



News and Notices

GAB and Local Government Center Prepare Wisconsin for Voter ID

Wisconsin conducts elections in 72 counties, which are subdivided into over 1850 cities, villages and towns that divide further into districts and wards for local polling places. When the Wisconsin Legislature created the Voter ID law and other election law changes, it created the challenge of training municipal clerks and election workers at all the numerous levels about the new requirements and procedures. Meeting that challenge is the Government Accountability Board – Elections Division (GAB) and UW Extension’s Local Government Center (LGC).

Starting with a program that aired on November 30, 2011, the LGC began addressing the new legislation with “A Review of 2011 Election Law Changes – And What’s Ahead In 2012” presented by GAB staff. A WisLine is a live teleconference that registrants attend at a one of over 70 public WisLine sites around Wisconsin. 845 persons attended the live program, and 249 obtained CD recordings of the program bundled with the written materials.

850 municipal clerks currently plan to attend the live December 14, 2011, program or use the CD bundles of “Voter Photo ID and Provisional Voting Information for Clerks,” and almost 700 are registered at the time this was written for either the CD bundles or the live program on January 18, 2012, about the same topic tailored to election workers. In January alone, LGC anticipates creating over 800 CDs of the Election WisLines scheduled that month.

See the WisLine Schedule below for specific dates or go to the Local Government Center website at <http://lgc.uwex.edu/>.

Upcoming WisLines

Conducting Local Elections

- 1/18 - Voter ID - for Election Day Officials
- 1/25: Training for Election Day Officials
- 3/7: Cracker Barrel

Current Issues Affecting Local Government Officials

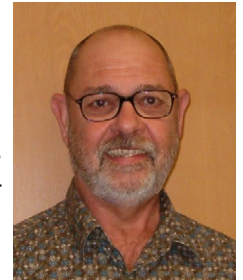
- 2/14: Telecommunications Deregulation and Broadband Expansion
- 3/13: How to Run the Annual Town Meeting
- 3/27: Regulation of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing
- 4/10, 4/24, 4/26, 5/1: Board of Review

Local Land Use, Planning and Zoning

- 12/21: Plan Commission and BOA Members as Local Officials
- 1/11: Using and Amending Your Comprehensive Plan
- 2/8: State Land Use Program Updates
- 3/14: Business Improvement District (BID) Basics
- 4/11: Legislation and Case Law Update

Open Government and Parliamentary Procedure WisLine Returns

Beginning January 2012, Professor Larry Larmer returns to the Local Government Center coordinating the “Open Government and Parliamentary Procedure” WisLine Series. Larry is a popular expert on parliamentary procedure and the author of *A Guide to Parliamentary Procedure for Local Government*. Assistant Attorneys General Bruce Olson and Mary Burke, as well as League of Wisconsin Municipalities attorneys Claire Silverman and Daniel Olson and Wisconsin Towns Association attorneys Carol Nawrocki and Lee Turonie will teach about Open Meetings Law and Public Records Laws. Attorney Jonathon Becker of the GAB – Ethics Division and Attorney Philip Freeburg of the Local Government Center will teach about Local Public Official Ethics. These are the Open Government sessions of the series.



Parliamentary Procedure will be a four program course taught by Larry Larmer over 4 weeks beginning February 9, 2012. Participants will sign up for the entire course and materials will include a copy of Larry’s book.

For the first time, this WisLine Series will be available on CD with the materials after the live programs, or streamed through the Internet. See your county UW Extension Office for a brochure, or visit the LGC website at <http://lgc.uwex.edu/>.

Program dates:

- 1/19/12: Open Meetings Law
- 1/26/12: Public Records Law
- 2/2/12: Ethics and Conflicts of Interest
- 2/9/12, 2/16/12, 2/23/12, 3/1/12: Parliamentary Procedure

Spanish Open Meetings Fact Sheet Expands Center’s Audience

When Wisconsin’s first Constitutions were ready for approval by the voters in 1846-47, many of those voters did not speak English. To be certain all Wisconsin residents understood these documents that would affect their lives, territorial publishers printed not only English versions, but German and Norwegian language versions as well.

A vital principle of modern Wisconsin local government is the policy of open decision- making codified in the Open Meetings Law. To expand information access, assist understanding and encourage participation in local government, the Local Government Center has piloted translating some of its materials into Spanish, beginning with its Open Meetings Law Fact Sheet 1. The English and Spanish versions are both available on the “Documents” page of the Local Government Center Web site.