



Advocacy Brief



February 2019

New Legislators in 2019-20 State Legislature

Fifteen new legislators joined the legislature for the 2019-20 session (14 in the Assembly and one in the Senate) and three legislators who served in the Assembly last session were elected to serve in the Senate beginning in 2019. The new legislators are:

Senate

- *Senator Jeff Smith (D-31)
- #Senator Kathy Bernier (R-23)
- #Senator Andre Jacque (R-1)
- #Senator Dale Kooyenga (R-5)

Assembly

- *Rep. Marisabel Cabrera (D-9)
- *Barbara Dittrich (R-38)
- *Jodi Emerson (D-91)
- *Staush Gruszynski (D-90)
- *Kalan Haywood (D-16)
- *Jesse James (R-68)
- *Tony Kurtz (R-50)
- *LaKeshia Myers (D-12)
- *Loren Oldenburg (R-96)
- *Timothy Ramthun (R-59)
- *Shae Sortwell (R-2)
- *Shelia Stubbs (D-77)
- *Robyn Vining (D-14)
- *Robert Wittke (R-62)

*New legislator

#Legislator elected to the Senate previously served in the Assembly

Whether your Senator or Assembly Representative is new or returning, serves on the legislature's JFC or any of the other legislative committees, it is important to contact your legislators to make sure they know about issues that are important to you and the older adults and family caregivers in your community. Policy makers will be making many important decisions in the coming months; get to know your legislators and make sure they know you. To confirm who represents you go [here](#).

2019-21 State Budget Process & Update

Wisconsin operates on a biennial budget that includes funding for a two year period, from July of an odd numbered year through June of the next odd-numbered year. The process for the July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021 budget began last fall when state agencies were required to submit their budget requests to the Governor. The election of a new Governor meant a new administration and new priorities, so the budget process began anew in January 2019. **Governor Evers is scheduled to deliver his budget address** to the Assembly and Senate, highlighting his priorities, **at 7 p.m., on Thursday, February 28, 2019.**



Following the release of the Governor's budget, the budget process moves over to the Legislature. The legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will conduct a series of budget hearings around the state, so citizens can provide input on the budget. These hearings, as well as other in-district meetings hosted by state legislators, are great opportunities for you and other aging advocates to share the Wisconsin Agency Advocacy Network (WAAN) 2019-2020 Budget and Policy Priorities.

Go [here](#) to view WAAN's issue briefs (see 2018-2019 WAAN State Issue Papers and

Fact Sheets). Stay tuned for more information on the dates, times and locations of upcoming budget hearings.

After gathering information from the budget hearings and other sources, the JFC Committee will prepare its own version of the budget. The budget process requires the state Assembly and Senate to pass the same version of the budget bill before it can move to the Governor's desk to be signed into law (with or without line-item veto changes). The entire budget process is supposed to be finalized by July 1 in time for the start of the new state fiscal year. Time will tell whether this timeline is met.

**Press Conference to Reintroduce
"Credit for Caring Act" -
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019**

On Tues., Feb. 19, 2019 at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Parlor at the Wisconsin State Capitol, a bi-partisan group of legislators - Senators Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Bob Wirth (Somers) and Representatives Ken Skowronski (Franklin) and Deb Kolste (Janesville) **will hold a press conference to reintroduce the Credit for Caring Act.** The Credit for Caring Act is a bill (LRB-0768/1) that would create a nonrefundable individual income tax credit (caregiver tax credit) for people caring for a member or members of their family. Caregivers often need to spend their own personal finances to help meet the care needs of a loved one (on average they spend about \$7,000/year).



**Aging Advocacy Day 2019
Registration Opens Feb. 26th!**

Planning for Aging Advocacy Day (AAD) is in full swing! We hope you are busy making plans to attend. Registration for this year's event opens Feb. 26, 2019. On this date, you will find a registration link on WAAN's Aging Advocacy Day webpage - <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2019>.

Also on the AAD webpage under "Find What You Need" at the bottom of the page, you will find AAD promotional materials, including a variety of ads you can use to promote AAD in your newsletters. Additional materials will be added soon, including newsletter articles for your use.

This year's advocacy day will focus on the following aging network priorities (subject to change): Direct Care Workforce Support, Elder Benefit Specialist Funding, Family Caregiver Support, Healthy Aging Grants, and Transportation.

Registration Opens February 26, 2019

Aging Advocacy Day!

May 14, 2019, Madison, WI

10:00 a.m.* — 3:00 p.m.

Park Hotel, 22 S. Carroll St., Madison and the Wisconsin State Capitol

Join advocates from around the state to help educate state legislators about issues affecting older adults and caregivers in Wisconsin!

No experience necessary; training is provided prior to your meetings with state lawmakers at the State Capitol.

Make a Difference. Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Aging Advocacy Day 2019 activities focus on connecting aging advocates with their legislators to share the WAAN priorities and discuss state policy solutions to improve the health and well-being of the state's older adults.

Registration begins Feb. 26, 2019 at:

<https://gwaar.org/AgingAdvocacyDay> or contact your local aging unit or ADRC. **Registration deadline is April 30, 2019.** #WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD.

* Registration and check-in begin at 9:00 a.m.



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