

Wisconsin State 2018-2019 biennial budget process System Funding Elevator Speech talking points

Opening Line:

- I'm asking you to support funding for the library items in the state budget.
- Then talk about what it means to you and your patrons. How has this service helped someone or made a difference in their life?

System funding: Governor proposed no increase.

- As director of a small library on a tight budget I am stretched thin trying to provide the best service to our community.
- Winnefox provides support services that make this possible. Most of these services are in the background so the public never sees them.
- Tell the story here—mention something that's especially helpful or a time we made a difference. Try to tie it to direct service to patrons: "Because I got this from Winnefox I was able to do this for my patrons"

System funding: WLA is asking for modest increase to increase services for workforce development, broadband access, and lifelong learning.

- If you feel comfortable talking about the requested increase please do so. Otherwise just stick to the broader issue of the importance of system services.

Badgerlink: No increase requested in this budget.

- <https://badgerlink.dpi.wi.gov/> is the collection of online resources: newspapers & magazines, auto repair reference, etc.

Newsline for the Blind: Slight increase requested to maintain current service levels.

- This service of the National Federation of the Blind gives people who are blind, visually impaired, or who can't handle print, access to 400 magazines and newspapers.
- Access is online or over the phone. The magazine or paper is read to the user.
- <https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service>
- State funding makes this available to all Wisconsin residents who need it.

Library Resource Contracts: Slight increase requested to maintain current service levels.

- These contracts give Wisconsin residents access to specialized collections and services at:
 - The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
 - The Cooperative Children's Book Center
 - Milwaukee Public Library
 - UW-Madison libraries

More information

- Budget request priorities
<http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/images/awards/2017%20Budget%20Request%20Priorities.pdf>
- Budget background paper from WLA <http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/images/awards/2017-2019%20Budget%20Request%20Background.pdf>
- Tips for talking with legislators
<http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/images/awards/2017%20Tips%20for%20Talking%20With%20Legislators.pdf>
- State budget process flow chart
<http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/images/awards/2017%20WI%20State%20Budget%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>