

What's in the State Budget and How You Can Make a Difference



*A training for the
Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force*

March 14, 2023



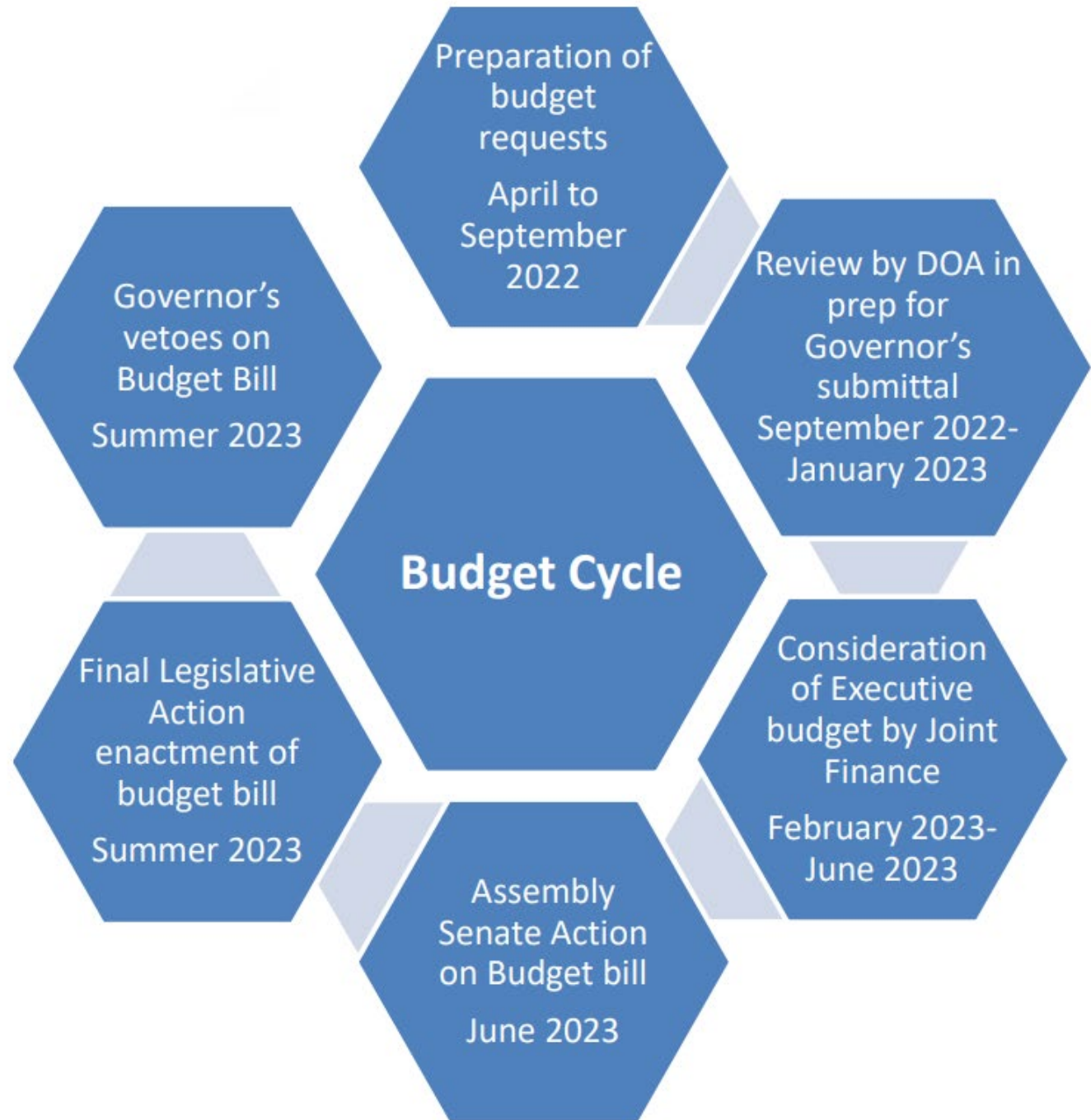
Our Speakers

- ▶ Gynger Steele, Administrator, Wisconsin DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services
- ▶ Holly Audley, Assistant Administrator, Wisconsin DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services
- ▶ Phyllis Greenberger, Supervising Advocacy Specialist, Disability Rights Wisconsin
- ▶ Barbara Beckert, Director of External Advocacy, Disability Rights Wisconsin

You are part of the state budget process

- ▶ The state budget is developed over many months.
- ▶ It funds programs and impacts policies that are important to all of us, and essential for many people with mental health needs and disabilities.
- ▶ There are many opportunities for citizen advocates to influence what gets funded.
- ▶ You and your local networks can make a difference and influence the budget.

State Budget Process



Who decides what is in the state budget?

- ▶ Both the Governor and legislature have a role in what is included.
- ▶ The Governor introduces the first draft of the budget in February.
 - ▶ The legislature can use the Governor's budget as a starting point and make edits.
 - ▶ Or the legislature can choose to write their own version of the budget.
- ▶ The Governor can veto parts, or the entire budget passed by the legislature.

Who decides what is in the state budget?

- ▶ The legislature has 16-member **Joint Finance committee** (8 Senators, 8 Representatives) who focus on the state budget.
- ▶ This committee takes the lead on adding, revising, and removing items from the state budget bill.
- ▶ **All legislators** have an opportunity to influence the state budget during the Joint Finance Committee process.
- ▶ **All legislators** will have to vote on the final version of the state budget before it can pass.

Joint Finance Committee (JFC) members

State Senate



Co-Chair
Sen. Marklein (R)

Spring Green



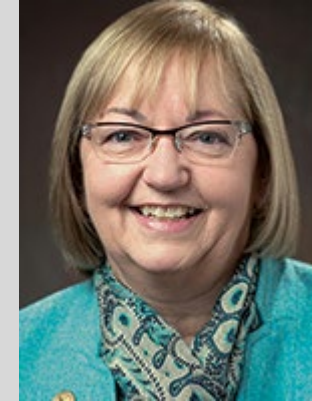
Vice-Chair
Sen. Stroebel (R)

Saukville



Sen. Felkowski **(R)**

Irma



Sen. Ballweg **(R)**

Markesan



Sen. Testin **(R)**

Stevens Point



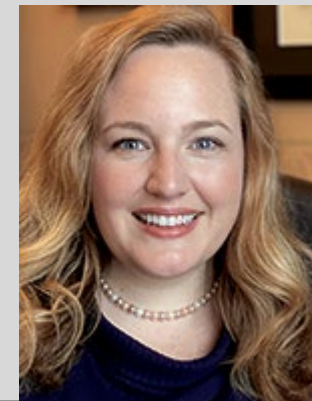
Sen. Wimberger **(R)**

Green Bay



Sen. L. Johnson **(D)**

Milwaukee



Sen. Roys **(D)**

Madison

Joint Finance Committee (JFC) members

State Assembly



Co-Chair
Rep. Born
(R)

Beaver Dam



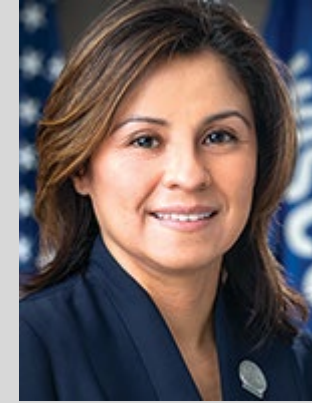
Vice-Chair
Rep. Katsma
(R)

Oostburg



Rep.
Zimmerman
(R)

River Falls



Rep.
Rodriguez
(R)

Oak Creek



Rep. Kurtz
(R)

Wonewoc



Rep.
Dallman **(R)**

Green Lake



Rep. Goyke
(D)

Milwaukee



Rep.
McGuire **(D)**

Kenosha

Medicaid Expansion

- ▶ Expands coverage to approximately 90,000 Wisconsinites, ~30,000 uninsured
- ▶ State GPR Savings - \$1.6 billion

Medicaid Investments Linked to Expansion:

- ▶ \$531.0M Increase to Acute Care Hospital Access Payments
- ▶ \$7.0M Increase to Critical Access Hospital Access Payments
- ▶ \$20.0M Increase to Supplements for Pediatric Teaching Hospitals
- ▶ \$68.1M Increase to Hospital Rates
- ▶ \$189.1M Increase for Primary Care Physicians

Year of Mental Health

The background features abstract geometric shapes in shades of blue and red. On the left, a solid blue shape curves upwards. On the right, there is a complex arrangement of overlapping semi-transparent shapes in various shades of blue and red, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

Peer Delivered Services

Peer Recovery Centers Expansion

- ▶ Increase funding for 8 existing centers from \$30K to \$50K per year
- ▶ Fund two new centers at \$50K per year

Peer Run Respite

- ▶ Provides GPR support for Peer-Run Respite Center for Veterans - Provides
- ▶ ARPA dollars will fund Wisconsin's 5 Peer Run Respite for the 2023 - 2025 biennium

Medicaid Coverage for Certified Peer Specialists

- ▶ Proposes a statutory language change to include certified peer specialists and certified parent peer specialists as Medicaid eligible service providers

Crisis Services

- ▶ Funding for two *Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Centers*
 - ▶ Would serve as regional crisis receiving and stabilization facilities.
 - ▶ Statutory Authority and Funding
 - ▶ \$10.1M GPR for 2 centers and 1.0 FTE

Psycho Social Rehab Services

- ▶ **Community Support Program**
 - ▶ Funds the nonfederal share of the Medicaid Community Support Program which is currently funded by counties
- ▶ **Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services benefit**
 - ▶ Allows providers in addition to counties to receive Medicaid reimbursement

Suicide Prevention

- ▶ 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Support: expand staffing and resources to support these services, including funds to maintain the Lifeline call centers
 - ▶ \$3.0 GPR
 - ▶ \$9.9M projected costs in 2023-25; federal grants will fund remainder
- ▶ Establish a Suicide Prevention Program - \$1M GPR
 - ▶ Coordinate suicide prevention efforts across the state, provide educational materials, and public awareness campaigns

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, & Deaf-Blind Behavioral Health Treatment Program

- ▶ \$1.9M GPR to contract with a provider to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate direct behavioral health services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.
- ▶ Services must be by health care providers fluent in American Sign Language and aware of the culturally unique difficulties experienced by individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.

Mental Health Consultation Program

- ▶ Expands Child Psychiatry Consultation Program into a broader mental health consultation program.
- ▶ Increase annual funding from \$2M to \$4M

Behavioral Health: Children and Youth

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

- ▶ New provider type serving children and youth with behavioral health treatment needs
- ▶ Medicaid reimbursed
- ▶ Funding for one 25 bed facility

Mental Health Services in Schools

- ▶ Increase Medicaid reimbursement returned to schools through the School Based Services program (\$112.4M increase)
- ▶ Medicaid coverage for school telehealth origination site

Office of Children's Mental Health Staff - 1.0 FTE

Other Medicaid Rate Increases

- ▶ Autism Services
- ▶ Outpatient Mental Health and Substance user disorder services
- ▶ Child/Adolescent Day Treatment

Substance Use Disorder Services

- ▶ Residential Substance Use Treatment Room and Board Costs
 - ▶ Provides 100% GPR funding to allow Medicaid to cover room and board costs
- ▶ Develop integrated behavioral health stabilization, intoxication monitoring, detox facilities.
- ▶ Supports the development of two facilities by expanding Medicaid benefits to include these new facilities. - effective July 2025
- ▶ NARCAN distribution - \$4M GPR
- ▶ Stimulant Treatment/Prevention - \$3.3M GPR
- ▶ Addiction Treatment Platform Funding - \$60K GPR

DHS Facilities

- ▶ Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center Expansion
 - ▶ 174 FTE - 65 new beds
- ▶ Northern Wisconsin Center Intensive Treatment Program Expansion - 12 add'l beds. Serves people ages 14 and older with an intellectual disability and co-occurring mental health or behavior disorder
- ▶ Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams
- ▶ Opening Avenues to Reentry Success - 2 FTE

Workforce Initiatives

- ▶ Qualified Treatment Trainee Grant Program
 - ▶ \$1.576M GPR in FY 25 to sustain current funding levels through the 2023-25 biennium
- ▶ WisCaregiver Careers - \$8M increase to support recruitment, training, retention of certified nursing assistants
- ▶ Health Care Provider Innovation Grants - \$22.5M for health care and long term care providers to implement innovative solutions for worker recruitment and retention
- ▶ Health Care and Public Health Innovation Grants - Pilot project in Dane County to address mental health crisis among health care workers

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

- ▶ Increase base funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- ▶ Provides a 0.5 FTE position to provide caregiver support services in every county.
- ▶ Support the ongoing costs of the tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists (ADRS).
- ▶ Funding to create a centralized ADRC website and database providing Wisconsinites access to information about long-term care supports and services

Long Term Care

- ▶ Rate increases for paid Direct Service Professionals in Family Care. (\$88.8M over the biennium)
- ▶ Rate increases for personal care workers. (\$88.8M over the biennium)
- ▶ Funding to continue implementation of Caregiver Task Force recommendations.
- ▶ 5% rate increase for Home- and Community-Based Services for Family Care. Continue the 5 % increase provided to HCBS that was part of the American Rescue Plan Act (does not apply to IRIS)
- ▶ Complex Patient Pilot aimed at identifying innovative approaches to complex patient care transitions from acute care providers to long-term care settings.

Children's Long Term Supports

- ▶ Directs the Dept. of Health Services to ensure that any child who is eligible and applies for the Children's Long-Term Support waiver program (CLTS) receives services under the program.
- ▶ Expands early intervention services provided through the Birth to 3 Program to children with a blood lead level over the CDC recommended levels

Addressing Abuse and Neglect

- ▶ Increases funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) training, needs assessments for tribal APS, guardian support and elder justice training grants, and other APS enhancements - \$4,138,300 GPR/yr. 1 and \$9,499,200 GPR/yr. 2
- ▶ Increases funding for DHS's Division of Quality Assurance to allow for a 25% investigation rate to respond to safety complaints, including complaints involving 1-2 bed Adult Family Homes.
- ▶ Increases staffing for the Office of Caregiver Quality to support misconduct investigation and background check program.
- ▶ Creates a program to promote the protection of elders and support the statewide elder abuse hotline - \$250,000 GPR/yr. 2. (Justice Budget).
- ▶ Fund an additional three positions for the Board on Aging State Long Term Care Ombudsman due to increasing demand for its services.

Dental Care

- ▶ Create a new license for dental therapists to increase the number of dental providers and dental services provided across the state.
- ▶ Funding for a grant to support community dental health coordinators across the state - \$300,000 GPR/yr. 1 and \$600,000 GPR/yr. 2

Other DHS Budget Proposals

- ▶ Office for the Promotion of Independent Living (OPIL) Increase: Provides \$833,000 all funds in the first year of the budget and \$850,600 in the second year of the budget to increase funding for OPIL, including the Office of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- ▶ Service Dog Training Grants: Provides \$125,000 all funds per year to award grants to organizations that train service dogs for the purpose of assisting these providers in attaining accreditation specific to post-traumatic stress disorder training from Assistance Dog International

Corrections Provisions Related to Treatment and Re-entry

- ▶ Funds Expansion of Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS)
- ▶ Expands Windows to Work enrollment by approximately 96 participants per year
- ▶ Funding to expand treatment capacity in the Earned Release Program and substance use disorder programming.
- ▶ Expands access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and funds a pharmacist and physician position.
- ▶ Expands Alternatives to Revocation (ATR) residential community capacity by 100 beds.

Youth Justice

- ▶ Raises the age for adult court to 18 and returns 17 year-olds to the juvenile court system
- ▶ Creates a sum sufficient appropriation to reimburse counties for the increased costs associated with raising the age
- ▶ Provides funding to develop a youth justice data and reporting system and to support continued licensing costs for the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument(YASI)
- ▶ Provides funding for bonuses to counties operating secured residential care centers for children and youth(SRCCCY) that serve more than one county

Creates a Juvenile Justice Reform Committee

- ▶ Creates a Juvenile Justice Reform Committee charged with studying and providing recommendations to DCF and DOC on reforms including:
 - ▶ Increase the minimum age of delinquency and eliminate original adult court jurisdiction over juveniles
 - ▶ Modify waiver procedures for adult court jurisdiction over juveniles
 - ▶ Create a blended juvenile and adult sentence structure for certain juvenile offenders to replace the serious juvenile offender (SJO) program
 - ▶ Prohibit placement of a youth in a juvenile detention facility for a status offense and limit short-term holds in detention to cases in which there is a public safety risk.

Education for Students with Disabilities

- ▶ Funds special education at 60% in both FY2024 and FY2025. Special education is currently state-funded at around 30%.
- ▶ Makes the appropriation sum sufficient so school districts are guaranteed to recoup 60% of the funding they spend on students with disabilities
- ▶ Increase reimbursement rate for High Cost Special Education to 45 percent in FY24 and 60 percent in FY25, and makes the appropriation sum sufficient.
- ▶ Allows public school districts to retain 100% of Medicaid funds collected for supports like Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, mental health services and specialized transportation for students with disabilities who need to receive Medicaid-funded services at school.
- ▶ Fully funds expenditures for high cost pupil transportation aid.
- ▶ Limits special needs scholarships to currently enrolled students with no new admissions.
- ▶ Requires parental school choice and special needs scholarship program schools to have licensed teachers.

School Based Mental Health Services

- ▶ Funding to reimburse for school-based mental health professional staff.
 - ▶ This budget expands school staff that can be included in funding beyond social workers to include school counselors, school psychologists, and nurses.
- ▶ Funding to reimburse comprehensive school mental health services and programs for students (\$100,000 per district plus \$100 per pupil)

Employment

- ▶ Social security disability insurance payments.
 - ▶ Repeals the current prohibition that any Unemployment Insurance claimant who receives a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payment is ineligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits.
 - ▶ Instead, would require DWD to reduce a claimant's benefit payments by the amount of SSDI payments

Legal Services

- ▶ Expands access to civil legal aid, including in eviction proceedings. Provides \$60 million over the biennium to create a new civil legal assistance program for low-income individuals, focusing on establishing a statewide right to counsel for evictions. Civil legal services may also include unemployment compensation, consumer law, domestic violence, and health insurance matters.
- ▶ Expands the civil legal assistance program at the Department of Children and Families by \$1 million over the biennium to include providing legal services related to eviction matters

Housing

- ▶ Rental assistance grants for homeless veterans. DOA will award grants to each continuum of care organization to provide tenant-based rental assistance to homeless veterans
- ▶ Doubles funding for homeless case management service grants to shelters through DOA.
- ▶ Increase funding for Homelessness Prevention programs and positions to staff the new programs
- ▶ Funds a Municipal Home Rehabilitation Grant Program for municipalities to rehabilitate and restore blighted residential properties to increase affordable housing options within the municipality.
- ▶ Create a Housing Safety Grant Pilot Program to award grant funding to the city of Milwaukee for activities supporting the improvement of rental housing safety.

Housing

- ▶ Expands renter protections by modifying current law related to preemption of a local unit of government's ability to enact ordinances regarding landlord-tenant responsibilities, inspections, and eviction processes and procedures.
- ▶ Increases the maximum income threshold for the Homestead Tax Credit to \$35,000 and indexes the parameters of the homestead tax credit for inflation.
- ▶ Increases the State Housing Tax Credit from \$42 million to \$100 million to help address the need for affordable housing and increase the credit period from six taxable years to ten - \$100 million GPR yr. 1.
(Housing and Economic Development Authority [WHEDA] Budget)

Transportation

- ▶ Increase general Mass Transit Aids by 4% in each year of the budget
- ▶ Increase Paratransit Aids by 4% in each year of the budget
- ▶ Creates a Transit Capital Assistance Grant Program
- ▶ Allow local government to collaborate to create and fund Regional Transit Authorities
- ▶ Increase funding for Specialized Transit Assistance Program (s. 85.22) by \$143,900 SEG funds/yr. 1 and \$309,300 SEG/yr. 2
- ▶ Increase funding in each year of the budget to fund coordination of services for non-drivers

Voting Rights

- ▶ Creates the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance within the WI Election Commission (WEC) to support Election Administration.
- ▶ Automatic Voter Registration: Directs WEC to work with the Department of Transportation to begin automatic voter registration.
- ▶ Returns the residency requirement for voting to 10 days; it is currently 28 days.
- ▶ Early Canvassing of Absentee Ballots: Authorizes a county or municipal clerk to begin the canvassing of absentee ballots on the day before an election.
- ▶ Extends the In-Person Absentee Voting Period by eliminates the current 14 day restriction.
- ▶ Requires polling places to post a voter bill of rights.
- ▶ Reinstates provisions that required high schools to be used for voter registration for students and staff.
- ▶ Creates a grant program for municipalities to purchase Badger Books. Badger Books are an electronic version of the voter list used at polling places.

Share your priorities

Call and email your state senator and state representative and share your budget priorities.

Invite legislators to visit your agency and learn firsthand about community needs.

Attend a JFC hearing and testify on your priorities. The Waukesha hearing is April 5th.

Submit written comments to JFC on their website or through email.

Attend a listening session hosted by your legislators.

Like your legislators' social media pages (Facebook, Twitter) and comment on budget related posts.

Attend an advocacy day at the Capitol.

Make your ask



- ▶ **Introduce yourself**
 - ▶ Your name, where you live (you want to establish yourself as a constituent), your job (if relevant), a few details to establish your credibility and connection to your community.
- ▶ **Introduce your issue and experience**
 - ▶ Introduce your issue and how your issue impacts people with mental health needs or other disabilities. Share your personal experience with your issue.
- ▶ **Make your ask**
 - ▶ Make sure to let your legislator know what you want. Do you support what is in the Governor's budget, want to see something added or changed, or want something removed?

Resources to learn about the budget

- ▶ 2023 - 2025 Executive Budget: [DOA 2021-23 Executive Budget \(wi.gov\)](#)
- ▶ Budget Bill: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/ab43>
- ▶ Department of Health Services: [Governor Evers' Proposed 2023-2025 Budget | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- ▶ [2023 Joint Committee on Finance \(wisconsin.gov\)](#) sign up for notifications
- ▶ WI [Legislative Fiscal Bureau \(wisconsin.gov\)](#) - watch for their budget papers
- ▶ Budget Resources from the Mental Health Task Force - stay tuned for updates

Joint Finance Committee Hearings

- 10 am - 5 pm: Wednesday, April 5 - Waukesha
 - Waukesha County Expo Center, Main Arena
 - 1000 Northview Rd, Waukesha
- 10 am - 5 pm: Tuesday, April 11 - Eau Claire
 - UW-Eau Claire, Davies Student Center
 - Ojibwe Grand Ballroom (Third Floor)
 - 77 Roosevelt Ave., Eau Claire
- 10 am - 5 pm: Wednesday, April 12 - Wisconsin Dells
 - Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Conference Center
 - Sandstone Meeting Room
 - 45 Hillman Road, Wisconsin Dells
- 10 am - 5 pm: Wednesday, April 26 - Minocqua
 - Lakeland Union High School
 - 9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua

Contacting Policymakers

- ▶ Who Are My Legislators?" on [Wisconsin State Legislature Home Page](#)
- ▶ Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472
- ▶ Joint Committee on Finance:
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/committees/joint/2640>
- ▶ JFC website: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/>
- ▶ JFC email to provide budget input:
budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Who represents me in Wisconsin's legislature?

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>



The screenshot shows the Wisconsin State Legislature website. At the top left is the Wisconsin State Capitol dome. The main header reads "WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE". To the right is a search bar with the text "Search everything here" and a magnifying glass icon labeled "Search". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "HOME", "SENATE", "ASSEMBLY", "COMMITTEES", "SERVICE AGENCIES", and "HELP".

Below the navigation bar is a large mural of a bearded man in a blue robe sitting on a throne, holding a book. The word "LEGISLATION" is written above him. To the right of the mural is a vertical menu with the following items: "Today in the Legislature", "Senate", "Assembly", "Law and Legislation", "Administrative Rules", and "More Information".

At the bottom of the page, there are several buttons and a search tool. On the left, there are three buttons: "NOTIFICATION SERVICE" with an envelope icon, "COMMITTEE SCHEDULE" with a calendar icon, and "ADMIN RULES CALENDAR" with a book icon. On the right, there is a button labeled "WHO ARE MY LEGISLATORS?" which is circled in red. Below this button is a search input field with the placeholder text "Enter your address" and a "Find Your Legislator" button. To the right of the input field is a magnifying glass icon over a map, with the text "Find by Map" below it.

Your voice is important

- You may be introducing a legislator to mental health or disability issues.
- You are helping legislators understand what is happening in their communities.
- Legislators remember stories. They retell what they hear to other legislators.
- When many legislators hear the same struggles, they begin to see a bigger issue that needs to be solved.

Options for Action

- ▶ Call your legislator's office.
 - ▶ You can leave a voicemail anytime.
- ▶ Email your legislator.
 - ▶ You can e-mail on your schedule. Staffers keep track of constituent e-mails and how constituents feel about specific topics and bills
- ▶ Attend a public hearing.
 - ▶ If you can't attend send an e-mail. Say why you can't make it (no transportation, no caregiver, no virtual option, not enough time to adjust schedule to make hearing)
- ▶ Write a letter to the editor about budget priorities.

Share your experience, ask for action

- ▶ Follow up is part of the constituent's job.
- ▶ Send a thank you; share resources.
- ▶ Invite legislators to visit your agency or speak at an event.
- ▶ Connect others who live in the district and who share your priorities.
- ▶ Advocacy is a long game strategy. You may hear no before you hear yes.

Invest in the relationship

- ▶ Every interaction is a step to building a long-term relationship.
- ▶ Be a good listener. You will learn about your legislator's background, interests, where they need more education.
- ▶ Your legislator may ask questions. It's ok to not have all the answers or to follow up with them after the meeting with additional information.
- ▶ Your legislator may not agree. Their opinion can change.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead.

VOTE as if your life depends on it - Because it DOES!

Justin Dart

If you're not at the table, you're on the menu-

Vote April 4th!