



A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Wisconsin State Legislature

Prepared by the Wisconsin Legislative Council Staff, 2017

Citizens participate in all levels and branches of government. Three key ways in which citizens participate in the Legislative Branch are by:

- Being informed about the affairs of government;
- Communicating with their elected representatives; and
- Testifying at public hearings held by legislative committees.

This guide is a general description of typical procedures in the Wisconsin Legislature and is designed to help you, the citizen, participate in the Wisconsin State Legislature. It is in the following parts:

Introduction to the Legislature

How to Find Legislative Documents and Follow the Legislative Process

How to Contact Your Legislator

How to Testify at a Public Hearing

How to Read a Bill

Glossary of Common Legislative Terms

Supporting Effective Lawmaking Since 1947

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

One East Main Street, Suite 401 • Madison, WI 53703-3382

(608) 266-1304 • Fax: (608) 266-3830 • E-mail: leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>