

Legislative Branch

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The legislative branch: profile of the legislative branch, description of the legislative process, summary of 1995-96 legislation, and description of legislative committees and service agencies

Local Government in Wisconsin: Milwaukee Fire Station

State Historical Society, #WHi (X3) 47993



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 Chief clerk Honorable Donald J. Schneider
 Sergeant at arms Honorable Jon H. Hochkammer

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Assistant leader	Senator Rodney C. Moen	Senator Brian D. Rude
Caucus chairperson	Senator Kimberly M. Plache	Senator Margaret A. Farrow
Caucus secretary	Senator Alice Clausing	Senator Gary F. Drzewiecki

Chief Clerk: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 402; Telephone: (608) 266-2517.
Sergeant at Arms: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Location: 1 East Main Street, Lower Level; Telephone: (608) 266-1801.

ASSEMBLY

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 Speaker pro tempore Representative Stephen J. Freese
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Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

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Sergeant at Arms: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708; Location: 1 East Main Street, Lower Level; Telephone: (608) 267-9808.

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Telephone: Madison Area: 266-9960; Outside Madison Area: (800) 362-9472; TTY: (800) 228-2115.

LEGISLATIVE INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/wilis/index.html>.



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A PROFILE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch of Wisconsin state government consists of the bicameral Wisconsin Legislature, comprised of the senate with 33 members and the assembly with 99 members, together with the service agencies created by the legislature and the staff employed by each house. The legislature's main responsibility is to make policy by enacting state laws. Its service agencies assist it by performing research, bill drafting, auditing, statute editing and housekeeping functions.

A new legislature is sworn into office in January of each odd-numbered year, and it meets in continuous biennial session until its successor is sworn in. The 1997 Legislature is the 93rd Wisconsin Legislature. It was convened on January 6, 1997, and will continue until January 4, 1999, when the 94th Wisconsin Legislature will be seated.

U.S. Constitution Both Restricts and Grants Legislative Powers. The U.S. Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government. It is assumed the Constitution's framers intended that the voters of each state would have the right to govern their affairs through elected representatives. The Constitution delegates to the U.S. Congress certain exclusive powers, such as the regulation of foreign affairs and interstate commerce, the coining of money and the granting of patents and copyrights. Conversely, some powers, such as making treaties, are specifically prohibited to the states. The federal constitution reserves to the people or the states all other powers.

Wisconsin Constitution Grants Broad Legislative Powers. The power to determine the state's policies and programs lies primarily in the legislative branch of state government. According to the Wisconsin Constitution: "The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and assembly." This power is quite extensive, except for a few limitations imposed by the constitution. For example, the Wisconsin Constitution requires the legislature to establish as uniform a system of town government as practicable, prevents it from enacting private or special laws on certain subjects and prohibits laws that would infringe on the rights of Wisconsin citizens, as provided by the Declaration of Rights of the Wisconsin Constitution.

The constitution also restricts the legislature's powers by granting the governor power to veto legislation, although the executive veto may be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both houses.

Biennial Sessions: 4-Year Senate Terms; 2-Year Assembly Terms. Originally, members of the assembly served for one year, while senators served for 2 years. An 1881 constitutional amendment doubled the respective terms to the current 2 and 4 years and converted the legislature from annual to biennial sessions.

Since its adoption on March 13, 1848, the Wisconsin Constitution has provided that the membership of the assembly shall be not less than 54 nor more than 100, and the membership of the senate shall consist of not more than one-third nor less than one-fourth of the number of assembly members. The first legislature had 85 members, 19 senators and 66 assemblymen. (Assembly members were renamed "representatives to the assembly" in 1969). In the 1853 session, membership was increased to 107, with 25 senators and 82 assemblymen. With the 1857 Legislature, the numbers were increased to 30 in the senate and 97 in the assembly for a total of 127. This lasted until the legislature became a 133-member body in 1862, with the constitutionally permitted maximums of 33 in the senate and 100 in the assembly. Membership dropped to 132 in the 1973 Legislature, when the number of representatives was reduced to 99 so that each of the 33 senate districts would encompass 3 assembly districts. This is the current number and structure.



THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

Number of Positions 1997 Legislature: Senate: 33 members, 194.5 employees; Assembly: 99 members, 258.0 employees; Joint employees: 18.00.

Total Budget 1995-96: \$37,052,900.

Total Budget 1996-97: \$37,022,600.

Constitutional Reference: Article IV.

Statutory Reference: Chapter 13, Subchapter I.

Election of Legislators. All members of the legislature are elected from single-member districts. At the general election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years, the voters of Wisconsin elect all members of the assembly and approximately one-half of the senators. These legislators-elect assume office in January of the following odd-numbered year when they convene to open the new legislative session at the State Capitol, together with the “holdover” senators who still have 2 years remaining of their 4-year terms.

The 33 senators are elected for 4-year terms from districts numbered 1 through 33. The 16 senators representing even-numbered districts are elected in the years in which a presidential election occurs. The 17 senators who represent odd-numbered districts are elected in the years in which a gubernatorial election is held. When a midterm vacancy occurs in any legislative office, it must be filled through a special election called by the governor.

Since statehood in 1848, the Wisconsin Constitution has required the legislature, after each U.S. decennial census, to redraw the districts for both houses “according to the number of inhabitants”. Thus, Wisconsin was following this practice long before the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1962 that all states must redistrict according to the “one person, one vote” principle.

Under the campaign finance reporting law enacted by the 1973 Legislature, candidates for the legislature, as well as for other public offices, are required to make full, detailed disclosure of their campaign contributions and expenditures to the Elections Board that was created by the same law. Limits are placed on the amounts of contributions received from individuals and various committees. State law also requires legislators and candidates for legislative office to file a statement of their economic interests with the state Ethics Board.

A 1977 law authorized candidates for legislative office and statewide executive and judicial offices to receive campaign funding from state general purpose revenues deposited in a state campaign fund. The amount of funding available is based on a \$1 check-off on state individual income tax returns. To be eligible, candidates must, with certain exceptions, accept specific spending and contribution limits, receive a minimum number of votes in the primary and raise a specified initial amount of private contributions.

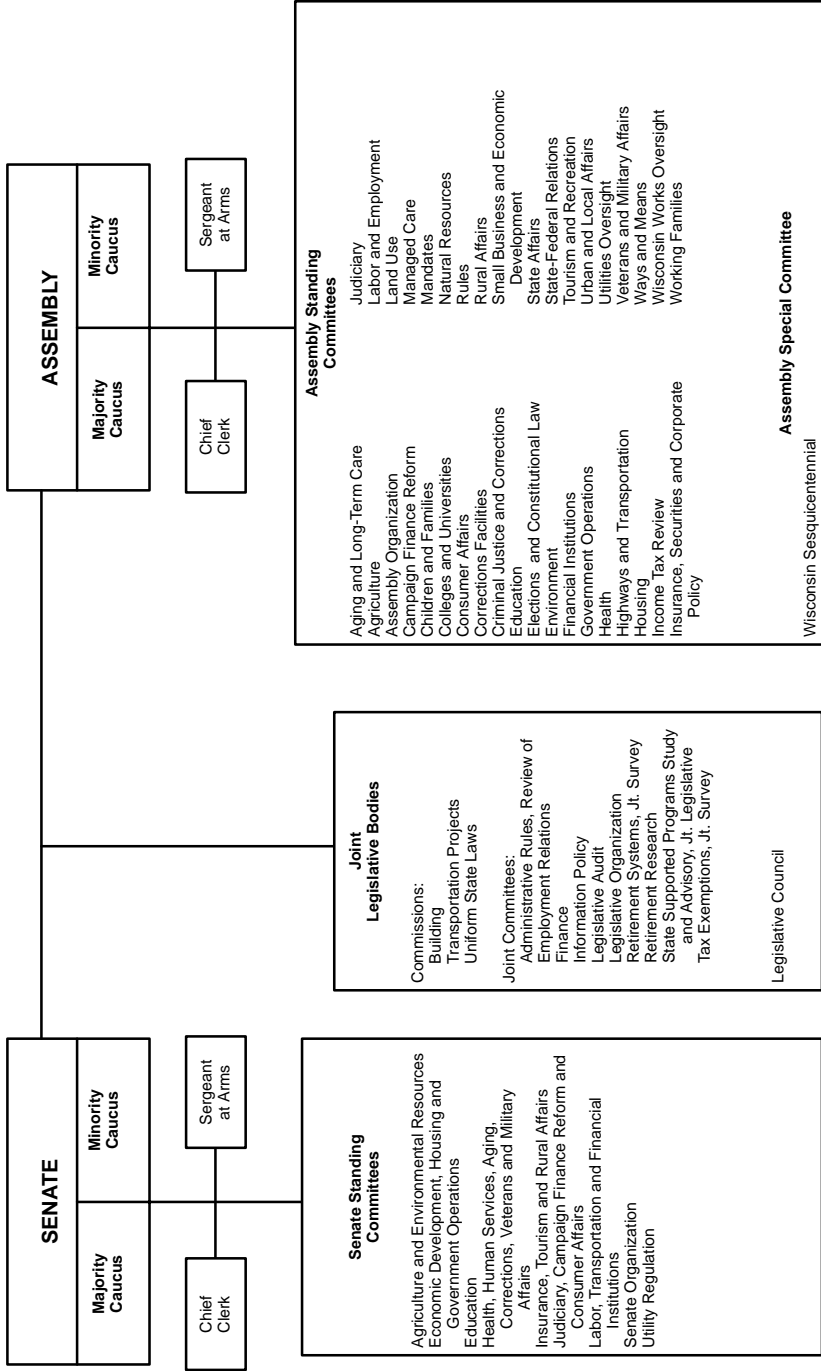
Political Parties in the Legislative Process. Partisan political organizations play an important role in the Wisconsin legislative process. Since 1949, virtually all legislators have been affiliated with either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. The strongest representation of other parties was between 1911 and 1937, when there were one or more Socialists in the legislature, and between 1933 and 1947, when the Progressives maintained an independent party. In fact, in 1937 the Progressive Party had a plurality in both houses.

Party organization in the legislature is based on the party group called the “caucus”. The primary purpose of a caucus is to determine and maintain a unified party position. However, no effort is made to secure party uniformity on every measure under consideration. In fact, it is highly doubtful that the individualistic legislators of Wisconsin would ever submit to the very stringent party control exercised in some states.

In each house, all members of a particular political party form that party’s caucus. Caucus meetings may be held at regular intervals or whenever convened by party leaders, and occasionally the senate and assembly caucuses of the same party meet in joint caucus. A caucus meeting is scheduled shortly after the general election and before the opening of the session to select candidates for the various leadership positions in each house. Although each party caucus nominates a slate of officers, the positions are usually won by the nominees of the majority party when a vote is taken in the full house.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE



Each party in each house has floor leaders, respectively titled the “majority leader”, “minority leader”, “assistant majority leader” and “assistant minority leader”. To varying degrees, these party officers coordinate and direct the activities of party members during the daily sessions.

Legislative Officers. The Wisconsin Constitution originally required the lieutenant governor to serve as presiding officer of the senate. As a result of an April 1979 constitutional amendment, the senate selects its own president from among its members. When the president of the senate is absent or unable to preside, the president pro tempore, elected from the membership, may preside as substitute president.

The presiding officer in the assembly, the “speaker”, is elected from the assembly membership. The speaker supervises all other officers of the chamber and appoints committees. When the speaker is absent or unable to preside, the speaker pro tempore, who is also elected from the membership, may substitute.

Each house has a chief clerk and a sergeant at arms, who are elected by, but are not themselves, legislators. The chief clerk serves as the clerk of the house when it is in session and supervises the preparation of legislative records. In conjunction with the presiding officers, the chief clerks supervise personnel and administrative functions for their respective houses. The sergeants at arms maintain order in and about the chambers and supervise the messengers.

Legislative Compensation. When the 1997 Legislature was seated on January 6, 1997, all members were eligible for a salary of \$39,211 per year. The process for setting legislative salaries requires the secretary of employment relations to submit proposed changes in the compensation plan for elected officials to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations. If approved by the committee, the plan goes into effect for all legislators at the next inauguration. The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization sets the salaries of the chief clerks and the sergeants at arms of the 2 houses within a range established under civil service procedures.



Party differences aside, it's good to see old friends again. Here Senator Michael Ellis (R) greets Senator Gwendolynne Moore (D) (at his left) and Representative Rosemary Potter (D) (far right) after the State of the State Address. (Richard G. B. Hanson II, Senate Photographer)



1997-1998 SESSION SCHEDULE

January 6, 1997	1997 Inauguration
January 14, 1997	Floorperiod
January 28-30, 1997	Floorperiod
February 12, 1997	Floorperiod (Governor's budget message)
February 25-26, 1997	Floorperiod
March 4-20, 1997	Floorperiod
April 24, 1997	Bills sent to governor
May 13-29, 1997	Floorperiod
June 10-26, 1997, or budget passage	Floorperiod
August 14, 1997	Bills sent to governor
September 16-30, 1997	Floorperiod
November 4-6, 1997	Floorperiod
November 18-20, 1997	Floorperiod
December 18, 1997	Bills sent to governor
January 13-22, 1998	Floorperiod
February 3-12, 1998	Floorperiod
March 10-26, 1998	Floorperiod
April 23, 1998	Bills sent to governor
April 28-30, 1998	Floorperiod (Veto review)
May 1, 1998 – January 4, 1999	Interim, committee work
May 28, 1998	Bills sent to governor
January 4, 1999	1999 Inauguration

Any floorperiod may be convened earlier or extended beyond its scheduled ending date by majority action of the membership or the organization committees of the 2 houses. Every calendar day in 1997 and 1998 that is not reserved for a floorperiod is designated a day for committee activity. The Committee on Senate Organization may schedule sessions on committee activity days for senate action on gubernatorial nominations, but the assembly does not have to hold skeleton sessions during these appointment reviews. The legislature may call itself into extraordinary session on any committee activity day, and the governor may call a special session either during a floorperiod or on any of the intervening days.

Source: 1997 Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Members of the legislature, the chief clerks and the sergeants at arms are entitled to an allowance not to exceed \$75 per day for living expenses for each day on which they attend a legislative session in Madison if they certify by affidavit that they have established temporary residence at the state capital. Those who choose not to establish temporary residence are entitled to half the amount. All members are reimbursed for one weekly round trip from the capital to their homes.

Legislators receive regulated allowances for their office and mailing expenses while attending legislative sessions. Interim expense allowances are paid for postage and clerical assistance (\$25 for representatives and \$75 for senators) for each month during which the legislature is in session 3 days or less if authorized by the assembly speaker for representatives and by the senate majority leader for senators. They are reimbursed for expenses incurred while serving as legislative members of a state or interstate agency or when specifically authorized to attend meetings of such agencies.

Legislative Sessions. The members of each new legislature usually convene in the State Capitol at 2 p.m. on the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to take the oath of office, select officers and organize for business. The initial meeting occurs on January 3 if the first Monday falls on January 1 or 2.

Because of an 1881 constitutional limitation that it could meet only once in 2 years, the legislature used to structure its meetings in the pattern of a continuous biennial session with periodic recesses. It would meet in regular session from January through June of the odd-numbered year and then recess after completing the major portion of its work. It then reconvened from time to time in the remainder of the biennium, as needed. When each legislature completed its work, it adjourned *sine die*, meaning it did not set a date to reconvene. At that point, the 2-year session was over, and the legislature could not return unless called into special session by the governor.

In 1968, the state constitution was amended to permit the legislature to determine its own meeting schedule for the biennium. Beginning with the 1971 Legislature, annual sessions were formally initiated by law with the requirement that regular sessions begin in January of each year. Early in each biennium, the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization develops a work schedule for the 2-year period and submits it to the legislature in the form of a joint resolution. The

1997-98 session schedule, for example, was structured around 14 floorperiods, interspersed with periods of committee work. An adjournment meeting of each legislature is usually held in January immediately prior to the convening of the next legislature.

Beginning in 1962, the legislature adopted procedures that would permit it to reassemble through a petition signed by a majority of the members of each house. An amendment to the 1977 Joint Rules codified this procedure by allowing the legislature to call itself into an “extraordinary session”. The legislature may convene an extraordinary session or extend a floorperiod at the direction of the majority of the members of the organization committee in each house, by passage of a joint resolution or by a joint petition signed by the majority of members of each house.

In addition, the governor is empowered to call a “special session”, in which the legislature can act only upon matters specifically mentioned in the governor’s call. As of the adjournment of the 1995 Legislature, there had been 72 special sessions since Wisconsin became a state in 1848. It is possible for a regular session and a special session to be scheduled at different times during a week or even on the same day. Because special sessions may occur at any time during the legislative biennium, enactments resulting from a special session are now numbered within the regular sequence of biennial laws.

Meetings of the respective houses of the legislature normally are held in the senate and assembly chambers in the State Capitol. (Renovation of the capitol in the 1990s will cause some changes in meeting locations.) Usually, the legislature meets Tuesday through Thursday of each week. Toward the end of most floorperiods, however, the houses meet almost continuously during the day Tuesday through Friday and hold frequent evening sessions. Unless otherwise ordered, daily sessions begin at 10 a.m. for the senate and 9 a.m. for the assembly (10 a.m. on the first legislative day of the week). Daily sessions usually extend beyond noon, especially later in the session. If business permits, afternoons may be devoted to committee hearings or a combination of hearings and late afternoon sessions.

As illustrated in the foregoing description, the word “session” has several meanings. The “legislative session” usually refers to the 2-year period that comprises a particular legislature. If the legislature is “not in session”, that may mean it is in an interim period between floorperiods. Saying that either the senate or assembly is “not in session”, however, may mean that the house has adjourned for the day or that it has recessed until a later hour of the same day.

Session Records. Each house of the legislature keeps a record of its actions known as the daily journal. This record differs from the federal *Congressional Record* in that it does not provide a transcript or abbreviated account of speeches made on the floor. It is, instead, an outline record of the business before the house, including procedural actions taken on all measures considered on that particular day, roll call votes, communications received from the governor or the other house, special committee reports and miscellaneous items.

The *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* is generally issued weekly during floorperiods and occasionally during committee work periods. Each issue contains a cumulative record of actions taken on bills, joint resolutions and resolutions by both houses listed by house of origin. It includes a subject and author index to legislation; a subject index to the legislative journals; a subject index to new laws and enrolled bills and joint resolutions; a numeric listing of statute sections affected by these laws; changes made to statutory court rules by supreme court orders; and the complete text of constitutional amendments ratified since the most recent publication of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. Another section indexes and reports action on administrative rule changes. The *Bulletin* also includes a directory of lobbying organizations, licensed lobbyists and state agencies’ legislative liaisons.

Each week during the session, the chief clerks jointly issue a *Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities*, which lists the business scheduled by the various committees during the coming week, together with the time and place of each hearing and advanced notices on hearings deemed to be of special interest. Each house also issues a daily calendar indicating the business to be taken up on the floor that day.

All these legislative records are on file at the Legislative Reference Bureau and available for reference. Numerous libraries throughout the state also receive these publications, and individuals may subscribe to them in whole or in part at the beginning of a legislative session. (See the table on Legislative Service in this section for fees and details.) Complete texts of bills, amend-





Governor Tommy G. Thompson opened his 11th State of the State Address with a tribute to the Green Bay Packers and defensive tackle Gilbert Brown after the 1997 Super Bowl victory, calling them great ambassadors for the State of Wisconsin. (Chris Williams, Assembly Republican Caucus)

ments and resolutions; bill histories; a subject index to legislation; and other information on the legislature is available on the Internet.

Standing Committees. To a large extent, each house of the legislature does its work in committees. In the 1997 Legislature, the senate has 13 standing committees and the assembly has 40. The houses together have 8 joint standing committees and a joint research committee. Joint standing committees are created in the statutes and are organized in different ways. The number of members of each are also determined by law.

Standing committees consist of legislators only and operate throughout the legislative biennium. Assembly standing committees are created by rule, while most senate standing committees are created by the Committee on Senate Organization. Each committee is concerned with one or more broad subject areas related to government functions. It may hold public hearings on measures introduced in the legislature, conduct studies and investigations and generally review matters within its area of concern. Legislative committees may also appoint subcommittees or study groups.

Senate rules require that each senator serve on at least one standing committee, and the number of members on each committee is set by the Committee on Senate Organization. Appointments to standing committees are made by the senate upon nomination by the chairperson of the organization committee, but the committee nominations for individual members of the minority party are proposed by that party. The 2 major political parties are represented on the committees in proportion to their membership in the senate. The exception to the general method of appointment is the Committee on Senate Organization. It is an *ex officio* committee, consisting of members who serve on the committee because of the office they hold: the president, the majority and minority leaders, and the assistant leaders. The majority leader chairs the committee.

In the assembly, the speaker determines the number of members of each committee and the division of membership between the majority and minority parties. Under assembly rules, the speaker appoints majority party committee members directly and minority party committee members upon nomination by the assembly minority leader. Customarily, every member serves on at least one committee, although the rules are silent on the distribution of committee assignments. The speaker may appoint himself or herself to one or more standing committees and is a nonvoting member of all others. By rule, the Committee on Assembly Organization is composed of the speaker, the speaker pro tempore, the majority and minority leaders, the assistant



leaders and the caucus chairpersons. The Committee on Rules includes all members of the organization committee plus one majority and one minority party member appointed by the speaker.

Temporary Special Committees. In addition to the standing committees, special committees may be appointed during a legislative session to study specific problems or conduct designated investigations and to report to the legislature before the conclusion of the session.

Prior to 1947, the legislature created interim committees to investigate particular subjects. They functioned between legislative sessions and reported their findings and recommendations to the next legislature. Since 1947, almost all interim studies have been referred to the Joint Legislative Council, which coordinates a program of study and investigation after deciding which topics will be considered. The council usually appoints separate committees to study specific matters, and these committees often include nonlegislative members.

Employees of the Legislature. Each house of the legislature has staff services that are directly related to the legislative procedures of the house and are managed by the respective chief clerk and sergeant at arms under the supervision of the Committee on Senate Organization or the speaker of the assembly. Although senate and assembly employees are not part of the classified service, they are paid in accordance with the compensation and classification plan established for employees in the classified service and within pay ranges approved by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

The legislature employs 4 service agencies and the Joint Legislative Council staff to provide financial and program audits, fiscal information, bill drafting and research services, legal counsel and policy assistance, and statutory revision.

**NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES
REGISTERED TO COVER THE 1997-98 LEGISLATURE
January 31, 1997**

Organization	Representatives	Telephone
Newspaper and Wire Services		
Appleton Post-Crescent	Clifford A. Miller	255-9256
Associated Press	Andrew Blasko, Michael C. Buelow, Sharon Theimer	255-3679/258-9235
Business Journal	Gary Fischer	827-0860
Capital Times	Dave Callender, Matt Pommer	252-6429
Green Bay Press-Gazette	Scott Hildebrand	255-9254
Janesville Gazette	Stan Milam	251-8585
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel	Dan Bice, Dick Jones, Amy Rinard, Steve Walters	258-2274/255-5000
Wheeler News Service	James Aehl, George Coburn, Dick Wheeler	257-2614
Wheeler Reports	Moirra Harrington, Dick Wheeler	251-1626
Wisconsin State Journal	Mike Flaherty, Jeff Mayers	252-6129/252-6145
Radio and Television		
WIBA-AM and FM (Madison)	John Colbert, Judy Newman	251-1978/274-2995
WISC-TV (Madison)	Roger Putnam	271-4321/273-3333
WKOW-TV (Madison)	Kim Dawson, Tony Gali, Rachel Kissko, Patty Loew, Darren Lyn, Bill Scherck, Tamy Schmidt	273-2727
WMTV-TV (Madison)	Mitch Henck	274-1500
WNWC-FM (Madison)	Gordon Govier	271-9692/271-1025
WTDY-AM (Madison)	Rachel Biittner, Sara Hahner, Deb Monterrey, Michael Ogden	257-9192/271-1301
Wisconsin Public Radio	John D. Powell	263-3970/263-4358
Wisconsin Public Television	Art Hackett, Steve Jandacek	263-2417
Wisconsin Radio Network	Chris Johnson, Ryan Mulcahy, Jeff Roberts	256-7311/251-3900

Source: The Senate and Assembly Sergeants at Arms maintain a listing of news media correspondents registered to cover the Wisconsin Legislature.



1990 POPULATION OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
Promulgated by Order of the U.S. District Court
for the Western District of Wisconsin
June 2, 1992

Part 1: 1990 Population of District

District	1990 Population	Deviation from Ideal		District	1990 Population	Deviation from Ideal	
		Number	Percent			Number	Percent
SD-1	147,992	- 243	- 0.16%	SD-17	148,557	+ 322	+ 0.22%
AD-1	49,238	- 174	- 0.35	AD-49	49,498	+ 86	+ 0.17
AD-2	49,265	- 147	- 0.30	AD-50	49,566	+ 154	+ 0.31
AD-3	49,489	+ 77	+ 0.16	AD-51	49,493	+ 81	+ 0.16
SD-2	148,355	+ 120	+ 0.08	SD-18	148,518	+ 283	+ 0.19
AD-4	49,335	- 77	- 0.16	AD-52	49,539	+ 127	+ 0.26
AD-5	49,519	+ 107	+ 0.22	AD-53	49,485	+ 73	+ 0.15
AD-6	49,501	+ 89	+ 0.18	AD-54	49,494	+ 82	+ 0.17
SD-3	148,219	- 16	- 0.01	SD-19	148,189	- 46	- 0.03
AD-7	49,462	+ 50	+ 0.10	AD-55	49,552	+ 140	+ 0.28
AD-8	49,389	- 23	- 0.05	AD-56	49,303	- 109	- 0.22
AD-9	49,368	- 44	- 0.09	AD-57	49,334	- 78	- 0.16
SD-4	148,128	- 107	- 0.07	SD-20	148,133	- 102	- 0.07
AD-10	49,367	- 45	- 0.09	AD-58	49,236	- 173	- 0.35
AD-11	49,350	- 62	- 0.13	AD-59	49,467	+ 55	+ 0.11
AD-12	49,411	- 1	- 0.00	AD-60	49,427	+ 15	+ 0.03
SD-5	148,224	- 11	- 0.01	SD-21	147,942	- 293	- 0.20
AD-13	49,468	+ 56	+ 0.11	AD-61	49,393	- 19	- 0.04
AD-14	49,366	- 46	- 0.09	AD-62	49,244	- 168	- 0.34
AD-15	49,390	- 22	- 0.04	AD-63	49,305	- 107	- 0.22
SD-6	148,237	+ 2	+ 0.00	SD-22	148,109	- 126	- 0.09
AD-16	49,481	+ 69	+ 0.14	AD-64	49,379	- 33	- 0.07
AD-17	49,360	- 52	- 0.10	AD-65	49,338	- 74	- 0.15
AD-18	49,396	- 16	- 0.03	AD-66	49,392	- 20	- 0.04
SD-7	148,166	- 69	- 0.05	SD-23	148,352	+ 117	+ 0.08
AD-19	49,366	- 46	- 0.09	AD-67	49,588	+ 176	+ 0.36
AD-20	49,423	+ 11	+ 0.02	AD-68	49,450	+ 38	+ 0.08
AD-21	49,377	- 35	- 0.07	AD-69	49,314	- 98	- 0.20
SD-8	148,228	- 7	- 0.01	SD-24	147,799	- 436	- 0.29
AD-22	49,427	+ 15	+ 0.03	AD-70	49,291	- 121	- 0.24
AD-23	49,483	+ 71	+ 0.14	AD-71	49,285	- 127	- 0.26
AD-24	49,318	- 94	- 0.19	AD-72	49,223	- 189	- 0.38
SD-9	148,250	+ 15	+ 0.01	SD-25	148,309	+ 74	+ 0.05
AD-25	49,244	- 168	- 0.34	AD-73	49,421	+ 9	+ 0.02
AD-26	49,413	+ 1	+ 0.00	AD-74	49,329	- 83	- 0.17
AD-27	49,593	+ 181	+ 0.37	AD-75	49,559	+ 147	+ 0.3
SD-10	148,575	+ 340	+ 0.23	SD-26	148,138	- 97	- 0.07
AD-28	49,491	+ 79	+ 0.16	AD-76	49,255	- 157	- 0.32
AD-29	49,544	+ 132	+ 0.27	AD-77	49,376	- 36	- 0.07
AD-30	49,540	+ 128	+ 0.26	AD-78	49,507	+ 95	+ 0.19
SD-11	147,860	- 375	- 0.25	SD-27	148,162	- 73	- 0.05
AD-31	49,207	- 205	- 0.41	AD-79	49,318	- 94	- 0.19
AD-32	49,300	- 112	- 0.23	AD-80	49,486	+ 74	+ 0.15
AD-33	49,353	- 59	- 0.12	AD-81	49,358	- 54	- 0.11
SD-12	148,265	+ 30	+ 0.02	SD-28	148,284	+ 49	+ 0.03
AD-34	49,386	- 26	- 0.05	AD-82	49,428	+ 16	+ 0.03
AD-35	49,417	+ 5	+ 0.01	AD-83	49,477	+ 65	+ 0.13
AD-36	49,462	+ 50	+ 0.10	AD-84	49,379	- 33	- 0.07
SD-13	148,096	- 139	- 0.09	SD-29	148,407	+ 172	+ 0.12
AD-37	49,335	- 77	- 0.16	AD-85	49,582	+ 170	+ 0.34
AD-38	49,314	- 98	- 0.20	AD-86	49,245	- 167	- 0.34
AD-39	49,447	+ 35	+ 0.07	AD-87	49,580	+ 168	+ 0.34
SD-14	148,147	- 88	- 0.06	SD-30	148,275	+ 40	+ 0.03
AD-40	49,371	- 41	- 0.08	AD-88	49,522	+ 110	+ 0.22
AD-41	49,465	+ 53	+ 0.11	AD-89	49,151	- 261	- 0.53
AD-42	49,311	- 101	- 0.20	AD-90	49,602	+ 190	+ 0.38
SD-15	148,529	+ 294	+ 0.20	SD-31	148,534	+ 299	+ 0.20
AD-43	49,541	+ 129	+ 0.26	AD-91	49,600	+ 188	+ 0.38
AD-44	49,495	+ 83	+ 0.17	AD-92	49,543	+ 131	+ 0.27
AD-45	49,493	+ 81	+ 0.16	AD-93	49,391	- 21	- 0.04
SD-16	148,437	+ 202	+ 0.14	SD-32	148,172	- 63	- 0.04
AD-46	49,487	+ 75	+ 0.15	AD-94	49,338	- 74	- 0.15
AD-47	49,509	+ 97	+ 0.20	AD-95	49,414	+ 2	+ 0.00
AD-48	49,441	+ 29	+ 0.06	AD-96	49,420	+ 8	+ 0.02
				SD-33	148,181	- 54	- 0.04
				AD-97	49,424	+ 12	+ 0.02
				AD-98	49,339	- 73	- 0.15
				AD-99	49,418	+ 6	+ 0.01

Part 2: Smallest and Largest Districts, Deviations

SENATE

Ideal Senate District: 148,235
 Total Deviation: +/- 4,704 (+/- 3.17%)
 Average Deviation: +/- 143 (+/- 0.10%)

10 Smallest Senate Districts

District	Population	Deviation from Ideal	
		Number	Percent
SD-24	147,799	- 436	- 0.29%
SD-11	147,860	- 375	- 0.25
SD-21	147,942	- 293	- 0.20
SD-1	147,992	- 243	- 0.16
SD-13	148,096	- 139	- 0.09
SD-22	148,109	- 126	- 0.09
SD-4	148,128	- 107	- 0.07
SD-20	148,133	- 102	- 0.07
SD-26	148,138	- 97	- 0.07
SD-14	148,147	- 88	- 0.06

10 Largest Senate Districts

District	Population	Deviation from Ideal	
		Number	Percent
SD-10	148,575	+ 340	+ 0.23%
SD-17	148,557	+ 322	+ 0.22
SD-31	148,534	+ 299	+ 0.20
SD-15	148,529	+ 294	+ 0.20
SD-18	148,518	+ 283	+ 0.19
SD-16	148,437	+ 202	+ 0.14
SD-29	148,407	+ 172	+ 0.12
SD-2	148,355	+ 120	+ 0.08
SD-23	148,352	+ 117	+ 0.08
SD-25	148,309	+ 74	+ 0.05

ASSEMBLY

Ideal Assembly District: 49,412
 Total Deviation: +/- 8,261 (+/- 16.72%)
 Average Deviation: +/- 83 (+/- 0.17%)

10 Smallest Assembly Districts

District	Population	Deviation from Ideal	
		Number	Percent
AD-89	49,151	- 261	- 0.53%
AD-31	49,207	- 205	- 0.41
AD-72	49,223	- 189	- 0.38
AD-1	49,238	- 174	- 0.35
AD-58	49,239	- 173	- 0.35
AD-62	49,244	- 168	- 0.34
AD-25	49,244	- 168	- 0.34
AD-86	49,245	- 167	- 0.34
AD-76	49,255	- 157	- 0.32
AD-2	49,265	- 147	- 0.30

10 Largest Assembly Districts

District	Population	Deviation from Ideal	
		Number	Percent
AD-90	49,602	+ 190	+ 0.38%
AD-91	49,600	+ 188	+ 0.38
AD-27	49,593	+ 181	+ 0.37
AD-67	49,588	+ 176	+ 0.36
AD-85	49,582	+ 170	+ 0.34
AD-87	49,580	+ 168	+ 0.34
AD-50	49,566	+ 154	+ 0.31
AD-75	49,559	+ 147	+ 0.30
AD-55	49,552	+ 140	+ 0.28
AD-29	49,544	+ 132	+ 0.27

Source: Public Law 94-171 redistricting tape, March 1991. Data compiled by Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau.



Public input is an important part of the legislative process. Members of the Senate Committee on Utility Regulation listen to testimony during a hearing on a bill relating to the merger, consolidation and acquisition of electric and gas public utilities. (Richard G. B. Hanson II, Senate Photographer)

PERSONAL DATA ON WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS
1987 – 1997 Sessions

	1987		1989		1991		1993		1995		1997	
	Sen.*	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.*	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.
Party affiliation												
Democrat	19	54	20	56	19	58	15	52	16	48	17	47
Republican	11	45	13	43	14	41	15	47	17	51	16	52
Number with previous legislative service												
In senate	28	0	32	0	29	0	26	0	32	0	32	0
In assembly	17	87	19	86	20	85	19	76	21	87	23	89
Highest number of prior sessions in same house	12	15	13	15	14	16	15	11	16	12	17	13
Occupations												
Full-time legislator	7	43	9	44	11	48	13	50	12	40	14	38
Attorney	9	12	10	13	9	10	7	9	6	10	6	11
Farmer	4	13	3	11	3	13	3	13	1	14	0	15
Other	10	31	11	31	10	28	7	27	14	35	13	35
Education												
Not beyond high school	3	12	3	9	3	11	2	13	2	15	2	15
Beyond high school	27	87	30	90	30	88	28	86	31	84	31	84
Bachelor's or associate degree	23	73	26	75	25	73	23	68	27	66	28	66
Advanced degree	11	29	13	31	11	29	9	27	8	26	9	30
Number with experience on local governing body												
County board	3	18	3	16	3	15	2	17	2	22	3	21
Municipal board	5	21	6	16	4	19	4	22	8	24	6	29
Age												
Oldest	63	74	65	76	66	78	65	70	67	69	69	71
Youngest	31	26	30	25	32	27	34	24	31	26	33	28
Average	44	44	45	44	47	45	47	46	48	45	48	46
Veterans	8	17	8	15	6	15	4	16	6	14	5	14
Marital status												
Single	1	22	4	30	5	24	3	27	5	28	4	25
Married	28	76	28	68	28	73	27	71	28	70	29	73
Widowed	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1
Number of women	3	24	4	31	5	26	7	29	8	24	9	22

Sen. - Senators; Rep. - Representatives.

Note: Most data are recorded as of the date on which the legislature first convened; ages are determined as of January 1.

*In 1987 and 1993 there were 3 vacancies when the senate began its session because 3 incumbent senators resigned.

Sources: *Wisconsin Blue Book*, various issues, and data collected by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, January 1997.



*Even opposing senate leaders can share a smile across “the aisle” that divides the Democrats and Republicans. Here Democratic Majority Leader Senator Charles Chvala (l) and Republican Minority Leader Senator Michael Ellis appear to have reached common ground.
(Richard G. B. Hanson II, Senate Photographer)*



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

The legislature decides policy and enacts it into law by passing bills, joint resolutions and simple resolutions. In most cases, a bill must pass both houses of the legislature and be signed by the governor before it becomes law. Joint resolutions, which must be passed by both houses but do not require the governor's signature, may be used to propose constitutional amendments or for a variety of purposes, such as offering condolences or congratulations to individuals or expressing the opinion of the legislature on a given subject. Simple resolutions, which are adopted by only one house, may be introduced for such reasons as organizing the house at the beginning of the session, making changes to the rules of each house or asking the attorney general for a legal opinion on a bill.

Introducing a Bill. A bill that proposes to make a permanent change in general statutory law amends, creates, repeals, renumbers, renumbers and amends, or repeals and recreates a section of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. After a bill is drafted by the Legislative Reference Bureau, it is ready for introduction in one of the legislative houses. Each measure must go through the regular procedures and be passed by the house of origin before it can go to the other house, where the process is repeated.

A bill may be introduced by an author and one or more "coauthors", who are members of the house of introduction, and it often will have "cosponsors" from the second house. Bills may also be introduced by a legislative committee. No one else is authorized to introduce a bill, except that, by law, the governor's executive budget bill must be introduced by the Joint Committee on Finance without change.

When passing laws, lawmakers act as the representatives of the people. Therefore, every bill introduced in the legislature begins with the words: "The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:".

Fiscal Estimates and Bill Analyses. Wisconsin legislators routinely receive certain information regarding every measure introduced. In 1953, Wisconsin pioneered fiscal estimates, often called "fiscal notes", and this legislative tool has been widely copied by other states. Fiscal estimates put a price tag on legislation. Every measure that increases or decreases state or general local government revenues or expenditures must be accompanied by a reliable estimate of its short-range and long-range fiscal effects.

Most fiscal notes are prepared by the agencies that ultimately will administer the program proposed or be affected by the measure should it be enacted. In the highly technical areas of public retirement systems and tax exemptions, fiscal estimates are prepared respectively by the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems or the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, with the assistance of research staff. In these cases, the note must evaluate not only the fiscal effect of a proposal but also its legality under state and federal law and its desirability as a matter of public policy. All bills that appropriate money, provide for revenue, or relate to taxation must be referred to the Joint Committee on Finance before they can be enacted into law.

Since 1967, the Legislative Reference Bureau has prepared an analysis of each bill introduced in the legislature. The analysis explains in plain language what the existing law is and how it will change if the bill becomes law. The analysis is printed in the bill immediately following the title. Since the analysis usually is not updated to reflect amendments approved during the legislative process, it describes only the original proposal to which it is attached.

First Reading. Upon introduction, each bill, joint resolution or resolution is given a number by the chief clerk and "read the first time". First reading consists of the reading by the chief clerk of that part of the proposal's title known as the "relating clause". The relating clause briefly describes the subject matter of the bill, e.g., "relating to the powers and duties of state traffic patrol officers and motor vehicle inspectors."

Immediately after first reading, the presiding officer usually refers the proposal to a standing committee for review. In the assembly, distribution of a written report showing the numbers and relating clauses of proposals offered for introduction takes the place of actual first reading.

Committee Hearings. The chairperson of the standing committee to which a proposal is referred may or may not schedule a hearing on the proposal. All committee proceedings are open to the general public. If a hearing is held, anyone may speak to the committee to support or op-



pose a measure or merely to present information to the committee without taking a position. Persons may also register for or against a proposal or submit written comments or petitions without making an oral presentation.

Although committees do not keep verbatim transcripts of their hearings, records are kept of the names of persons who testify or register at the hearing, together with any information they may present about groups they represent. Current session records are filed in the office of the committee's chairperson. Since the 1953 session, copies of appearance records for sessions prior to the current one have been filed in the Legislative Reference Bureau.

The chairperson of a committee decides whether or not action will be taken on a particular proposal. If the decision is to act, the chairperson will call an "executive session" of the committee. In the session, committee members discuss the bill and may ask questions of persons in attendance, but no further public testimony is taken. At the close of the executive session, the committee must decide whether to report the proposal to the floor as introduced, recommend passage with amendments or reject it. Bills that receive negative recommendations are almost never reported. If the result is a tie vote, the committee can report the bill without recommendation. A committee's decision is contained in a very brief report to the house. The following is an example of a committee report to the senate from the *Senate Journal*, March 6, 1997:

The Committee on Agriculture and Environmental Resources reports and recommends:

Senate Bill 3

Relating to: issuance of metallic mining permits for the mining of sulfide ore bodies.

Passage:

Ayes: 3 – Senators Clausing, Shibilski and Wirch.

Noes: 2 – Senators A. Lasee and Zien.

ALICE CLAUSING

Chairperson

Committee chairpersons determine the scheduling of committee hearings. A committee is allowed a reasonable period of time to consider matters referred to it. After 21 days, a proposal that has not been reported out of an assembly committee may be withdrawn on a motion or petition by majority vote of the assembly. In the senate, a proposal may be withdrawn from commit-



A total of 75 women have served in the Wisconsin Legislature since the 1925 session, and 31 of them were included in the 1997 Legislature. Here Representative Judith Biros Robson (l) and Representative Annette Williams discuss pending legislation. (Brent Nicastro, Assembly Democratic Caucus)

EXECUTIVE VETOES, 1931 – 1995 SESSIONS

Session ¹	Bills Totally Vetoed				Acts Partially Vetoed			
	Number Totally Vetoed	Vetoed Sustained ²	Vetoed Overridden		Number Partially Vetoed	Entire Veto Sustained ²	Vetoed Overridden	
			1 House Only	Both Houses			Entire Veto	Part of Veto
1931	38	38	—	—	2	2	—	—
1933	15	15	—	—	1	1	—	—
1935	27	27	—	—	4	4	—	—
1937	10	10	—	—	1	—	—	—
1939	22 ³	22	—	—	4	4	—	—
1941	17	17	—	—	1	1	—	—
1943	39	19	4	20	1	—	1	—
1945	31	26	4	5	2	1	1	—
1947	10	9	1	1	1	1	—	—
1949	17	15	1	2	2	1	1	—
1951	18	18	—	—	0	—	—	—
1953	31	28	3	3	4 ⁴	4	—	—
1955	38	38	1	—	0	—	—	—
1957	35	34	1	1	3	3	—	—
1959	36	32	1	4	1	1	—	—
1961	69	67	14	2	3	3	—	—
1963	72	68	15	4	1	1	—	—
1965	24	23	2	1	4	4	—	—
1967	18	18	—	—	5	5	—	—
1969	34	33	3	1	11	11	—	—
1971	32	29	7	3	8	8	—	—
1973	13	13	2	—	18	15	—	3
1975	37	31	6	6	22	17	—	4
1977	21	17	1	4	16	14	—	3
1979	19	16	2	3	9	7	—	2
1981	11	9	1	2	11	9	1	—
1983	3	3	—	—	3	3	—	—
1985	7	7	—	—	7	6	—	1
1987	38	38	2	—	20	20	—	—
1989	35	35	1	—	28	28	—	—
1991	33	33	1	—	13	13	—	—
1993	8	8	—	—	24	24	—	—
1995	4	4	—	—	21	21	—	—

¹Includes all special sessions of the biennium.

²The legislature is not required to act on vetoes. Any veto not acted upon is counted as sustained, including pocket vetoes. A “pocket veto” results if the governor takes no action on a bill after the legislature had adjourned *sine die* so that it has no opportunity to sustain or override the veto (see Article V, Section 10, *Wisconsin Constitution*). Under current legislative session schedules, in which the preceding legislature adjourns on the same day the newly elected legislature is seated, the pocket veto is unlikely. Vetoes sustained includes pocket vetoes: 1937 (5); 1941 (13); 1943 (4); 1951 (14); 1955 (10); 1957 (1); 1973 (1).

³Attorney General ruled veto of 1939 SB-43 was void and it became law (see Vol. 28, *Opinions of the Attorney General*, p. 423).

⁴1953 AB-141, partially vetoed in 2 separate sections by separate veto messages, is counted as one.

Source: Compiled by Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau from the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature*.

tee at any time by majority vote (unless a committee hearing has been scheduled within the week) but should the attempt be unsuccessful, all subsequent motions to withdraw the same proposal require a two-thirds vote. In practice, proposals are very rarely withdrawn from committees without a committee report.

Scheduling Debate. Both the senate and assembly have systematic procedures for scheduling proposals on the house daily calendar. In the 1997 Legislature, all proposals reported by senate standing committees are referred to the Committee on Senate Organization; in the assembly, they are referred to the Committee on Rules. These committees schedule all business for floor debate.

Parliamentary Procedure. The rules of parliamentary procedure, which are followed by each house, facilitate the legislative process and are printed in pamphlets designated as “Senate Rules” and “Assembly Rules”. Each house may create new rules and amend or rescind current rules by passage of a simple resolution. “Joint Rules” deal with the relations between the houses and with clerical proceedings common to both. Changes in joint rules require the passage of a joint resolution.

The parliamentary process may seem unduly cumbersome to the onlooker, but it helps the houses operate in an organized fashion. The process is designed to protect the minority in its right

to be heard and to promote careful deliberation and orderly consideration of all legislation. For particularly difficult procedural questions, the presiding officer of each house has access to such standard sources of parliamentary procedure as *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure* and *Jefferson's Manual*.

Second Reading. When a bill is scheduled for house action after the committee has reported, it is given a second reading by title. This is the stage at which amendments to the bill may be considered. An amendment may be a “simple” amendment, which makes changes within the bill, or a “substitute” amendment, which completely replaces the original bill. Amendments may be offered, debated and voted upon at any time prior to a vote to engross the measure at the end of the second reading. Engrossment is a motion to incorporate all adopted amendments and all approved technical corrections into a proposal in its house of origin. The rules of both houses require a formal delay after the proposal is engrossed, which gives time for reconsideration of the vote by which engrossment was ordered. In many cases, however, the rules are suspended by unanimous consent or a two-thirds vote so that second and third readings can occur on the same legislative day.

Third Reading. The purpose of the third reading is to make a final decision on a proposal itself. After a third reading, the proposal is put to the house for a vote with the following questions: “This bill having been read 3 separate times, the question is, ‘Shall the bill pass?’” (for the senate) or “Shall the proposal be passed?” (for the assembly). The bill can be debated again at this point, but it is not subject to amendment. The bill may be passed by voice vote, unless a roll call vote is required by the state constitution, by law or legislative rule, or by request of a prescribed number of members.

Action in the Second House. If the bill passes, it is messaged to the other house, where it goes through substantially the same procedure as in the first house. In the second house, however, the bill is sometimes referred directly to the calendar without referral to a standing committee. If the second house concurs in the bill, whether with or without additional amendments, it is messaged back to the house of origin.

If the second house concurred but added amendments, these must be voted upon in the house of origin. If the amendments added by the second house are rejected or further amended by the original house, the bill may be sent back to the second house or to a conference committee made up of members representing both houses, which attempts to iron out the differences between the 2 versions. The compromise version, drawn up by the conference committee, cannot be amended in either house when it is brought to a vote. When both houses have agreed on identical wording for the bill and amendments, the Legislative Reference Bureau enrolls the measure for the house of origin, incorporating any amendments and corrections approved by both houses.

On average almost 2,000 bills were introduced in each of the past 10 legislatures, but only about 21% passed. Bills fail for many reasons: the house of origin may vote to “indefinitely postpone” or “table” a bill and then never take it up again; the second house may vote to “nonconcur” or may concur but with amendments unacceptable to the house of origin; or the proposal may “die in committee” and never be reported back to the house. An unsuccessful proposal does not carry over to the following legislature. A member must reintroduce it as a new bill.

Action of the Governor. Under current legislative scheduling, the governor has 6 days (excluding Sundays) in which to act on the bill by: 1) signing it, in which case it becomes law; 2) vetoing it in whole or, if an appropriation bill, in part; or 3) failing to sign it within 6 days, in which case it becomes law without the governor’s signature.

Bills are not sent to the office of the governor immediately following passage but are forwarded in an orderly manner when the governor calls for them. The legislative session schedule, however, provides deadlines after each floorperiod when all bills must be sent to the governor and provides a specific floorperiod for final legislative review of the governor’s vetoes.

If the governor vetoes a bill, in whole or part, it must be returned to the house of origin together with the governor’s written objections to the measure. Partial veto of words or numbers within a bill is permitted in the case of bills which contain an appropriation. If the governor signs the law but vetoes part of it, the portion not vetoed becomes law. A vetoed bill or portion of a bill can become law despite the governor’s objections, but a two-thirds vote in each house is required





Governor Tommy Thompson and the 1997 Legislature take a moment from the joint session gathered for the biennial budget address to recognize special guests seated in the balcony of the assembly chamber. (Richard G. B. Hanson II, Senate Photographer)

to override the veto. If either house fails to muster the sufficient number of votes, the governor's veto is sustained, and the vetoed bill or portion dies.

Session Laws. After passage, each new law is given a "Wisconsin Act" number based on the year of the legislative session and its order of enactment, e.g., 1997 Wisconsin Act 1. The date of enactment is the date of its approval by the governor, the date it becomes law without the governor's signature, or the date the legislature voted to override the governor's veto. The secretary of state assigns the new law a date of publication and on or before that date, copies of the act in pamphlet form, called a "slip law", must be available for public distribution. The act's number, title and original bill number are printed within 10 working days of the publication date in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, the newspaper currently designated as the official state paper for publication of legal notices. The notice contains the date of enactment and date of publication and states the act is available for public distribution. The act takes effect the day after its assigned publication date, unless the final section of the law's text specifies another effective date.

Ultimately all the laws enacted during the biennium are combined by the Legislative Reference Bureau into bound volumes, called *Laws of Wisconsin*. Any portions of these laws that make changes in the statutes are then incorporated by the revisor of statutes into the edition of the *Wisconsin Statutes* dated for that legislative biennium. Thus, the edition identified as the *1995-96 Wisconsin Statutes* will include all statutory changes resulting from laws enacted by the 1995 Legislature.

The Budget Bill. The budget bill is the longest and most complex bill of the session. Because Wisconsin's budget covers a 2-year period from July 1 of one odd-numbered year through June 30 of the next, its development involves a chain of events stretching over almost a year. In the fall of the even-numbered year preceding passage of a budget, state agencies must submit funding estimates to the Department of Administration. Their funding requests include estimates of the cost to continue existing services over the next 2 years and may present descriptions of improvements they hope to make in their programs. The budget division of the Department of Administration then compiles the data for review by the governor or governor-elect. While developing the budget, the governor may hold a hearing on any department's budget request to get additional input.



The governor is required by law to deliver the budget message to the new legislature on or before the last Tuesday in January, although the legislature can extend the deadline at the governor’s request. This message is accompanied by the state budget report and the biennial executive budget bill or bills, which must be introduced by the Joint Committee on Finance at the governor’s request without change.

In the legislature, the Joint Committee on Finance holds hearings on the departmental requests. When these are completed, it reports the budget bill to the house of the legislature where it was introduced. Its report takes the form of a substitute amendment. The bill then follows the normal legislative procedure through both houses of the legislature, although it is amended many times. When passed, the budget bill is submitted for the governor’s approval. The governor may sign the budget bill, veto it in its entirety (which would be unlikely), or use partial vetoes, as is usually the case. To meet the state’s budgetary cycle, the new budget law should be effective by July 1 of the odd-numbered year, but there sometimes is a delay of several days, or even weeks or months, in which case state agencies continue to operate at their levels of appropriation from the preceding budget.

Further Reading. The preceding section has given only a brief description of how a bill becomes a law in Wisconsin. In practice, legislative procedure is more complex than explained here. The feature article of the *1993-1994 Wisconsin Blue Book* contains a more detailed description and uses a case study approach to further illustrate the legislative process.

1997-98 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

The complete 1997-98 Legislative Service consists of 6 parts, which may be ordered by subscription from the Document Sales office:

Bills, resolutions and amendments (complete text of each as introduced).

Acts are the laws enacted in bill form by the legislature and signed by the governor or passed over the governor’s veto. The acts are distributed separately as “slip laws”.

The **Bulletin of Proceedings** contains a numerical listing of all bills and other measures introduced in each house of the legislature and a cumulative record of actions taken on each. It includes a subject index to all measures introduced and to all acts, a list of proposals introduced by each legislator, and a numerical listing of statutory sections affected by acts and enrolled bills. It is issued weekly during floorperiods and at longer intervals at other times.

Administrative Rules is issued monthly and lists the administrative rules submitted by executive branch agencies by clearinghouse rule number. It includes a subject index, a list of agency contacts, and a cumulative record of actions taken on each proposal.

The **Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities** lists the time and place of legislative committee hearings for the coming week and advanced notices for hearings on issues of special interest. The schedule is issued on Thursday before the week in which hearings are held.

Journals are a daily record of the business conducted in each house, but they are not verbatim accounts. The service provides preliminary editions of the journals (published on the morning after the legislative day on yellow paper for senate journals and green paper for assembly journals) and the final corrected editions (printed on white paper and distributed 2 or 3 weeks later).

To obtain all or part of the legislative service contact Document Sales, Wisconsin Department of Administration, P.O. Box 7840, Madison 53707-7840 or call (608) 266-3358 for an order form. Any part may be ordered separately. Subscribers may receive their documents through the mail or pick them up at the Legislative Document Room, Lower Level, 1 East Main Street, Madison. All subscriptions to the 1997-98 Legislative Service will expire on December 31, 1998.

SERVICE	Interdepartmental Delivery or Pick-up at Document Room ¹	United Parcel Service (UPS) and U.S. Postal Service ^{1,2}
Complete service, including daily calendars	\$500	\$725
Bills, resolutions and amendments	160	285
Acts (slip laws)	20	70
Bulletin of Proceedings	200	300
Administrative Rules	65	80
Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities	15	70
Journals	55	125

¹All sales are subject to the 5% state sales tax, 0.5% county sales tax, and 0.1% stadium tax, where applicable.

²Section 35.87 (2), Wisconsin Statutes, requires: “Actual postage or delivery costs shall be added to the fee for those subscribers who do not pick up their documents.”



INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

The public can access information about the Wisconsin Legislature and its support agencies on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us>. The Wisconsin Legislature's home page provides connections to individual home pages for each legislator with links to e-mail addresses, district maps, committees and biographies. There are links to the full text of bills introduced in the current session, acts passed and bill histories, as well as the full text of the Wisconsin Constitution and the Wisconsin Statutes. A Spotlight feature provides information on recent legislative action. The session schedule and calendar of public hearings are also provided. Legislative service agencies have their own pages and their publications can be downloaded.

WISCONSIN STATUTES, SESSION LAWS, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Printed Materials

The printed state documents listed below are available from Document Sales, 202 S. Thornton Avenue, P.O. Box 7840, Madison 53707-7840; telephone (608) 266-3358; TTY (608) 264-8499.

Prices listed do not reflect 5% state sales tax, and, where applicable, 0.5% county sales tax and 0.1% stadium tax. Residents of counties with a county sales tax and/or stadium tax must include the tax with their orders. Prepayment is required for all orders. Make check or money order payable to Wisconsin Department of Administration. For MasterCard or Visa orders, call (608) 264-9419 or (800) 362-7253.

Wisconsin Statutes 1995-96:

Hardcover 5-volume set – \$101 (picked up); \$107 (mailed)

Softcover 5-volume set – \$91 (picked up); \$96 (mailed)

1995 Laws of Wisconsin: Hardcover 3-volume set – \$70.90 (picked up); \$74.85 (mailed)

1970 Wisconsin Annotations: \$7.00

Wisconsin Administrative Code, including loose-leaf *Administrative Register*: Subscriptions are available for the entire code or individual code books. Prices change each January 1. Contact Document Sales for current pricing information.

Machine-Readable Data

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Representative James Kreuser shares a moment with Sister Rose Marie Cefress from the staff of St. Catherine's Hospital, Kenosha. "Sister Rosie", who was a frequent visitor to the assembly and offered the opening prayer on occasion, died on December 5, 1996. (Brent Nicastro, Assembly Democratic caucus)

**POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE
WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
1885 – 1997**

Legislative Session	Senate ¹						Assembly ¹							
	D	P	R	S	SD	M	Vac.	D	P	R	S	SD	M	Vac.
1885	13	—	20	—	—	—	—	39	—	61	—	—	—	—
1887	6	—	25	—	—	2 ²	—	30	—	57	—	—	13 ³	—
1889	6	—	24	—	—	3 ⁴	—	29	—	71	—	—	—	—
1891	19	—	14	—	—	—	—	66	—	33	—	—	1 ⁵	—
1893	26	—	7	—	—	—	—	56	—	44	—	—	—	—
1895	13	—	20	—	—	—	—	19	—	81	—	—	—	—
1897	4	—	29	—	—	—	—	8	—	91	—	—	1 ⁶	—
1899	2	—	31	—	—	—	—	19	—	81	—	—	—	—
1901	2	—	31	—	—	—	—	18	—	82	—	—	—	—
1903	3	—	30	—	—	—	—	25	—	75	—	—	—	—
1905	4	—	28	—	1	—	—	11	—	85	—	4	—	—
1907	5	—	27	—	1	—	—	19	—	76	—	5	—	—
1909	4	—	28	—	1	—	—	17	—	80	—	3	—	—
1911	4	—	27	—	2	—	—	29	—	59	—	12	—	—
1913	9	—	23	—	1	—	—	37	—	57	—	6	—	—
1915	11	—	21	—	1	—	—	29	—	63	—	8	—	—
1917	6	—	24	3	—	—	—	14	—	79	7	—	—	—
1919	2	—	27	4	—	—	—	5	—	79	16	—	—	—
1921	2	—	27	4	—	—	—	2	—	92	6	—	—	—
1923	—	—	30	3	—	—	—	1	—	89	10	—	—	—
1925	—	—	30	3	—	—	—	1	—	92	7	—	—	—
1927	—	—	31	2	—	—	—	3	—	89	8	—	—	—
1929	—	—	31	2	—	—	—	6	—	90	3	—	1 ⁷	—
1931	1	—	30	2	—	—	—	2	—	89	9	—	—	—
1933	9	—	23	1	—	—	—	59	24	14 ⁸	3	—	—	—
1935	13	14	6	—	—	—	—	35	45	17	3	—	—	—
1937	9	16	8	—	—	—	—	31	46	21	2	—	—	—
1939	6	11	16	—	—	—	—	15	32	53	—	—	—	—
1941	3	6	24	—	—	—	—	15	25	60	—	—	—	—
1943	4	6	23	—	—	—	—	14	13	73	—	—	—	—
1945	6	5	22	—	—	—	—	19	6	75	—	—	—	—
1947	5	1	27	—	—	—	—	11	—	88	—	—	—	1
1949	3	—	27	—	—	—	3	26	—	74	—	—	—	—
1951	7	—	26	—	—	—	—	24	—	75	—	—	—	1
1953	7	—	26	—	—	—	—	25	—	75	—	—	—	—
1955	8	—	24	—	—	—	1	36	—	64	—	—	—	—
1957	10	—	23	—	—	—	—	33	—	67	—	—	—	—
1959	12	—	20	—	—	—	1	55	—	45	—	—	—	—
1961	13	—	20	—	—	—	—	45	—	55	—	—	—	—
1963	11	—	22	—	—	—	—	46	—	53	—	—	—	1
1965	12	—	20	—	—	—	1	52	—	48	—	—	—	—
1967	12	—	21	—	—	—	—	47	—	53	—	—	—	—
1969	10	—	23	—	—	—	—	48	—	52	—	—	—	—
1971	12	—	20	—	—	—	1	67	—	33	—	—	—	—
1973	15	—	18	—	—	—	—	62	—	37	—	—	—	—
1975	18	—	13	—	—	—	2	63	—	36	—	—	—	—
1977	23	—	10	—	—	—	—	66	—	33	—	—	—	—
1979	21	—	10	—	—	—	2	60	—	39	—	—	—	—
1981	19	—	14	—	—	—	—	59	—	39	—	—	—	1
1983	17	—	14	—	—	—	2	59	—	40	—	—	—	—
1985	19	—	14	—	—	—	—	52	—	47	—	—	—	—
1987	19	—	11	—	—	—	3	54	—	45	—	—	—	—
1989	20	—	13	—	—	—	—	56	—	43	—	—	—	—
1991	19	—	14	—	—	—	—	58	—	41	—	—	—	—
1993	15	—	15	—	—	—	3	52	—	47	—	—	—	—
1995	16	—	17	—	—	—	—	48	—	51	—	—	—	—
1997	17	—	16	—	—	—	—	47	—	52	—	—	—	—

Symbols: D-Democrat; P-Progressive; R-Republican; S-Socialist; SD-Social Democrat; M-Miscellaneous; Vac.-Vacancy.

¹Reflects political composition at the time the legislature first convened.

²One People's and one Independent.

³4 Independent Democrat, 6 People's and 3 Independent.

⁴2 Union Labor and one Independent.

⁵One Union Labor.

⁶One Fusion.

⁷One Independent.

⁸Includes one Independent Republican.

Sources: Pre-1943 data is taken from the Office of the Wisconsin Secretary of State, *Officers of Wisconsin: U.S., State, Judicial, Congressional, Legislative and County Officers*, 1943 and earlier editions, and the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, various editions. For 1943 and later, data compiled from Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau sources.