



GETTING INVOLVED IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Since being elected to the State Legislature, I have had many conversations with friends and neighbors who are looking for ways to stay engaged and informed. To have a successful democracy, we must each do our part by keeping informed about government affairs as well as communicating thoughts and opinions to elected officials.

GOVERNMENT 101

Being an active participant in state government is actually quite easy! From contacting your state representatives about a topic you care about to testifying at a public hearing on a bill that you support or oppose, there are many different ways that community members can become involved. It all starts with knowing the basics of the legislative process. For a comprehensive overview of how a bill becomes a law, [click here](#).

Additionally, the nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Council has a publication called *A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Wisconsin State Legislature* that provides a simple but thorough explanation of our state government's policies and procedures. It is broken down into several different sections, click below for more information on each topic:

- [Introduction to the legislature](#)
- [how to find legislative documents and follow the legislative process](#)
- [how to contact your legislator](#)
- [how to testify at a public hearing](#)
- [glossary of common legislative terms](#)

HOW TO FOLLOW TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YOU

The way that we get and consume news has greatly evolved, which may make seeking out information on the issues that you care about seem overwhelming. The Wisconsin State Legislature offers a free email notification system that alerts subscribers of legislative activities relating to issues they have identified as important. This is an excellent way to keep informed about the issues that are important to you. Through this service, you can sign up to receive email notifications about specific bills, keywords, or legislative committees, depending on your interest. [Click here to sign up.](#)

For general information about what's going on in the Capitol, there are several options available for individuals to get the latest political news. **Here are three great news outlets to get you started:**

- [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 Wheeler Report*, *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.*

STAYING UP-TO-DATE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL, AND EVENTS

I often post breaking news on my [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts and cover issues in more detail in my monthly Community Connections e-newsletter. You can sign-up to receive the newsletter, [here](#). This is one of the easiest ways to stay current on the issues that matter to you. I also host community engagement events called EMPOWER-MKE. I started EMPOWER-MKE as a way to engage our neighbors in meaningful dialogue and to create a platform for each of us to learn from one another. Keep an eye out for an upcoming event by visiting, [click here](#). 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 the governor, [here](#). Connect with state agencies [here](#).

VOTING INFORMATION

One of the cornerstone elements of participating in our democracy through voting. All eligible voters should make sure they are registered to vote at their current address. Additionally, knowing [where your polling place](#) is and making sure you have the [correct photo ID requirements](#) to cast a vote are critical to ensure you can take part in our democracy!

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