



Briefing on State Legislative Process

Why is this important?

- Give CVSOs and members of the veterans community the tools, strategies, and know-how to:
 - *Effectively advocate on behalf of veterans*
 - Identify and target the most pertinent legislative stakeholders
 - Garner support or raise opposition to a particular proposal
 - Apply the political capital of the veterans community in an efficient, organized, and goal-oriented manner



WI Budget Process

- Continuous, 2-year (biennial) budget process
- Culminates in the introduction of the Governor's budget and the Legislature's evaluation and action on the budget
 - Typically 6 to 8 month period



Former Governor Doyle's budget address in 2003



Budget Timeline

- Fall – Early Winter 2010
 - State Agencies submit their budget requests to the Governor and the Department of Administration (DOA)
 - Visit following webpage for Major Budget Request: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/2011-13%20Budget/Agency%20Request/tableofcontents.htm>
 - Governor and DOA craft the Governor's budget
- Late January – Early February 2011
 - Governor introduces his budget to Legislature



Budget Timeline

■ February – April 2011

- Joint Finance Committee reviews budget
 - Advocacy groups and other legislators contact and meet with JFC members regarding items they strongly support or oppose
 - JFC holds public hearings across the state

■ April – May 2011

- JFC holds several executive sessions to amend and finalize the budget



Budget Timeline

■ June 2011

- Assembly and Senate review, caucus, amend, and vote on separate budgets
- Another key period for advocacy groups
- If budgets differ, a Conference Committee containing Leadership from both houses is formed to produce one Budget Report

■ June – August 2011

- Houses vote on Budget Report
- Sent to Governor, where vetoes or partial vetoes are introduced
- Results in passage unless Legislature seeks to override vetoes with 2/3 vote



JFC Members

■ Senate Finance Committee Members

- Co-Chair: Alberta Darling
 - Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, and Milwaukee Counties
- Vice-Chair: Luther Olsen
- Members: Shelia Harsdorf, Joe Leibham, Glenn Grothman, Randy Hopper, Lena Taylor, and Bob Jauch

■ Assembly Finance Committee Members

- Co-Chair: Robin Vos
 - Racine County
- Vice-Chair: Dan Meyer
- Members: Dan LeMahieu, John Nygren, Pat Strachota, Joel Kleefisch, Tamara Grigsby, and Jennifer Shilling





Helpful Links/Resources

Conclusion – Keeping Updated

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

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Wisconsin State Legislature website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. The website header features the text "WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE" and "State of Wisconsin Home Page". Navigation links include "Site Map", "Contact Us", and "FAQs".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Site Search:** Includes a search input field and a "Search" button.
- Home Page Menu:** A vertical list of links: Home, Senate, Assembly, Legislation, Joint Legislative Committees, Legislative Service Agencies, Wisconsin Law, Wisconsin Blue Book, and Other Information.
- Request text and history of legislative proposals:** Includes radio buttons for "Assembly" (selected) and "Senate", a "Proposal Type" dropdown menu set to "Bill", a "Proposal Number" input field, and a "Session" dropdown menu set to "2009 Regular Session". "Submit" and "Reset" buttons are at the bottom.
- LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:** A list of links: "2009-2010 Session Calendar", "Committee Schedule", "Senate Session", "Assembly Session", "Spotlight", "Session Statistics", and "Audio/Video Coverage".
- 2009 WI Act 2:** A link to "2009 Budget Bill as vetoed (Act 28)", "Republished Section 9122 (7i) of 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 (Executive Budget Bill)".
- SEARCHABLE INFOBASE:** A link to a "Searchable database of bills and amendments, statutes and other legislative documents."
- WHO REPRESENTS ME?:** A link to "Find your state and federal representatives." and "Legislative Districts".
- NOTIFICATION SERVICE:** A link to "Track legislative activities on proposals, committees, authors and subjects by receiving notification emails."

A central image shows the interior of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, with a caption: "Photos by Brent Nicastro and Jay Salvo".

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications (Inbox - Microsoft Out..., Wisconsin State Legis..., Links for CVSOs [Jan ..., Microsoft PowerPoint ...), and the system tray with the time 10:21 AM and 100% zoom.

Important Tracking Devices

<http://notify.legis.state.wi.us/Home.aspx>

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Wisconsin Legislative Notification Service website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://notify.legis.state.wi.us/NotifyItems.aspx>. The website header features the text "Wisconsin Legislative Notification Service" with a logo of a gavel and a Wisconsin state emblem. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Preferences", "Notify Items", "Add Items", and "Notify Activities".

The main content area is titled "NOTIFY ITEMS" and includes the instruction "View what items you are currently following." On the left side, there is a sidebar with the current user identified as "max.dulberger" and a "Log out" button. Below this, there are links for "Questions or comments?", "Contacts", "FAQs", "Glossary", "Legal notice", "Terms of Use", "Privacy Notice", and "Unsubscribe".

The central content area has four buttons: "Proposal", "Committee", "Author", and "Subject". The "Committee" button is highlighted. Below these buttons, a text box explains: "Click one of the four buttons above to view or edit those items you are currently following in that category." To the right, a section titled "Committees you are following" contains a "Remove" button, a radio button for "All Committee", and three checkboxes for "Finance (Joint)", "Veterans and Military Affairs (Assembly)", and "Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology, and Financial Institutions (Senate)". Below this list are two links: ">>> Add more committees to follow" and ">>> View/Edit the activities that trigger notifications about committees".

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications including "Inbox - Microsoft Out...", "Notify Items - Windo...", "Links for CVSOs [Jan ...", and "Microsoft PowerPoint ...", and the system clock showing "10:05 AM".

Keeping Updated

- **WDVA Legislative Page**
 - www.WisVets.com/legislation
- **Legislative Fiscal Bureau**
 - <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/>
 - All budget-related documents
- **Legislative Reference Bureau – Reference and Research Services**
 - <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/Research/index.htm>
 - Utilize research analysts on past and current legislation
 - Reference Desk: 608-266-0341

