



State of Wisconsin

2001-2002
Blue Book

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The following LRB Reference Section staff members produced the *2001-2002 Wisconsin Blue Book*:

Lawrence S. Barish, editor
Patricia E. Meloy, lead legislative analyst and editor
Lynn Lemanski, lead publications editor
Kathleen Sitter, photo editor

A. Peter Cannon, legislative analyst
Michael J. Keane, legislative analyst
Robert A. Paolino, legislative analyst
Clark G. Radatz, legislative analyst
Daniel F. Ritsche, legislative analyst
Richard L. Roe, legislative analyst
Carole J. Schaeffer, legislative analyst
Gary A. Watchke, legislative analyst
Carol A. Lange, program assistant
Eileen Snyder, program assistant

The photographs appearing on the front and back covers are by Kathleen Sitter, Legislative Reference Bureau.

SCOTT McCALLUM



Governor State of Wisconsin

July 2001

Dear Readers:

We usher in the new millennium with great hope for the future. Our vision of Wisconsin is one of great opportunities for our children, wondrous technologies that will drive the economy of the future, and a protected environment that gives great enjoyment to residents and visitors alike.

But while we fix our gaze on the future, we do so with a respect for the past. The *2001-2002 Blue Book* contains a fascinating feature article on the history of our State Capitol building. The Capitol is an outstanding monument to the people who built Wisconsin since it became a state in 1848.

It has been nearly a century since construction of Wisconsin's historic Capitol building began. While it has undergone many changes throughout the years, it had not seen the scope of renovation that had been undertaken in the last decade. Restored to its original glory, the Capitol building also is thoroughly modern, equipped to handle the latest technologies. The Capitol truly merges the past with the future.

The *2001-2002 Blue Book* provides a comprehensive look at our Capitol. Our Capitol is more than just granite and marble. It is a place where government makes decisions that affect our lives. It is a place where justice is served. It is a place where school students learn about their heritage. We walk its marble floors, we meet and confer in its halls and chambers, we sit and reflect beneath the great trees that stand like sentries on the grounds. The Capitol is a proud symbol of our state. If you haven't yet visited our historic treasure or taken a free tour, please make a point to do so.

In addition to the feature on our Capitol Building, the *2001-2002 Blue Book* offers a wealth of information about our government. It is a valuable resource that retains its usefulness over the years. To gain a better understanding of where Wisconsin is going, one must know where we have been. The Blue Book helps us with both.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott McCallum".

Scott McCallum
Governor



State of Wisconsin

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

INTRODUCTION

As the *2001-2002 Wisconsin Blue Book* goes to press in July 2001, planning is underway for a ceremony to rededicate the Wisconsin State Capitol. That event, tentatively scheduled for September 2001, will be the culmination of a 12-year process. The renovation was intended to restore the capitol to reflect architect George Post's original 1906 design, while at the same time, modernize the building to accommodate 21st century technology. It was truly a team effort. In addition to the architects, engineers, artisans, and craftspeople who contributed their skills, the project benefited from the support of Wisconsin citizens, elected officials, and state agency personnel who shared a common vision which supplied the energy to successfully complete an undertaking of this magnitude. It is the people of Wisconsin who are the beneficiaries of their dedication and commitment.

Fittingly, the feature article in this *Blue Book* entitled, "Restoring the Vision: The First Century of Wisconsin's Capitol", provides a detailed account of the construction of the state capitol, its use over time, and its subsequent renovation and restoration. It was researched and written by Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) Legislative Analyst Michael J. Keane, who was assisted by photo editor Kathleen Sitter who contributed the artwork and photographs which illustrate the article and adorn the front and back covers of the *Blue Book*.

Also occurring in the fall of 2001 is another noteworthy event that has special significance to the editors and the entire LRB staff. The newly renovated state capitol will be the site of a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Although readers may be familiar with the LRB as the agency which compiles the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, a task we have been privileged to perform since 1929, the LRB's broader mission is to provide research, library, and drafting services to the Wisconsin Legislature. At the time that the LRB was established in 1901 (known as the Legislative Reference Library until 1963), it represented the first organized effort in the nation to provide a state legislature with professional staff assistance. Over the years, the Wisconsin model of nonpartisan, objective, and confidential staff assistance has provided a pattern for the establishment of similar agencies in other state legislatures and the U.S. Congress. It is with great pride that the present staff strives to carry forward that tradition of service.

Producing each edition of the *Wisconsin Blue Book* requires the concerted effort of our entire research staff. One member of our team merits special mention. Legislative Analyst Gary Watchke retired in April 2001 after 32 years of service to the legislature. Among other duties, Gary was responsible for compiling that portion of the *Blue Book* devoted to the biographies and photographs of legislators. Working closely with members and their staffs, Gary consistently exercised the utmost diligence, patience, attention to detail, and good humor in handling a demanding assignment over many years. His absence will be deeply felt. We salute Gary Watchke for his service to the Wisconsin Legislature and for his outstanding contributions in helping compile the *Blue Book*, and wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Finally, we invite our readers to peruse this, the 85th and latest edition of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*. With a newly renovated state capitol readied for the 21st century, and the Legislative Reference Bureau embarking upon its second century of service, we look forward to continuing the series for many years to come.

Lawrence S. Barish
Patricia E. Meloy
Blue Book Editors
July 2001

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