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SUB ____ to 2018 RES-474 (PROPOSED-CORRIGAN)
2019-2021 DANE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

General Principle

The state shall foster equitable and inclusive opportunities for all state residents by supporting and funding proactive, evidence-based programs and policies that advance the elimination of racial and socio-economic disparities and recognize the unique role counties play in administering state programs by:

1. Fairly sharing responsibility with the counties in determining the scope, design, and cost of statewide programs;
2. Providing adequate and predictable shares of funding for state services delivered by the counties;
3. Helping counties reduce the need to rely on property taxes; and
4. Enhancing the ability of counties to more effectively manage county government.

In furthering these principles Dane County will assess policies via an analysis that asks:

- Who benefits?
- Who is burdened?
- Who does not have a voice at the table?
- How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Surface and Ground Water Quality

- **Water Quality:** Maintain level of DNR funds for water quality planning and watershed projects. Support increased DNR financial assistance as an incentive to reduce non-point source pollution. Seek a fair share of state funding for inland waterways and lakes. Target state funds to where there is a high likelihood of project success, where recipient units of government have a proven track record of meeting state and local water resource goals. Support legislation to provide additional funding and staffing for local water quality protection, improvement and unfunded mandates.
- **Soil Erosion:** Support DNR and/or legislative streamlining of NR297 process to deal more quickly with cropland soil erosion that threatens water resources. Control soil erosion to acceptable limits, e.g., tolerable soil loss levels, for the production of food and fiber. Support DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management programs implementation, e.g., NR243 cost sharing and Land and Water Resource Management Plan implementation and cost sharing.
- **Comprehensive Approach to Control Lake Levels:** Request the DNR to adopt a comprehensive approach to managing the levels of the lakes through collaboration with affected parties, including dam operators, municipalities and regulatory agencies toward improving natural hydrologic conditions and habitat.
- **Keep Asian Carp Out of Wisconsin Waterways:** Call on the WI Department of Natural Resources and the federal government to increase their efforts to stop the destructive advance of the Asian carp through Wisconsin.
- **Mining Reform:** Monitor mining reform legislation, oppose provisions that usurp local government role and suspend floodplain rules that would nullify flood insurance and federal disaster assistance.
- **Water Management:** Support local governmental efforts to improve water management through water conservation, a balanced water budget and enhanced groundwater recharge.

- 50 • **High Capacity Wells:** Oppose limiting, relaxing or thwarting the regulation of high
51 capacity wells.
- 52 • **Lead Pollution:** Support statewide/Utility User funding to help local governments
53 mitigate lead contamination in drinking water.
- 54 • **Public Trust Doctrine:** Oppose legislation that erodes the Public Trust Doctrine and
55 DNR's ability to regulate navigable waters.
56

57 **Natural Resources Conservation**

- 58 • **Stewardship Fund:** Support annually adjusting the State Stewardship Fund for inflation
59 to maintain at least 1990 funding levels. Eliminate Stewardship Fund requirements for
60 hunting and trapping.
- 61 • **State Urban Forestry Grants:** Allow towns, counties, and non-profits to access both the
62 federal and state funds in the Urban Forestry Grant Program.
- 63 • **Payments in Lieu of Taxes:** Authorize counties to make payments in lieu of taxes
64 to other local units of government when the county takes land off the tax rolls for
65 conservation purposes.
- 66 • **Mercury Products Ban:** The State should ban the sale of mercury-containing products,
67 with the exception of dental fillings and fluorescent lamps. If the ban is implemented on a
68 phased-in basis, retailers should be required to take back for recycling those mercury-
69 containing products that they are selling until the ban for each product takes effect.
- 70 • **Mercury Rules:** Support changes to the mercury rules to achieve a 90% reduction per
71 DNR rule.
- 72 • **DNR Budget Reductions:** Oppose reductions in DNR staffing that affect Dane County
73 water programs, including regulatory programs, lake/fishery, runoff specialists,
74 conservation wardens, land conservation and parks programs.
- 75 • **Reduce Fine Particle Emissions:** Target fine particle pollution non-attainment areas by
76 providing increased funding and new incentives for fine particle emission reduction
77 programs, including programs that reduce emissions from transportation sources and
78 point sources through the increased use of alternative fuels, renewable energy
79 sources, and energy efficiency improvements.
- 80 • **Diesel Idling Regulations:** Support statewide implementation of diesel idling
81 regulations for trucks, buses and other diesel engines.
82

83 **Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

- 84 • **Revise Formula for DATCP Administrative Funding to Counties:** Support a revision
85 in the formula the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
86 (DATCP) uses to distribute administrative funding to counties for administration of the
87 Farmland Preservation Program, Nutrient Management Program and the implementation
88 of performance standards. Use criteria for distribution that include number of farms,
89 acres of cropland, number of livestock and amount of resource waters in a county.
- 90 • **State Commercial Building Code:** Support the exemption from the state Commercial
91 Building Code of farm buildings used for agricultural purposes or horse boarding/stabling
92 facilities.
- 93 • **Restore Funding for Soil & Water Resource Management Program:** Return \$9.3
94 million to state aid for county conservation employees who assist WI farmers and help
95 grow the state's agriculture industry.
- 96 • **Foreign Interests in Farmland:** Oppose legislation that removes limits on foreign
97 ownership of Wisconsin agricultural land.
- 98 • **Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock:** Support national/statewide ban on
99 non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production/agriculture.
100

101 **Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience**

- 102 • **Alternative Energy Production:** Support statewide funding in the form of grants and
103 incentives leading to the increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar
104 and biomass.
- 105 • **Green Jobs Economic Development:** Support statewide funding in the form of grants
106 or incentives, for counties to develop, create and attract green job opportunities with
107 green companies or industry.
- 108 • **Renewable Energy:** Oppose legislation that restricts or prevents waste-to-energy and
109 renewable energy as viable energy sources for utilities and consumers.
- 110 • **Clean Energy Choice:** Support legislation to increase affordability/sustainability of
111 renewable energy in Wisconsin.
- 112 • **Divestment from Fossil Fuels:** Support zero investments in fossil fuel companies
113 for Dane County, all local governments and state institutions.
- 114 • **Balanced & Fair Partnership Between Digesters, Gas Recovery Programs & Utility
115 Companies:** Create a statewide reimbursement competitive grant program to enhance
116 and fund bioenergy projects.
- 117 • **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change. Enhance county
118 authority and funding for county-level action planning, mitigation, adaptation, and
119 resilience around the impacts of climate change, including climate change influenced by
120 human activity.

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123 **Access to High Quality Health Care**

- 124 • **Dental Access:** Support policies and/or legislation that would ensure access to dental
125 care for all residents including those on Medical Assistance.
- 126 • **Medicaid Expansion:** Support implementation of the Medicaid expansion under the
127 federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Allow Wisconsin to use the Medicaid option to close
128 the gap in BadgerCare for childless adults. If WI closes the gap, full federal funding will
129 be available for three years 2014-2016, followed by gradual reductions to 90% by 2020.
130 ACA creates other innovative benefits and programs that states and counties will help to
131 implement. Accept available federal funds for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of
132 Wisconsin citizens have access to quality and affordable health coverage.
- 133 • **Key Funding Streams:** Support Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases in key
134 funding areas from the state including Youth Aids, Community Aids, COP and CIP.

135 **Economic Assistance**

- 136 • **Income Maintenance Programs:** Support funding levels and legislation that provide
137 sufficient resources to administer non-cash benefit programs such as Food Stamps,
138 Medical Assistance, Child Care and issue benefits to all eligible people. Oppose
139 changes to the eligibility/enrollment process and services funded under Medicaid and
140 Income Maintenance.
- 141 • **W-2 Funding:** Support funding to pay all W-2 cash benefits and administrative expenses
- 142 • **Childcare:** Support sufficient funding for childcare. Expand eligibility to include childcare
143 support for low-income individuals pursuing higher education leading to employment.
- 144 • **Property Tax Exemptions Low Income Housing:** Clarify 70.11 Wis. Stats. to define
145 "maintenance" as "repair and maintenance of property, capital replacements, insurance
146 premiums, project management, debt retirement, project-related reserves, general
147 administrative expenses, resident services, utilities, financing costs, preservation
148 expenses and similar project-related expenses."
- 149 • **Centralization of Economic Support Programs:** Oppose initiatives to remove income
150 maintenance administration from counties and create a centralized income maintenance
151 unit.

- 152 • **Medicaid Funding:** Support enabling counties to accept/administer Medicaid funding at
153 the county level.
- 154 • **Drug Testing:** Oppose legislation that would enact drug testing as a requirement for
155 public benefits. Also oppose drug testing of youth in our public schools.
156

157 **Services for Older Adults, the Developmentally/Physically Disabled and Mentally Ill**

- 158 • **Birth to Three:** Support additional financial support from the state for this program.
159 Support a modification of State Statutes to require health insurers to make third party
160 payments to defray the cost of Birth to Three care for families that have private health
161 insurance policies.
- 162 • **Community Support Program (CSP):** Continue program. Have additional state funding
163 to help reduce county costs and serve those whom can benefit from the program.
- 164 • **RSVP Services:** Support increased funding for the RSVP Program
- 165 • **Seniorcare and BadgerCare:** Maintain Seniorcare and BadgerCare continuing
166 programs.
- 167 • **Handicap Access:** Support “visit ability” legislation to allow handicap access devices in
168 new homes or eliminate barriers in older homes.
- 169 • **Long Term Care Reform:** Plans developed by the state in the area of long term care
170 need to protect quality and availability of services to consumers and maintain control by
171 the county of programs or relieve the county of financial aid and/or legal obligations for
172 the programs and participants if the county is not involved with these programs in the
173 future. The required county contribution towards LTC should be equitably negotiated.
174 Support adequate funding for the start-up and ongoing funding of ADRCs. Amend
175 Chapter 55 to delineate state and county responsibilities.
- 176 • **Equitable Funding for Long Term Care:** Extend higher federal MA reimbursement
177 rates under the federal stimulus package to current county-administered long term care
178 MA waiver programs where county revenues comprise the non-federal match. Support
179 freezing further county participation in Family Care until the State can fully fund county
180 program start-up costs and find more equitable ways of funding Family Care without
181 penalizing counties, such as Dane, for the substantial financial commitment and
182 innovative approaches already taken to meet long term care needs of its residents.”
- 183 • **Employment Services for Older Adults:** Extend the use of state and county funds to
184 encourage the business community and technical colleges to create and support
185 retraining and placement of older adults entering/re-entering employment, especially
186 those lacking English proficiency.
- 187 • **Family Caregivers:** Provide financial support and tax credits to family caregivers.
- 188 • **Dementia Patient Rights:** Oppose involuntary psychotropic drug administration in
189 Chapters 51 and 55.
- 190 • **Comprehensive Community Services (CCS):** Support continued full funding of the
191 state match.
- 192 • **InvestaCare (Long Term Care Investment Fund):** Support legislation to establish a
193 long term care investment savings program for individuals 18 years and older to meet
194 future long term care needs through financial contributions.
- 195 • **Family Care/IRIS:** Oppose changes that weaken the Family Care, and IRIS
196 programs, eliminate CIP/COP waivers, propose negative changes to the Family
197 Support program/Medicaid Personal Care Services, and weaken or privatize Aging &
198 Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). Such changes will create dire consequences for
199 people with developmental/physical disabilities, including children and their families and
200 older adults in Dane County.
- 201 • **Mental Health and Drug Addiction Treatment:** Urge the state of Wisconsin to require
202 increased insurance coverage and MA reimbursement rates in addition to adequate
203 statewide funding for mental health services and drug addiction treatment programs.
- 204 • **Winnebago Mental Health Transfers:** Urge DHS to rescind its requirement to transfer
205 detained mental health patients to Winnebago Mental Health Institute instead of

206 Mendota.

- 207 • **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation:** Currently Medical Transportation
208 Management Inc. (MTM) is contracted by the state of Wisconsin to provide rides for
209 Medicaid eligible individuals to gain access to medical appointments. Contract
210 provisions are skewed to reward MTM for denying rides instead of providing rides.
211 Ongoing complaints about the quality of service suggest little accountability or
212 oversight creating greater problems for the “transportation disadvantaged.” Support
213 entities or other actions that will hold MTM accountable, improve oversight of the
214 program, ensure quality, consistent services, resolve complaints and provide
215 incentives for giving not denying rides.

216

217 **Services for Children, Youth, and Families**

- 218 • **Career Development for Youth:** Support funding to provide educational, work skill
219 development, transportation and mentoring services for youth or young adults who are
220 at risk of dropping out, have dropped out of high school or who are unemployed post
221 high school and lack the knowledge and skills necessary to secure and maintain
222 gainful employment.
- 223 • **Early Childhood Initiative:** Support legislation to continue funding for the Early
224 Childhood Initiative programs.
- 225 • **Apprenticeship/Internships:** Provide incentives for the business community and
226 technical college system to create and support apprenticeship/internship opportunities
227 to young adults. Expedite entry and graduation from the programs to meet increasing
228 demands to fill vacancies created by an aging workforce.
- 229 • **Prevention Funding:** Support initiatives that provide additional funds for primary
230 prevention programs including delinquency, child abuse/neglect and elder/abuse neglect.
- 231 • **Relative Caregivers:** Support legislation/policies that provide additional State support to
232 relatives who take care of non-custodial children.
- 233 • **Kinship Care:** Support funding to meet needs of all that are eligible.
- 234 • **Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR):** Eliminate WIMCR program or fully
235 reimburse counties for the revenues they would have received under the Community
236 Services Deficit Reduction Benefit (CSDRB) and Community Based Medicaid
237 Administrative Claiming (CBMAC) programs which were impacted by the creation of
238 WIMCR.
- 239 • **Family Child Care:** Support legislation to extend the state rules governing foster care
240 background checks to family day care providers.
- 241 • **At-Risk Youth Report to School Board:** Develop a program for newly released at-risk
242 students to interact with/give progress reports to school boards.
- 243 • **Law Enforcement Role in Child Abuse & Neglect:** Oppose legislation that usurps the
244 authority of county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and
245 neglect cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS, increases penalties and changes the
246 neglect definition to target low income and marginalized communities.
- 247 • **Child Support:** Request the Legislature designate additional state monies to the
248 Wisconsin County Child Support Program in order to continue to provide the current high
249 level of service.

250

251 **Youth Justice**

- 252 • **Juvenile Justice:** Support continued funding for early intervention and intensive
253 treatment programs.
- 254 • **Youth Aids:** Support legislation to increase state funding for out-of-home care costs for
255 juvenile offenders now paid for by Dane County. Limit increases in state rates for out of

- 256 home placements for juveniles (including corrections, child caring institutions and
257 residential care facilities) to no more than the increase in Youth Aids.
- 258 • **17 Year Olds:** Remove 17 year olds from the adult correctional system and return them
259 to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Corrections.
 - 260 • **Countywide Youth Collaboration:** Create two pilot programs funded at \$100,000 to
261 foster countywide collaborative actions with School Districts, Law Enforcement Task
262 Forces (drug, gang....). County Human Services, Sheriff, District Attorney, Community
263 Youth Service Organizations and target services for all students, including parole
264 activities.
 - 265 • **Youth Programs:** Support continuation and expansions of programs focusing on
266 prevention of delinquency, alcohol and other drug use, child abuse and neglect and
267 domestic violence. Support increased funding and support for youth after school
268 programs, especially at the middle school level.
 - 269 • **Youth Courts:** Support and fund Youth Courts in Wisconsin High Schools.
270

271 **Public Health Services**

- 272 • **Response to Local Public Health Emergencies:** Support legislation that recognizes
273 the critical role of local Public Health Departments in responding to public health
274 emergencies and provides adequate funding to respond to all threats to public health.
- 275 • **Public Health Prevention:** Support initiatives that maintain the integrity and
276 effectiveness of public health prevention services.
- 277 • **Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease:** Support the WI Department of Health and Family Services
278 in its efforts to amend the administrative code to include Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a
279 reportable disease.
- 280 • **Medical Marijuana:** Support legislation allowing residents with debilitating medical
281 conditions to acquire and possess marijuana for medical purposes if supported by their
282 physician. Dane County voters approved this item in 11/2/10 general election, 75.49%
283 yes and 24.50% no.
- 284 • **Women's Health Care:** Repeal all state laws that prohibit women from having access to
285 safe and legal abortions, that don't protect women's health and don't ensure a woman's
286 dignity, equality and autonomy.
- 287 • **Support Wisconsin Well Woman Program:** The Wisconsin Well Women Program
288 pays for preventive health screening services (Mammograms, Pap Smears.....) for
289 women with little or no health insurance coverage. Support maintaining the program and
290 oppose any cuts or elimination.
- 291 • **Dangerous Animals and Vicious Dog Ordinance:** Amend state law to allow counties
292 to enact stricter ordinances to regulate dangerous animals and vicious dogs having
293 countywide applicability.
- 294 • **Reduce Holding Period for Unclaimed Animals from 7 to 3 Days:** Change state law
295 to reduce the unclaimed animal holding period from 7 to 3 days. This would shorten the
296 County/Humane Society holding contract and allow the Dane County Humane Society to
297 place an animal up for adoption much sooner.
298

299 **Housing**

- 300 • **Homeless Services:** Provide additional State funding for services to assist individuals,
301 unaccompanied youth and families who are homeless.
- 302 • **Manufactured Housing:** Support legislation to amend state statutes to require adequate
303 notice to residents when mobile home parks are closing, require storm cellars/secure
304 areas in manufactured housing communities, encourage WHEDA to provide
305 funding/financing for the purchase of housing on leased land, remove any barriers to
306 long term leases, allow the purchase of communities by residents and the development
307 of co-operative housing for manufactured housing communities.

- 308 • **Restrictions on Local Fair Housing Ordinances:** Oppose legislation that impinges on
309 the rights of tenants by allowing landlords to discriminate based on a tenant's income,
310 occupation, rental history, credit information, arrest/conviction history and Social Security
311 number.
- 312 • **Landlord Regulation:** Repeal 2011 WI Act 108, which prohibits local government
313 ordinances that place limits or requirements on landlords (Fair Housing Ordinance).
314 Repeal 2011 WI Act 143, which prohibits a local government from imposing a
315 moratorium on eviction actions and amends/creates new provisions that benefit landlords
316 including but not limited to allowing: landlord discretion in disposing/storing of
317 medical/personal items; landlords to withhold a tenant's security deposit or portion of
318 for damages, unpaid rent/utility bills; and severability of rental agreements. Repeal 2011-
319 2012 budget bill provision which deletes landlord foreclosure notice. Repeal 2013 WI Act
320 76 (Prohibit Local Landlord Ordinances).
- 321 • **Affordable Housing Trust Fund:** Support enabling legislation to allow Dane County to
322 create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 323 • **Tenants' Rights:** Oppose legislation that prohibits local governments from
324 enacting/enforcing ordinances that regulate landlord/tenant relations which enhance
325 fairness in landlord/tenant relations, foster responsible property ownership and protect
326 the safety & stability of neighborhoods.
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329 **Veterans Services**

- 330 • **Armed Forces:** Support the Dane County soldiers who are presently serving. Support
331 protecting families and jobs rather than utilizing precious resources and funds to wage a
332 war.
- 333 • **VFW Halls:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered veterans' organizations.
- 334 • **Property Tax Credit:** Eliminate the 65 year old age limit, drop the disability rating from
335 100% to 30% or greater, and allow 10 consecutive years of Wisconsin residency after
336 separation (this expands eligibility to veteran applicants whose home of record was not
337 Wisconsin).
- 338 • **Trust Fund:** Support an increase from state GPR to help stabilize the Trust Fund so
339 veterans will no longer pay for their own benefits and programs. The Trust Fund is
340 financed through veteran programs such as personal and home loans.
- 341 • **Wisconsin GI Bill:** Fully fund the Wisconsin GI Bill without any limitations on eligibility.
- 342 • **State Funding for the Veterans Trust Fund:** Support increased funding in the State
343 budget bill to insure solvency of the Veterans Trust Fund including but not limited to, the
344 exploration of permanent state funding for the WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the
345 veteran programs/benefits that the Department oversees.
- 346 • **Ending Veteran Homelessness:** Support ending veteran homelessness by maximizing
347 state and federal resources and streamlining local housing processes.
- 348 • **Mass Transit for Disabled Veterans:** Support fully funding bus passes and other
349 mass transit costs for all service-connected disabled veterans in all Wisconsin
350 locations and transit programs.
- 351 • **County Veterans Offices:** Oppose legislation that cuts/restructures CVSO funding,
352 reduces veteran services or weakens the offices by regionalization
- 353 • **Veterans Administration:** Support and recognize the significance of the William S.
354 Middleton Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital and area clinics in the lives of
355 veterans and in the Dane County community and opposes the privatization of services
356 that the Veterans Administration provides to millions of veterans nationally and
357 thousands of Dane County residents jeopardizing their care.

358 **County Personnel, Finance, and Governance**

- 359 • **State Mandates:** The state shall perform a biennial review of all mandated programs to
360 determine continued need for the programs and annually review all mandated programs
361 funded at 50% or less.
- 362 • **Fees/Licenses:** State-set fees collected by counties should fairly cover administrative
363 costs.
- 364 • **Libraries:** Enforce compliance with WI Stats. 43.24(6) which require state funding for
365 public library systems at 13% of local library expenditures.
- 366 • **Association Memberships:** Amend WI Stats. 59.07(27) to require a simple majority
367 vote of the county board of supervisors to purchase membership in an association of
368 county boards.
- 369 • **Room Tax:** Amend the room tax statutes to include counties.
- 370 • **Alliant Energy Center District:** Provide enabling legislation or a grandfather clause
371 within the Wisconsin Center District and Bradley Center agreement to extend the same
372 authority to the Alliant Energy Center.
- 373 • **TABOR/Property Tax Freeze:** Urge state to pay for required programs to reduce
374 property tax growth, not pass more constitutional amendments.
- 375 • **Offshore Contracting:** Oppose the practice of contracting state of Wisconsin
376 government functions or services to overseas companies/operations.
- 377 • **Reverse Marriage Ban:** Support a constitutional amendment to delete the marriage ban
378 amendment adopted in the Fall 2006 General Election.
- 379 • **Domestic Partnership Benefits:** Continue to allow local governments to provide
380 domestic partner benefits.
- 381 • **State Contracts:** Require the State to award contracts to vendors that extend
382 spousal benefits to include employees in domestic partner relationships.
- 383 • **Grant Program Continuity:** Require that when the state awards contracts or otherwise
384 funds a project, the state should require sustainability as one criterion in the decision-
385 making or contract selection process.
- 386 • **Buy Local:** Provide and maintain state funding to create incentives for businesses and
387 all levels of government to buy local produce and products.
- 388 • **Restore Impact Fee Authority:** Restore counties to the governmental entities that are
389 authorized to levy impact fees.
- 390 • **Online Retailers Sales Tax:** Support legislation requiring online retailers with Wisconsin
391 ties to collect and remit WI State and local sales tax.
- 392 • **Fair and Equitable Taxation:** Support fair and equitable taxation without harming
393 county revenue.
- 394 • **Local Government Control:** Oppose any legislation that limits or deletes local
395 government control including opposition to levy limits and support for county home rule
396 authority.
- 397 • **Highway Workers Safety:** Earmark a portion of every state construction/maintenance
398 contract to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance zones.
- 399 • **Prevailing Wage:** Oppose legislation that eliminates the prevailing wage requirement for
400 public works and other projects. The prevailing wage guarantees fair bids, quality work
401 and middle class wages for skilled workers in Dane County.
- 402 • **Fair Motorboat Gas Tax Allocation:** Support legislation to fairly allocate motorboat fuel
403 tax through a more equitable distribution formula.
- 404 • **Legislative Mandates:** Oppose any state or federal legislation or rules/regulations
405 promulgated by federal or state agencies that would require counties to provide a
406 service or administer any program without adequate and on-going funding; support
407 creation of a Joint Survey Committee on Local Mandates. Support legislation to allow
408 waivers from state mandates.
- 409 • **Comprehensive School Funding Reform:** Support changes in the school aid formula
410 to align revenues with educational costs. Distribute resources in accordance with the
411 diverse needs of students and districts to ensure every student receives a quality
412 education. Support moving school funding away from reliance on property taxes.

- 413 • **Support Wisconsin Workers' Rights to Organize and Collectively Bargain:** Dane
414 County is committed to a fair and respectful bargaining process and in bargaining in
415 good faith with our employees, even if state statutes no longer require collective
416 bargaining between Dane County and its employees. Oppose attacks on workers' rights.
- 417 • **Population Change:** Dane is nearing the 500,000 population mark. Support legislation
418 to address issues within the state statutes that pertain to counties with a population of
419 500,000 or more (Milwaukee County) by changing the population figure to 750,000 or
420 more throughout the state statutes. There are 160 provisions in state law that apply to
421 counties that size. One of the most problematic provisions, the state takeover of Dane
422 County child welfare services, would cost county taxpayers \$58.8 million.
- 423 • **Changes to Wisconsin Redistricting Statutes:** Oppose changes to the redistricting
424 process that allow the Wisconsin Legislature to develop a map of Congressional,
425 Senatorial and Assembly districts prior to local government input regarding ward
426 boundaries.
- 427 • **Collective Bargaining Rights:** Support workers having the right to seek safe working
428 conditions, benefits and fair pay through collective bargaining and oppose legislation that
429 weakens it.
- 430 • **Oppose State-Imposed County Board Restructuring:** Oppose legislation that
431 impedes a County Board from governing, budgeting and hiring staff.
- 432 • **Collective Bargaining:** Support legislation allowing local government the option to
433 engage in collective bargaining with public sector employees.
- 434 • **Balance of Power:** Oppose efforts to alter the authority and/or responsibilities among
435 county boards, county executives or administrators, and constitutional officers and upset
436 the balance of power in county government across Wisconsin.
- 437 • **Dark Store Loophole:** Oppose the Dark Store Loophole by clarifying that leases are
438 appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties and that when using the
439 comparable sale method of valuation, assessors shall consider as comparable only
440 those sales within the same market segment exhibiting a similar highest and best use
441 rather than similarly sized but vacant properties in abandoned locations.
- 442 • **Nonpartisan Redistricting:** Support legislation to require a nonpartisan system for
443 redistricting legislative and congressional districts in the state. Dane County voters
444 approved by 82.1% yes votes and 17.9% no votes.
- 445 • **Nonpartisan Redistricting:** Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the creation of
446 an independent non-partisan process for the preparation of legislative and congressional
447 district lines.
448

449 **Public Safety and Emergency Management**

- 450 • **EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages financial support of volunteers in
451 emergency medical services and that address liability issues and professional
452 standards. Support state reimbursement for radio frequency and upgrade requirements.
- 453 • **Communications Surcharge for 911 Systems:** Support legislation to redirect
454 electronic communications surcharge to County 911 Centers.
- 455 • **Next Generation 911:** Include \$7 million annually in the 2017-19 state biennial budget
456 to begin the transition to Next Generation 911 in Wisconsin.
- 457 • **Recording Fees:** Support legislation that allows counties to re-coup the cost of
458 locating/recording 911 records for individuals when the costs of searching/recording
459 those records exceed \$25. Current statutes prohibit counties from recouping the cost
460 when the cost exceeds \$50.
- 461 • **First Responder Training:** Require training for first responders (police officers,
462 paramedics...) on appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting and interacting with
463 older adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental health or other
464 disorders.
- 465 • **Emergency Communications Interoperability:** Enact local and state communication
466 networks for disaster events and fund through State grants.

- 467 • **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county costs for
468 new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated costs including
469 redaction.
- 470 • **Criminal Background Check:** Support additional funds to the Department of Justice to
471 enable the conducting of uniform criminal background checks of to-be-hired direct care
472 workers by public and non-profit agencies.
- 473 • **Multi-line Telephone System (MLTS) calls to 911:** Support legislation requiring
474 owner/operators of these systems to deliver to Wisconsin 9-1-1 Centers precise location
475 information instead of merely the “headquarters office” location and call-back numbers
476 now delivered when callers from their system dial 9-1-1 seeking aid.
- 477 • **Support Gun Control:** Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed carry permits,
478 make the purchase of a firearm for someone who is prohibited from possessing a firearm
479 a felony, make the possession of a concealed firearm by those prohibited under
480 Wisconsin law a felony and require that private gun sales be subject to criminal
481 background checks performed by a federally licensed gun dealer.
- 482 • **Conceal and Carry Weapons:** Provide an exclusion for the facilities and grounds of the
483 Alliant Energy Center, “Weapons may not be carried onto the grounds, parking lots or
484 areas associated with convention, entertainment and sporting facilities nor brought into
485 venues where the public assembles for tradeshow, demonstrations, conventions,
486 consumer shows, entertainment, sporting or educational events, including zoos,
487 convention centers, arenas, horse arenas, hockey arenas, concert and sporting
488 venues for public assembly events, including when those facilities are used for private
489 events.”; oppose weapons in institutions of higher learning, public schools, child
490 care facilities, community centers and health care facilities; and amend conceal and
491 carry legislation to increase all fee amounts to provide County Sheriffs with sufficient
492 funds to administer the conceal and carry law.

493 **Criminal Justice and Corrections**

- 494 • **State Audit Probation & Parole Program:** Request the Legislative Audit Bureau to
495 analyze Wisconsin’s probation and parole program for effectiveness and efficiencies; to
496 identify improvements in procedures to streamline the revocation process in order to
497 reduce days in jail; and compare the Wisconsin program to other states.
- 498 • **Prisoner Re-Entry:** Adequately fund prisoner community re-entry programs to increase
499 success and effectiveness.
- 500 • **Close Public Defender Eligibility Gap:** Support changing Public Defender eligibility
501 levels to the same level as eligibility for appointed counsel to eliminate the gap that
502 currently requires the court to appoint counsel at county expense.
- 503 • **Minority Outreach:** Support state-sponsored outreach to communities about available
504 support services.
- 505 • **County Jail:** Support full state funding for probation/parole holds; continued support for
506 the Treatment Alternative Program (TAP); more funding for incarceration alternatives;
507 support Justice Impact Statements.
- 508 • **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion:** Support enhancements to public safety and
509 reduce unnecessary Corrections related expenditures by (a) Increasing funding for the
510 Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually; (b)
511 Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime
512 can be eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature; (c) Changing the statute so that
513 people with a mental health issue (and not a co-occurring addiction issue) can be
514 eligible; and (d) Focusing the growth in TAD in these three main areas: (1) Expansion of
515 OWI Courts, SSTOP, and other programs that address drunk driving; (2) Expansion of
516 Drug Treatment programs that can help deal with the growing heroin problem, as well as
517 the lingering issues of methamphetamine, crack and other drugs; and (3) Expansion of
518 funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted to the communities that have the
519 state’s highest incarceration rates.
- 520 • **Court Interpreters:** Support appointing court interpreters to all cases regardless of

- 521 indigency and support an increase in state funding for reimbursement to counties for
522 interpreter services.
- 523 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA to
524 provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing the
525 prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal
526 justice/treatment programs.
 - 527 • **Racial Disparity Subcommittee:** Support creation of a state Criminal Justice
528 Coordinating Council subcommittee on racial disparities within the criminal justice
529 system.
 - 530 • **State Court System:** Increase state funding of the circuit court system, including court
531 security.
 - 532 • **Victim-Witness Program:** Support full state funding of program costs.
 - 533 • **Clerk of Court Fees:** Pursue statutory changes to increase the county share of
534 fines/forfeitures.
 - 535 • **License Fee:** Support \$12 for driver's license suspension if the fee is payable by the
536 defendant.
 - 537 • **Domestic Violence:** Support state funding for domestic violence prevention,
538 intervention and prosecution, including funding for three ADA positions dedicated to
539 domestic violence, and shelter services.
 - 540 • **Fee Increase for Jury Trial:** Support legislation to increase the fee for a jury trial from
541 \$6 to \$15. The funding is needed to offset increases in juror compensation.
 - 542 • **Prisoner Hospitalization:** Oppose any legislation that would reverse/overturn the WI
543 Supreme Court ruling on the Meriter case. Update the statutory language regarding
544 prisoner hospitalization.
 - 545 • **Industrial Hemp:** Support legalizing the production of industrial hemp.
 - 546 • **District Attorney Funding:** Support increased state funding for more Assistant District
547 Attorney positions to meet growing caseloads.
 - 548 • **Mental Health Screenings:** Support and fund mental health screening and treatment for
549 inmates in county juvenile detention, shelter homes and county jails.
 - 550 • **Legalize Marijuana:** Support legislation legalizing marijuana. Dane County voters
551 approved by 64.5% yes votes and 35.5% no votes.
 - 552 • **Interstate Traffic Tickets:** Amend State Statutes allowing Wisconsin to join the
553 Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to facilitate collection of out of state traffic
554 violators and capture a needed revenue source for the state and county.
 - 555 • **Boating Laws:** Support legislation making fines and associated penalties for drunken
556 boating commensurate with those for drunken driving.
 - 557 • **Boater Registration Act:** Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require
558 education/training for operation of motorized watercraft.

559 **Immigrants and Refugees**

- 560 • **Sanctuary Cities/Counties:** Oppose legislation that requires county workers/law
561 enforcement to review immigration status any time an individual comes in contact with
562 government workers. Oppose banning specified immigrants from living in communities.
563 Urge Wisconsin to seek grants for Syrian refugee resettlement.
- 564 • **In-State Tuition for Immigrants:** Support restoring the law for in-state tuition for state
565 residents who graduated from a Wisconsin High School, but lack proper immigration
566 documentation.

567 **Bicycle and Recreational Trails**

- 568 • **Bicycle Trail Funding:** Work with Legislators and State Agencies to obtain
569 transportation aids for bicycle trails with significant commuter traffic. Support allowing
570 bike path maintenance costs to be eligible for transportation aids. Support the creation
571 and development of a statewide Bike Trail Task Force. Integrate bicycle transportation

- 572 into future commuter transportation systems
573 • **Regional Trail System:** Request DNR assistance in development of regional trail
574 systems.

575 **Mass Transit**

- 576 • **Regional Transit Authority (RTA):** Restore statutory language to allow creation of a
577 Regional Transit Authority/Authorities covering at a minimum the federally-designated
578 Metropolitan Planning Area, and support statutory language to allow up to a half-cent
579 sales tax which would go to citizens for a binding referendum, be contingent on
580 receiving federal transit funds and RTA governance/operating structure would be
581 determined after consultation with community partners participating in the RTA.
582 Support that sales tax funds are used for commuter rail, bus transit,
583 emergency/disabled transportation, local road and county highway projects.
- 584 • **Regional Transit Authority (RTA):** Support authorizing legislation for an RTA that is
585 flexible enough to adapt to local needs and has these basic parameters: A
586 representative RTA could be formed by one or more municipal governing bodies passing
587 resolutions in support. A referendum would need to be adopted by a majority of voters in
588 each municipality forming, or seeking to join the RTA. The amount of the sales tax would
589 need to be authorized in the referendum, but could not exceed 0.5%. The governing
590 board would be composed of elected officials, representative of the communities within
591 the RTA area.
- 592 • **Update Wisconsin 2030 State Rail Plan:** Support funding and planning for intercity rail
593 serving Dane County and Madison and urge WIDOT to work with Minnesota DOT on
594 Milwaukee-Twin Cities High Speed Rail Study.
- 595 • **Airport Authority:** Oppose legislation that takes airport governance away from county
596 government and gives it to a private/public airport authority.

597 **Road Funding**

- 598 • **Local Transportation:** Support a greater share of state and federal transportation
599 funding going toward local transportation needs and services. Funding should be
600 increased for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the County
601 Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation for older adults
602 and persons with disabilities. Require “farmland mitigation” for highway improvement
603 projects. In addition, funding formulas that discriminate against urban counties should
604 be revised and the local match (now 50%) for CHIPS should be decreased. Support
605 state-federal funding for Amtrak service to Milwaukee and Madison. Support
606 continued state funding for further planning and implementation of a commuter rail
607 system and regional bus links to outlying communities in Dane County. Also, support
608 increased funding for Transport 2020 and rail rehabilitation and purchases. Support
609 state/federal funding for the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative.
- 610 • **North Mendota Parkway:** Oppose the construction of four lanes on Main Street
611 (HWY 19) in Waunakee. Support an update of the 2003 North Mendota Parkway traffic
612 study, and request WIDOT to consider how the proposed North Mendota Parkway, Hwy
613 19, CTH K, CTH M and Hwy 13 relate to each other and Hwy 12. Support an
614 implementation review of the “North E-Way”.
- 615 • **Verona Road Project:** Support mitigation measures to lessen the impact of the Verona
616 Road construction project on surrounding neighborhoods and local businesses. Those
617 measures include noise barriers, monitoring air quality, preservation of commercial
618 areas, minimizing impacts on established neighborhoods, storm water management
619 (steer away from Dunn’s Marsh), and develop bike lanes, pedestrian/bicycle bridges and
620 sidewalks on frontage and neighborhood roads.
- 621 • **Highway Funding:** Require WIDOT to provide more funding up front through

622 operational reimbursement and incentivizing improvements.

623 **Waste and Renewables**

- 624 • **Recycling:** Support long-term state funding for state’s recycling program. Support
625 continued state efforts to expand markets for recycled materials. Amend statutes to
626 allow local governments or other entities to receive more than one state grant for
627 innovative demonstration projects.
- 628 • **Landfill Siting:** Allow municipalities to replace existing public landfills without a new
629 DNR needs determination. Amend statutes to modify landfill negotiation-mediation
630 process to include counties as an appropriate governing body for the approval of
631 negotiated agreements. Amend statutes to prohibit the construction of landfills until the
632 mediation-negotiating process is complete.
- 633 • **Clean Sweep:** Support increased state/federal funding for household and Ag Clean
634 Sweep.
- 635 • **Oppose State Increases in Landfill/Solid Waste Fees and Program Reductions:**
636 Oppose state increases to the landfill recycling tipping fee and environmental repair fee.
637 Oppose the elimination or reduction of recycling and solid waste programs.

638 **Zoning and Land Regulation**

- 639 • **Flood Insurance Threat:** Oppose any proposal to suspend state floodplain rules that
640 nullify federal flood insurance and jeopardize federal disaster assistance for Wisconsin
641 flood victims.
- 642 • **Wisconsin Land Information Program:** Support the continuation of the Wisconsin
643 Land Information Program and grants.
- 644 • **Comprehensive Planning:** Oppose legislation, which repeals the comprehensive
645 planning statutes.
- 646 • **Power Plants:** Support efforts to clean up dirty power plants.
- 647 • **Transmission Lines:** Request the State supports an independent study of the need for
648 additional high voltage transmission lines through Dane County.
- 649 • **Takings Legislation:** Oppose legislation that would require county government to
650 compensate real property owners for restricted use or loss of property value as a result
651 of law or regulations.
- 652 • **American Transmission Company (ATC) Requirement:** Urge Wisconsin Public
653 Service Commission to require ATC to construct power lines underground to protect
654 Dane County economic and environmental resources while enhancing resiliency and
655 reliability during extreme weather events.
- 656 • **Stormwater Utility:** Amend the WI Stats. to allow counties to create and manage a
657 stormwater utility.
- 658 • **Support Local Control of Erosion and Storm Water Management Standards:**
659 Oppose standardizing regulation of construction site erosion, storm water management
660 and prohibiting local governments from enacting local ordinances that are stricter than
661 statewide standards.
- 662 • **Support Local Control of Nonmetallic Mining:** Oppose any state legislation that
663 preempts local governments from enacting their own nonmetallic mining regulations and
664 oversight of air/water quality, highway damage, noise and use contracts.
- 665 • **Effigy Mounds & Burial Sites:** Oppose legislation that allows the disturbance or
666 destruction of Native American effigy mounds and old burial sites.
- 667 • **Utility Deregulation:** Oppose any deregulation that leads to higher consumer rates. Any
668 attempts to restructure the delivery of electricity should address: reliability of electrical
669 service, equitable benefits to large and small rate payers, the social and
670 environmental impacts of restructuring and the ability of counties to aggregate to
671 purchase electricity.
- 672 • **Holding Tanks as Systems of Last Resort:** Support changes in statutes and
673 administrative rules that oppose using holding tanks except as a last resort for new and

674 replacement septic systems. Modify rules and statutes to ensure funding from the
675 Wisconsin Fund is for the least costly systems, excluding holding tanks, unless a holding
676 tank is the system of last resort.

677 Elections

- 678 • **Voter Registration Changes and Voter Identification Requirement:** Oppose
679 legislation that changes same day voter registration, alters times for absentee ballot
680 voting and requires photo identification to vote.
- 681 • **Support Wisconsin's Successful System of Election Day Voter Registration:**
682 Support Election Day voter registration and urge Wisconsin Legislature to maintain the
683 current system.
- 684 • **County Board Elections:** Change the state statutes requiring County Board members
685 to be sworn in on the third Tuesday to allow the seating of temporary Board members
686 until a recount is completed.
- 687 • **Public Funding for Elections:** Support public funding/financing for local/state elections.

688 Community, Workforce and Economic Development

- 689 • **Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act:** Oppose permitting an employer to refuse to
690 employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted of a
691 felony and who has not been pardoned for that felony, and pre-empting local
692 government from adopting ordinances concerning employment discrimination based on
693 arrest or conviction records that prohibit activity allowed under the state Fair
694 Employment Act.
- 695 • **Minimum Wage:** Enacted 11/4/14 Referendum Ballot question, "Should the State of
696 Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?" Dane County voters
697 approved this item by 73.6% yes votes and 26.4% no votes.
- 698 • **UW Cooperative Extension's Relationship with Dane County Extension
699 Department and Wisconsin Idea Partnership:** Support Wisconsin Idea Partnership to
700 address funding reductions to UW System through the budget bill and the impacts that
701 the Badger Partnership will create for UW Extension and its partnerships with county
702 extension agencies, including the Dane County Extension Department
- 703 • **UW Hospital & Clinics (UWHC):** Support restoring the rights of workers at UWHC.
- 704 • **Student Debt:** Support legislation to lower student debt by any means possible including
705 refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the loans, reducing
706 interest rates and ensuring tuition is affordable.
- 707 • **School Choice Expansion:** Oppose any legislation/action to expand the voucher
708 program or a similar facsimile in the Madison Metropolitan School District or in any Dane
709 County school system.
- 710 • **Rural Broadband Coverage:** Urge the State of Wisconsin to increase financial
711 support/seek federal funding to expand broadband services to underserved rural areas.
712

713 Arts

- 714 • **Arts Funding:** Support increased funding for the arts across Wisconsin.
- 715 • **Wisconsin Arts Agency:** The state shall fully fund and create a free-standing
716 Wisconsin Arts Agency to enhance the lives of youth, older adults and all Wisconsin
717 citizens by funding art projects in Communities, Schools, Colleges and Public
718 Works/Building construction across the state.