



Legislative Advocacy 101

1. Tell the legislator or staff member who you are and where you live. Explain why the Wisconsin Historical Society and your local history affiliate are important to you. (How do they improve your quality of life, foster civic engagement in your community, build community ties, and provide lifelong learning opportunities?)
2. Thank the lawmaker or staff member for their support of the Society and your local history affiliate.
 - Enumerating \$70 million for the Wisconsin Historical Society Museum in the 2019-2021 Capital Budget
 - Authorizing permanent position authority for 46.5 jobs in the 2019-2021 State Biennial Budget
3. Issues you can discuss:
 - Statewide Society Programs of Importance (411 document/Scorecard)
 - The Historic Sites (411 document/Scorecard)
4. Why are the Society's state budget priorities important for your community?

Because we are among the nation's oldest, largest, most active state historical societies with world-class collections, the Society is a trusted source of historical information. We are proud to serve a critical role as the preservers and transmitters of cultural heritage from generation to generation.

The Society makes major contributions to Wisconsin's economic, educational and cultural health through innovative initiatives and programs. Our educational programs inform and entertain adults and challenge young people to think critically about their place in history.

Historic preservation improves Wisconsin's quality of life and reinvigorates neighborhoods. Our historic sites, museum, collections, archives and programs promote tourism and provide for comprehensive study, appreciation and enjoyment of North American history.

5. Closing comments

The Society wants Wisconsinites to find themselves as part of the state's story. By immersing the public in the lives of Wisconsin people past and present, we hope to invite people to participate in conversations that connect the past to the most vital issues of the present and future.

Thank you for your time. Do you have any questions?



2019-2021 Biennial and Capital Budget Talking Points

History Museum Project:

- **Thank you and your colleagues** for supporting the enumeration of \$70 million dollars in the 2019-2021 capital budget for the Wisconsin History Museum!!!!
- A new history museum has been discussed for almost two decades. It has enjoyed the support of both Republican and Democratic governors and you have made this project a reality.
- As you know, a new museum will address critical problems with the current museum involving public safety, inadequate space for exhibits and visitors (sometimes forcing school groups to be turned away), failing technology and facility maintenance issues that will cost millions.
- This museum will serve as the hub for statewide history education and outreach.

Details:

- The Wisconsin Historical Society is pursuing a 100,000 gross square foot museum in a mixed-use development that would allow the museum to expand its current footprint on the Capital Square in Madison.
- The museum project is estimated to cost \$120 million. It will be built through a public-private partnership between the State of Wisconsin and private donors. The Wisconsin Historical Foundation has undertaken a campaign to raise \$50 million in private support for the museum (\$30 million for construction and \$20 million for an endowment). Former Governors Tommy Thompson and Jim Doyle are the co-chairs of the campaign.
- The new museum project will allow the Wisconsin Historical Society to:
 - Accommodate twice as many students each school year.
 - Reach students and local history organizations in all 72 counties with distance learning technology.
 - Enhance local history partnerships through changing galleries and traveling exhibits.
 - Offer enough room to display the Society's largest objects.

46.5 FTE Authority:

- THANK YOU! For the Society to realize its goals and increase services throughout Wisconsin, and remain a national leader into the 21st century, the agency's position authority must align with its core, year-round, staffing requirements. This provision allows that to happen.

Details:

- This authority allows WHS to move staff currently doing core jobs with LTE status to FTE positions.
- This authority is critical for the Society to fulfill its state mandates and core services and create an equitable and effective workforce.

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

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wisconsinhistory.org