



131 W. Wilson St., Suite 505  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
phone (608) 267-2380; (800) 991-5502  
fax: (608) 267-0645  
league@lwm-info.org; www.lwm-info.org

For Immediate Release  
June 18, 2018

### **League Members Appointed to Legislative Study Committees**

Contact: Jerry Deschane, Executive Director or Curt Witynski, Deputy Executive Director at 608-267-2380

**Madison** - The League of Wisconsin Municipalities was pleased that several recommended appointments to specific Legislative Council Study Committees were accepted.

#### **The Legislative Council Study Committee on Property Tax Assessment Practices**

The Committee was called as a result of the stalled Dark Store loophole and *Walgreen's* reversal legislation that the League advocated for in the 2017-18 Legislative Session. Both bills had broad bipartisan support. National big box retailers across Wisconsin have challenged their assessments, often arguing that their property should be assessed at less than half their value. As a result of this special tax treatment, residential property taxpayers who are already carrying 68% of the property tax levy, are increasingly picking up a bigger share of the costs of providing local government services.

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Towns Association, and the Wisconsin Counties Association joined in recommending Assessor Rocco Vita, Village of Pleasant Prairie and Attorney Amy Seibel, Seibel Law Offices LLC, for appointment to the Committee. The League is pleased that both were appointed to this important committee.

#### **The Legislative Council Study Committee on the Investment and Use of the School Trust Funds**

Because Wisconsin's cities and villages highly value the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) loan program, the League recommended Menasha Mayor Don Merkes for appointment to the committee and was pleased our recommendation was followed. The BCPL has long provided an efficient and effective method for financing municipal infrastructure, economic development and capital equipment purchases.

#### **The Legislative Council Study Committee on Alcohol Beverages Enforcement**

Since municipalities are responsible for issuing licenses for the retail sale of alcohol beverages, the League recommended the appointment of veteran local government attorney John Macy, Municipal Law & Litigation Group, S.C. to the Committee. Municipal police are often the first to respond to incidences at licensed establishments and automobile accidents involving drunk driving. Having an attorney knowledgeable about the role of municipal government in the enforcement of alcohol beverage laws will aid the committee in coming to comprehensive recommendations.

The League thanks the legislators and experts serving on these study committees. We look forward to working with them as they seek to resolve these critical issues.

###