



Advocacy at the State Level

Workforce Board members represent a variety of interests in the community and are most familiar with what is happening at the local level. Due to their unique perspective on how policy decisions can affect local job seekers and businesses, Workforce Board members are often called upon to advocate for the local workforce system by providing information to their State and Federal representatives.

Wisconsin Assembly/Wisconsin Senate

Representation:

Both the Assembly Chief Clerk Office and the Senate Chief Clerk Office can tell you who represents you in both the House and the Senate. They have district finders that are compiled after each census when the redistricting process is completed. Simply call the Assembly Chief Clerk Office at (608) 266-1501 or the Senate Chief Clerk Office at (608) 266-2517 to find out that information or stop into either office. The Wisconsin Legislature's website also contains this information:

<http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/>

Correspondence/Convey Your Opinion on an Issue:

The best way to get a legislator's attention is with a short, well-reasoned letter, sent via postal or e-mail. Most legislators respond only to constituents, so be sure to include your name, postal address and phone number. To be most effective be brief, outline your position clearly, and address only one issue in your letter. Form letters are generally not an effective way to advocate. If you're writing about a specific piece of legislation, find out the Assembly or Senate file number and status before you contact your legislator. For help, go to <http://www.legis.state.wi.us>

Letters should be addressed as following:

Representative (their last name)
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room (#), State Capitol
2 E. Main Street
Madison, WI 53708

-or-

Senator (their last name)
Wisconsin Senate
Room (#), Capitol Building
2 E. Main Street
Madison, WI 53708

The salutation should read: Dear Representative (name): or Dear Senator (name):

Invitations/Schedule a Meeting:

If you are planning to be in Madison during the legislative session, make an appointment to meet with your legislator! It's best to let them know when you're going to be at the Capitol so he or she can arrange to spend some time with you. Call or write prior to arrival.

During the non-legislative season, you can invite members to attend a meeting, tour a workforce center or another event being sponsored in your area. This can usually be arranged by contacting the legislator's staff.

Tracking Legislation:

If you have Internet access, visit the Web page: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us> There you can search for Assembly bills or Senate bills. Use the menu down the left side to search by author, keyword, etc. There is also a general search box on the upper banner of the site. You may encounter several bills dealing with your topic. Simply browse through them until you find the one you're looking for by clicking on the links. *Note the menu on the left is expandable so use the (+) signs to expand or the "more" link.

Capitol Grounds Map:

There is little parking on the square by the Capitol Grounds, however there are Public Parking ramps available at 214 N. Carroll St. (#8); 218 East Mifflin St. (#4); 215 S. Pinckney St.(#5). All of the ramps listed have hourly rates that range from \$.85- \$1.15 per hour.

