About UW-Extension's Local Government Center

Mission
The mission of the Local Government Center is to provide focus, coordination, and leadership to UW System educational programs for local government, and to expand the research and knowledge base for local government education.

History
The University of Wisconsin-Extension's Local Government Center became operational in January of 1992. Initially created as a two Division unit (i.e., Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Extension), the Center was reorganized as a Cooperative Extension unit in July of 1994. At that same time, Specialist support was added to address the emerging needs in growth management and community planning and design.

High points of Local Government Center history are celebrated on the [Milestones](#) page.

Center Specialists

**Chuck Law**
LGC Director and Community Planning and Design Specialist
chuck.law@uwex.edu

Overall Center program delivery and coordination. Funding mechanisms for downtown redevelopment; rural landscape preservation.

**Dan Hill**
Local Government Specialist
dan.hill@uwex.edu

Transportation, open meetings, open records, elections, meeting management, agendas, minutes, parliamentary procedure, public policy education.
Kate Lawton
Local Government Specialist
kate.lawton@uwex.edu
Local government finance and general governance.

Alan Probst
Local Government Specialist
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Local government finance, administration and intergovernmental cooperation.

Philip Freeburg
Local Government Law Educator
philip.freeburg@uwex.edu
Local government law in general; powers and duties of local government bodies and officials; land use regulation, open meetings and records, ethics and conflicts of interest.

Larry Larmer
Outreach Specialist
aardvark@chorus.net
Parliamentary procedure, conducting government meetings, minutes.

Jim Schneider
Outreach Specialist
jim.schneider@uwex.edu
Local government law in general; powers and duties of local officials and bodies; local and intergovernmental land use authority; open meetings; ethics and conflicts of interest.

Center Support Staff
Tenley Meyer (608) 262-9961 tenley.meyer@uwex.edu
Anne Kimber (608) 262-9960 anne.kimber@uwex.edu
Direct Educational Activities

- Workshops: Full-day seminars offered throughout the state for local officials.
- WisLine programs: Statewide teleconferences offered in cooperation with county Cooperative Extension educators.
- Educational materials: Available online or by mail.
- LGC website lgc.uwex.edu: Downloadable fact sheets, bibliographies, and useful links.

UWEX County Educator Training and Support

The LGC provides the following support to county educators:

- Programming assistance: Help with educational design, delivery and evaluation.
- Ongoing communication about programs, current events, and government issues via email, teleconferences, and educational materials.
- Professional development opportunities.
- Coordination

LGC Specialists meet regularly with an advisory committee, made up of the directors of the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, to identify and discuss topics for educational programs of interest to local government officials.

LGC specialists often refer special requests and educational needs to individual UW System faculty and state agency staff to help develop an appropriate educational response.

When appropriate, the LGC helps identify key local government issues having statewide impact and helps coordinate applied research projects to address them.

LGC Specialists participate on a number of state-level committees that deal with issues of local importance.

Through the Continuing Education Division's Governmental Affairs Consortium (GAC), the LGC helps coordinate local government education programs offered throughout the University of Wisconsin System.