUDE:

- ✓ WI Drivers License OR State ID card
- ✓ ID from federally recognized tribe in WI
- ✓ Most student IDs from WI universities/colleges
- ✓ Certificate of naturalization
- ✓ U.S. passport booklet OR card
- ✓ Veterans OR military ID card

- Voters with disabilities have **additional options** when returning absentee ballots.



HOW CAN I FOLLOW ISSUES I CARE ABOUT?

For general information about what's happening in the Capitol, consider these sources:

WisconsinEye

If you can't make it to Madison for a public hearing on a bill you care about, there's a chance that it will be streamed live on WisconsinEye. Check out their schedule for their live stream, [here](#). Not only do they stream session days and major committee meetings, but they also have special programming such as a weekly review. [The Rewind: Your Week in Review program](#) runs every Friday, and breaks down the latest news in Wisconsin state politics. They also have a program called [Capitol Roundtable](#) where members of the Wisconsin Capitol press corps discuss major issues and events impacting state policy.

The Wheeler Report

Updated regularly throughout the day, The Wheeler Report is a catalog of all of the major news happening in the Wisconsin State Legislature. Press releases from legislators and other public officials and stakeholder groups can be found on the home page along with articles from news outlets from across the state. The daily list of articles and releases is broken down by issue area, making it easy to determine the trending issues of the day. Note: some advanced services are only available to subscribers for a fee.

WisPolitics.com

Similar to The WheelerReport, Wispolitics.com covers much of the day-to-day happenings of the Wisconsin Legislature. It issues frequent updates on daily events, political press releases, and political news. Note: some advanced services are only available to subscribers for a fee.

HOW CAN I STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU?

Social Media

I frequently post breaking news on my [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts. For more comprehensive reports on issues in Milwaukee and at the Capitol, you can sign up for my monthly [Community Connections e-newsletter here](#).

Also, Governor Evers, as well as many Wisconsin state agencies and legislative support agencies, also have websites and social media pages you can follow for updates. [Contact Governor Evers here](#), and [connect with state agencies here](#).



Legislative Office

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Web | <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/06/johnson/>

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“Every voice is equally powerful.
Don't underestimate your vote.
Voting is the great equalizer.”

-Maya Angelou

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