

| DATE/TIME* | LOCATION | ITEM | DESCRIPTION |
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| January through June, 2019 | Delaware libraries | Legislative Visits | <p>Library Directors and Managers are encouraged to send a personal email to their Senators and Representatives to invite them to visit. Highlight the top three programs/dates your library has scheduled for photo ops with legislators and to help legislators see your library in action. Ask legislators to let you know when they are coming!</p> <p>When scheduled, let the DLA Legislative Action Committee (dla@lib.de.us) and DDL (events@lib.de.us) know so that we may coordinate efforts and promote the events.</p> <p>Especially important: If your legislator is new this year, please reach out and make contact.**</p> |
| Tuesday, January 8 Time: Meet before 2pm; Sessions begin at 2pm | Legislative Hall, Dover | Legislative Session Begins (break from 1/25 through 3/4) | <p>Session days are normally Tuesdays and Thursdays. Regular session start times are 2pm; end times vary.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for library advocates to meet with Representatives and Senators at their offices in Leg Hall. Session days are also a good opportunity to wear Passion shirts, mingle, hand out small library-related buttons, 3D printed magnets, stickers.</p> <p>Other ways to keep in contact are to attend your local Representative's or Senator's community meetings, frequently billed as "monthly coffee with constituents" – often on non-session days. Check on their Facebook or other social media, subscribe to their notifications to be alerted via email.</p> <p>If you are planning to meet with your Senator or Representative, please let the DLA Legislative Action Committee (dla@lib.de.us) and DDL (events@lib.de.us) know so that we may coordinate our efforts.</p> |
| Wednesdays, as scheduled | Legislative Hall, Dover | Committee Days | <p>Wednesdays are devoted to the reviewing and analyzing of specific bills by various legislative committees, such as the House or Senate Education Committee. These meetings can be key opportunities for libraries to be represented, such as on the topic of literacy/reading skills and social services.</p> <p>Committee meetings are open to the public and there is almost always an opportunity to say a few words (under 2 minutes) to tie the Committee's work on a particular Bill to libraries (keep it relevant). Comments should be kept at a broad level but be prepared for questions.***</p> <p>To review the Committees and their members: http://legis.delaware.gov/Committees .</p> <p>For Committee agendas and relevant Bills see the General Assembly's Calendar (https://legis.delaware.gov/SessionCalendar)</p> |
| Thursday, January 17 Time: around 2:00pm or 2:30pm | Senate Chambers Legislative Hall, Dover and live-streamed | State of the State (Governor's Annual Message) | <p>To attend online, log onto the Governor's Facebook page for live streaming of the event (https://www.facebook.com/JohnCarneyDE/).</p> <p>To attend in person: This event is open to the public but it's best to keep groups to 5 or under since space is very limited. This is a good opportunity to wear Passion shirts, mingle, hand out small library-related buttons, 3D printed magnets, stickers.</p> |

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| Thursday, January 24 Time: 11:00am | Delaware Public Archives/Delaware Room (restrictive) And live-streamed After address, Legislative Hall, Dover | Budget Address (given by Governor) | <p>The Budget Address highlights the ‘tone’ of the budget, such as what is emphasized and deemed important. The Address is given as a kind of press conference in the Delaware Room of the Delaware Public Archives building, so the limited space is devoted to the press and a few dignitaries. It will be live-streamed on the Governor’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/JohnCarneyDE/).</p> <p>Library advocates can go to Legislative Hall around 1:00pm (until 2:00 pm) to watch and discuss with legislators. Wear library Passion t-shirts. Engage Senators and Representatives in conversations about how libraries use public funds in smart and efficient ways. This is the perfect opportunity to talk about the “One Ask” in the context of the budget process.</p> <p>If you are able to meet up and talk about this with legislators, please inform the DLA Legislative Action Committee (dla@lib.de.us) and DDL (events@lib.de.us).</p> |
| Tuesday, January 29 until February 21 | Legislative Hall, Dover | Joint Finance Committee (kick-off on 1/29) | <p>The Joint Finance Committee members are listed at: http://legis.delaware.gov/Committees.</p> <p>These hearings are scheduled for Monday through Thursday. Some meetings may be cancelled due to inclement weather or other reasons. The make-up week is held the final week of February, if needed.</p> |
| Wednesday, January 30 Time: 1:30pm (be early) | Legislative Hall, Dover | The Department of State (DOS) Joint Finance Committee Hearing | <p>Secretary of State Jeff Bullock (https://sos.delaware.gov/secretary-state-jeffrey-w-bullock/) will present the Department of State’s recommended budget to the JFC. Members of the public can sign up to give a 2-minute comment to the committee. The committee will not write the actual budget or “crunch numbers” at this hearing. These sessions are to hear from cabinet members and the public, and to have a discussion about the department, including libraries.</p> <p>Every year, State Librarian Annie Norman coordinates with the Council On Libraries and Friends of Delaware Libraries to designate one or two advocates to speak for all Delaware libraries. It is recommended to provide the “One Ask” handout to JFC members at this event.</p> |
| Tuesday, March 5 through April 18 Time: Meet before 2pm; Sessions begin at 2pm | Legislative Hall, Dover | Legislative Sessions resume | <p>Session days are normally Tuesdays and Thursdays. Regular session start times are 2pm; end times vary.</p> <p>Now that legislators are returning to Session, this period of time can be used to talk to Senators and Representatives more specifically about how the budget is shaping up. It’s a good time to ask such questions as, “Is the funding for libraries in the budget?” and “Do you know if the JFC has the amount we are asking for in the budget?” Offer to call or email the JFC members if the legislator does not know, on their behalf. If information is found, report that back to the legislator.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for library advocates to pick up the pace, use their library skills, and be more pro-active.</p> <p>If you are planning to meet with your Senator or Representative, please let the DLA Legislative Action Committee (dla@lib.de.us) and DDL (events@lib.de.us) know so that we may coordinate our efforts.</p> |
| Tuesday, April 2 Time: 2:00pm (be early) | Legislative Hall, Dover | Capital Improvement (a.k.a Bond Bill) | <p>Secretary of State Jeff Bullock (https://sos.delaware.gov/secretary-state-jeffrey-w-bullock/) will present the Department of State’s recommended capital improvement budget (including libraries) to the committee. Every library with a construction request needs to have a representative at the hearing to be available to answer questions. Libraries with projects will be contacted by DDL before the hearing.</p> |
| April 22 - May 3 | ---- | Easter/Spring Break | ---- |

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| Tuesday, May 7 through May 17 Time: Meet Before 2pm; Sessions begin at 2pm | Legislative Hall, Dover | Legislative Sessions resume | Continue reminding Senators and Representatives about library funding (use the “One Ask” initiative). See above for budget-related questions to ask legislators. If you cannot meet in person, email or call your legislator. (DLA Legislative Action Committee may coordinate a letter-writing action during this time.) |
| Monday, May 20 through May 30 | ---- | Legislative Session Break | ---- |
| Monday, May 20 through May 30 Time TBD | Legislative Hall, Dover | Joint Finance Committee Mark-Up | The JFC uses this time to “write” the actual budget legislation, making decisions about exact levels of funding and how funds are to be used. Although these are public sessions, there is no opportunity for the public to ask questions or give comments. Once finalized, the Budget Bill may be passed early. Watch for news. |
| Tuesday, June 4 through 27 Time: Sessions begin at 2pm | Probably Buena Vista location | Delaware Fiscal Advisory Council (DEFAC) | This is the date that the final projections for spending will be released. DEFAC is a non-partisan committee of experts. Members of the General Assembly attend and it is open to the public. It is considered a final milestone in the budget process. Watch for news and make a note about what is reported: Is the budget stable? Did it swing one way or another? |
| Sunday, June 30 | Legislative Hall, Dover | Legislature in Special Session | This is the final day of session. Legislators stay in session until after midnight as it preserves a privilege of the legislature to reconvene if necessary. Typically, session convenes in the early evening and continues until all of the budget measures have been passed. Library advocates can come for a portion of the evening, wear buttons and t-shirts, and mingle. Budget decisions will be final by now, and although it does not influence the FY20 budget, being present helps to keep libraries on the forefront. |

* Dates & Times subject to change, check the Session Calendar to confirm. (<https://legis.delaware.gov/SessionCalendar>).

** Our statewide message is crafted through the “One Ask” initiative. This helps us advocate for libraries with a unified voice and clear message about how legislators can best help libraries this year. For more information, please contact the DLA Legislative Action Committee or see the DLA website (dla.lib.de.us), under “Legislative Action.”

*** If you are planning to attend a Committee Meeting, please notify the DLA Legislative Action Committee (dla@lib.de.us) and DDL (events@lib.de.us) so that we may coordinate our efforts.