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2 **DRAFT PROPOSED UPDATES – 3/5/26**

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4 **2026-2028 Legislative Agenda**

5
6 **General Principle**

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8 Dane County is the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin

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10 Dane County is an economic powerhouse that embraces Wisconsin's traditions of
11 tourism, supporting small businesses and economic development, and staying true
12 to our state's values of supporting both our urban and rural neighbors.

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14 As such, we believe that by working together the state can help bolster the success
15 and prosperity of Dane County residents by supporting proactive, evidence-based
16 policies and programs that foster economic success and work to eliminate racial
17 and socioeconomic disparities. We appreciate intergovernmental partnerships and
18 believe the state should recognize the unique role counties play in administering
19 state programs by:

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

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

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

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35 **Surface and Ground Water Quality**

- 36 • **Water Quality:** Invest funding and staffing in water quality planning and watershed
37 projects and increase funding for inland waterways and lakes. Maintain efforts to
38 keep invasive species out of our bodies of water. Oppose efforts to erode the
39 Public Trust Doctrine and the DNR's ability to regulate navigable waters and
40 wetlands. Support a comprehensive approach to managing the levels of the lakes
41 through collaboration with affected parties including dam operators, municipalities
42 and regulatory agencies toward improving natural hydrologic conditions and
43 habitat. Support efforts to manage the Yahara Chain of Lakes by improving the
44 volume of water leaving the Yahara River system, reducing stormwater runoff
45 volumes through increased stormwater infiltration, and improving management of
46 stormwater on impervious surfaces.

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- **Stormwater Utility and Water Management:** Allow for counties to create and manage stormwater utility, and support local control of erosion and stormwater management. Oppose efforts to standardize water management regulations or prohibiting local governments from enforcing stronger standards. Support local governmental efforts to improve water management through water conservation, a balanced water budget, and enhanced groundwater recharge.
 - **Mining Reform and High-Capacity Wells:** Support provisions restoring local government role for mining and suspend floodplain rules that would nullify flood insurance and federal disaster assistance. Support science-based regulation of high-capacity wells that considers the individual and cumulative effects of high-capacity irrigation wells on nearby water systems.
 - **Safeguarding Lakes and Community Safety:** Consider lake ecosystems, shorelines, docks, and community safety in regulating wake-enhanced activities, such as wakesurfing. Allow local communities to set stronger standards than any state minimums that are imposed through legislation.
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Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Practices

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- **Stewardship Fund and Urban Forestry:** Support ongoing appropriations and reauthorization for the state Stewardship Fund. Allow towns, counties, and non-profits to access both federal and state funds in the Urban Forestry Grant Program.
 - **Conservation Staffing:** Support DNR staff levels that benefit local water programs, including regulatory programs, lake/fishery, runoff specialists, conservation wardens, land conservation, and parks programs. Support increasing state aid for county conservation staff to fully implement county land and water resource management plans and to provide technical support for farm conservation practices. Invest in efforts like tree planting.
 - **Assistance for Landowners and Farmers** Increase efforts to support agricultural producers with implementation of conservation practices, to grow the state's agricultural economy as well as protect soil and water resources. Support full implementation and funding of the state's water quality programs and established runoff pollution performance standards for agriculture, non-agriculture, and transportation facilities standards. Support legislation to increase farm participation in nutrient management planning by improving delivery mechanism and compliance incentives for all Wisconsin farms, especially in highly susceptible areas. Support implementing existing agricultural nonpoint pollution performance standards (NR 151). Oppose legislation that removes limits on foreign ownership of Wisconsin agricultural land.
 - **Public and Environmental Health:** Support changes to the mercury rules to achieve a 90% reduction. Support adopting a state-directed threshold standard of Perfluorinated Compounds (PFAS, PFOA and PFOS) as part of a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies contamination sources, remediation options, and tools to cover the associated costs with remediation. Support long-term state funding of PFAS treatment of landfill leachate. Support statewide/utility user funding to help local governments mitigate lead
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92 contamination in drinking water. Support increasing statewide awareness and
93 educational efforts related to reducing the use of lead shot and tackle for hunting
94 and fishing.

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

- 96 • **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change by
97 reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the severe adverse impacts on
98 our economy, environment, safety, and public health. Enhance county authority
99 and funding for county level action planning, mitigation, adaptation, and
100 resilience around the impacts of climate change.
- 101 • **Renewable and Efficient Energy Sources:** Support and incentivize statewide
102 funding that encourages waste-to-energy and renewable energy sources such
103 as wind, solar, and biomass as viable energy sources for utilities and Wisconsin
104 consumers. Increase funding and access to the Focus on Energy Program.
105 Support efforts to return local control for energy related decision-making.
106 Restore school districts' energy efficiency exemption to the revenue limit.
107 Support increased funding and new incentives for fine particle emission
108 reduction programs, including programs that reduce emissions from
109 transportation sources and point sources through the increased use of
110 alternative fuels, renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency
111 improvements.
- 112 • **Reducing Reliance on Fossil Fuels:** Support statewide implementation of
113 diesel idling regulations for trucks, buses, and other diesel engines. Create a
114 statewide grant program to enhance and fund bioenergy projects. Oppose any
115 efforts to ban local governments from adding EV charging stations or
116 purchasing alternative fuel vehicles.
- 117 • **Green Jobs Economic Development:** Support statewide grants or incentives
118 for counties to produce a resilient climate change-ready economy and carbon-
119 free future by developing, creating and attracting green job opportunities.

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121 **Waste and Renewables**

- 122 • **Landfills and Recycling:** Allow municipalities to replace existing public landfills
123 without a new DNR needs determination and allow them to use the net worth
124 method of establishing financial responsibility. Oppose state increases to the
125 landfill recycling tipping fee and environmental repair fee. Oppose the elimination
126 or reduction of recycling and solid waste programs. Support long-term state
127 funding for state's recycling program. Support continued state efforts to expand
128 markets for recycled materials. Support allowing local governments or other
129 entities to receive more than one state grant for innovative demonstration projects.
130 Support increased state/federal funding for household and agricultural Clean
131 Sweep.

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134 **Access to High Quality Health Care and Family-Supporting Initiatives**

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- 136 • **Expand Health Care and Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental
137 care for all residents, including those on Medical Assistance. Support
138 implementation of Medicaid expansion and support Medicare for All Act to ensure
139 everyone has access to high quality, universal health care without the interruptions
140 in care present in an employer-based, for-profit system. Support care that is
141 gender-affirming and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender
142 identity. Oppose undue hardship in eligibility/enrollment of safety net programs,
143 such as legislation that would enact drug testing as a requirement for public
144 benefits. Support state and federal workforce development funding to increase the
145 number of health care and mental health professionals in Wisconsin.
 - 146 • **Increase State Funding and Support:** Support adequate funding for Youth Aids,
147 Basic Community Aids, Children and Families Allocation, Aging and Disability
148 Resource Centers, Income Maintenance, Children’s Community Options Program,
149 Children’s Long Term Support Program and administrative services under
150 Medicaid and Income Maintenance agencies, including FoodShare.
 - 151 • **Prioritize Family-Supporting Economic Policies:** Support sufficient funding for
152 childcare and reduce barriers to accessing affordable childcare, support paid
153 family leave, support increasing the state percentage of the federal Earned Income
154 Tax Credit (EITC) and expanding eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit program.
 - 155 • **Access to Comprehensive and Equitable Health Care:** Support codifying the
156 protections of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* into Wisconsin and
157 federal law. Oppose all efforts to restrict abortion and reproductive care, and
158 support expanding access to comprehensive reproductive health services for all
159 individuals. Advocate for the continuation and expansion of the Wisconsin Well
160 Woman Program, and support legislation allowing medical marijuana for
161 individuals with debilitating conditions when recommended by a physician. Support
162 policies that create breastfeeding-friendly workplaces.
 - 163 • **Public Health and Community Support Initiatives:** Support policies that extend
164 postpartum Medicaid eligibility to a full year and expand Medicaid to include a
165 housing benefit for pregnant and postpartum individuals. Increase staffing and
166 resources for the state’s maternal mortality review process. Support the
167 certification and Medicaid reimbursement of Community Health Workers [and](#)
168 [Doulas](#) for services within their scope of practice. Encourage increased state
169 funding for nutritious school meals, such as the Healthy School Meals for All Act.
170 Support state-level reforms that enable counties to enact stronger local ordinances
171 regulating dangerous animals and vicious dogs

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173 **Mental Health Care and Services for Older Adults and Individuals with**
174 **Disabilities**

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- 176 • **Support for Older Adults and Family Caregivers:** Support continued funding for
177 critical programs such as SeniorCare, BadgerCare, RSVP, and Aging and
178 Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), including services like elder benefits
179 specialists and dementia care. Expand caregiver support by funding programs for

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180 caregivers of adults under 60 or those with disabilities, providing tax credits for
181 family caregivers, creating caregiver coordinator positions, and marketing
182 programs to increase public awareness. Encourage retraining and job placement
183 programs for older adults, particularly those with limited English proficiency.
184 Support legislation to improve accessibility in housing and continue prevention and
185 enforcement efforts to address elder abuse and neglect.

- 186 • **Long-Term Care, Dementia, and Disability Services:** Advocate for state long-
187 term care reforms that protect service quality and availability while ensuring
188 equitable county contributions and clear delineation of responsibilities between the
189 state and counties (via Chapter 55). Oppose privatization of ADRCs and any
190 weakening of Family Care, IRIS, or Partnership programs. Support legislation to
191 create a long-term care savings program for adults to prepare for future needs.
192 Promote policies that protect dementia patients' rights, including opposing
193 involuntary administration of psychotropic medications under Chapters 51 and 55.
- 194 • **Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Institutional Care:** Support increased
195 and sustained state and federal funding for mental health and substance abuse
196 treatment in both communities and schools, including boosting public and private
197 insurance coverage and increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates. Advocate for
198 full funding of the state match for Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) and
199 the continuation of Community Support Programs (CSPs). ~~Oppose changes that~~
200 ~~reduce access to appropriate care, including the state's current requirement to~~
201 ~~transfer mental health patients from Mendota to Winnebago Mental Health~~
202 ~~Institute. Improve access and provide financial support for community-based~~
203 ~~mental health care services.~~ Endorse the state's effort to change the IMD
204 Exclusion, which places undue financial burdens on counties for institutional care.
- 205 • **Medical Access and Transportation Equity:** Support improvements to the Non-
206 Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) program by holding vendors
207 accountable, improving oversight, ensuring consistent and quality services.
208 Ensure that people with disabilities and low-income individuals have access to
209 essential medical appointments. Also, support adequate funding and accessibility
210 for county-run services and oppose reductions in educational and licensure
211 standards for health professionals to ensure safe, qualified care.
- 212 • **Youth, Families, and Early Intervention Services:** Advocate for sustained
213 support of the Birth to Three program, including requiring private insurers to
214 contribute as third-party payers. Support increased funding for prevention and
215 early intervention programs that serve children, youth, and families, especially in
216 mental health and disability services.

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

- 220 • **Early Education and the Health and Wellbeing of Children:** Support funding for
221 early childhood education and initiatives. Support background checks for family
222 day care providers, similar to those for foster care. Support initiatives that provide
223 additional funds for primary prevention programs including delinquency and child
224 abuse/neglect. Increase state support to relatives caring for non-custodial children
225 and expand access to kinship care. Oppose legislation that usurps the authority of

Commented [FL3]: Approved by HHN 2/26

226 county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and neglect
227 cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS or increases penalties and changes the
228 neglect definition to target low income or marginalized communities. Support
229 increasing funding for the WI County Child Support Program. Fully reimburse
230 counties, or eliminate, the WI Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR) program.

231 • **Career Development and School Success for Youth:** Support funding to
232 provide educational, work skill development, transportation and mentoring
233 services for youth or young adults who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped
234 out of high school or who are unemployed post high school and lack the knowledge
235 and skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment. Provide
236 incentives for the business community and technical college system to create and
237 support apprenticeship/internship opportunities to young adults. Expedite entry
238 and graduation from the programs to meet increasing demands to fill vacancies
239 created by an aging workforce.

240 • Local Government Authority for Legal Services: Provide authority for counties
241 to make payments to community-based organizations and other organizations,
242 whether or not operated for profit, based in this state for the provision of civil legal
243 services to individuals and families.

Commented [FL4]: Requested by Sup. Barushok to be taken up at HHN, committee approved suggestion 2/26

244 Youth Justice

245 • **Reform the Juvenile Justice System:** Return 17-year-olds to juvenile court and
246 corrections, expand restorative justice initiatives in schools and communities,
247 including but not limited to Youth Courts, and work to reduce disparities and
248 prevent youth crime through alternatives to suspension.

249 • **Prevention and Youth Programs:** Expand funding for after-school, prevention,
250 and early intervention programs and support youth programs addressing
251 substance use, abuse, and violence prevention. Prioritize youth programs at the
252 middle-school level and prevent barriers to participation, such as transportation.

253 • **Funding and Cost-Sharing for Youth Services:** Increase state funding for Youth
254 Aids and limit out-of-home placement cost hikes, reassess the maximum daily rate
255 that group homes receive, and support fair funding structures for community
256 placements.

257 • **Enhance Mental Health and Community-Based Care:** Support access to
258 comprehensive mental health services for youth, community-based treatment and
259 correctional options, and fund secured residential care centers and alternative
260 placements.

262 Housing

263 • **Access to Safe and Affordable Housing:** Provide additional state funding for
264 services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families who are
265 homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness. Support
266 state investment in Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund and
267 additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing.
268 Support funding for local lead remediation programs.

269 • **Fair Housing Rights and Regulations:** Support legislation to amend state
270 statutes to require adequate notice to residents when mobile home parks are

271 closing, require storm cellars/secure areas in manufactured housing communities,
272 encourage WHEDA to provide funding/financing for the purchase of housing on
273 leased land, remove any barriers to long term leases, allow the purchase of
274 communities by residents and the development of co-operative housing for
275 manufactured housing communities. Oppose legislation that impinges on the rights
276 of tenants by allowing landlords to discriminate based on a tenant's income,
277 occupation, rental history, credit information, arrest/conviction history and Social
278 Security number. Restore the ability for local governments to enforce/enact fair
279 housing ordinances and including ones that regulate landlord/tenant relations and
280 set affordable housing requirements.

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282 **Veterans**

- 283 • **Services and Supports for Veterans:** Increase access to the Veteran Property
284 Tax Credit by lowering the disability rating, which is currently set at 100%. Invest
285 in resources and services that will support our veterans, such as programs to end
286 veteran homelessness, funding bus passes and other mass transit costs for
287 service-related disabled veterans. Fund the Wisconsin GI Bill without limitations
288 on eligibility.
- 289 • **Veteran-related Organizations:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered
290 veterans' organizations, increase state funding to ensure solvency and stabilize
291 the Veterans Trust Fund, support and strengthen our County Veterans Service
292 Offices, and recognize the significance of the William S. Middleton Memorial
293 Veterans Administration Hospital and area clinics in the lives of veterans and in
294 the Dane County community and oppose privatization of services.

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296 **Immigrants and Refugees**

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298 • **Support our Immigrant and Refugee Communities:** Support Driver Licenses
299 for All policies, access to in-state tuition for residents who graduated from a
300 Wisconsin high school, and ensure a safe and welcoming community for all.

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302 **Local Control and Intergovernmental Relations**

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304 • **Mandates, Local Control, and Funding Equity:** Support comprehensive reforms
305 to ensure counties are not burdened by unfunded state mandates. Oppose any
306 legislation requiring counties to provide services without adequate and ongoing
307 funding. Advocate for a Joint Survey Committee on Local Mandates, waivers from
308 mandates, biennial reviews of all mandated programs, and annual reviews of those
309 funded at 50% or less. Strongly oppose efforts that erode local government control,
310 including levy limits, state-imposed restructuring of county boards, and changes to
311 the balance of power between county executives, boards, and constitutional
312 officers. [Engage on emerging legislative issues and administrative rules that](#)
313 [directly affect county operations, finances, or services, provided positions remain](#)
314 [consistent with Dane County's principles of local control and effective service](#)
315 [delivery.](#)

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Commented [FL5]: Approved as an addition by the
Personnel and Finance Committee

- 317 • **Taxation, Fees, and Economic Sustainability:** Support fair taxation that
318 preserves county revenue, including restoring impact fee authority to counties.
319 Advocate for updating the competitive bidding threshold and reinstating prevailing
320 wage laws and the ability to enter into Project Labor Agreements. Oppose property
321 tax freezes that undermine local government flexibility. Support fee structures, like
322 licenses and state-set county fees, that fairly reflect administrative costs, and
323 extend room tax authority to counties
- 324 • **Investments in Public Infrastructure and Services:** Advocate for capital funding
325 for the Alliant Energy Center and the creation of a special taxing authority to
326 support its maintenance and operations. Support funding of public libraries, such
327 as the former 13% aid requirement. Promote the Buy Local initiative by maintaining
328 state funding and preventing outsourcing of state services to out-of-state
329 contractors. Require sustainability to be included in state contracting decisions.
- 330 • **Democracy, Rights, and Labor Protections:** Support collective bargaining rights
331 for public employees and oppose attacks on workers' rights. Oppose changes to
332 redistricting laws that remove local government input and support a nonpartisan,
333 independent redistricting process, which is backed by a majority of Dane County
334 voters. Advocate for restoring domestic partnership benefits and repealing the
335 2006 marriage ban amendment. Oppose any legislative changes that limit county
336 authority to govern, budget, or hire staff, and support requiring only a simple
337 majority of county board members for association memberships.
- 338 • **Education, Community Investment, and Fair Representation:** Endorse
339 comprehensive school funding reform to align resources with educational costs
340 and student needs, and to reduce reliance on property taxes. Support state
341 contracts that prioritize local businesses and provide equitable access to
342 opportunities.
- 343 • **Local Public Health Infrastructure and Emergency Response:** Support
344 legislation that recognizes the essential role of local public health departments in
345 managing public health emergencies and ensures adequate, sustained funding for
346 all threats to community health. Oppose any legislation that preempts or restricts
347 local authority to respond to public health crises. Advocate for strengthening local
348 health departments' capacity to lead effective community health initiatives make
349 science-based policy recommendations. Oppose efforts that undermine their
350 authority to implement public health standards or advocate for evidence-based
351 health practices.

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353 **Public Safety and Emergency Management**

- 354 • **Support and Enhance EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages
355 financial support of volunteers in emergency medical services and that addresses
356 liability issues and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for radio
357 frequency and upgrade requirements. Require training for first responders on
358 appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting, and interacting with older adults
359 as well as other adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental
360 health or other disorders. [Encourage financial support for local governments to](#)
361 [adequately communicate, prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies](#)

Commented [FL6]: Added by PPJ on 2/24

- 362 • **Gun Safety and Violence Prevention:** Support additional funds to the
363 Department of Justice to enable conducting of uniform criminal background checks
364 of to-be-hired direct care workers by public non-profit agencies. Support funding
365 for gun safety education and access to gun locks and safes and changes to state
366 law to allow local gun regulations. Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed
367 carry permits, modify concealed carry law to prohibit concealed weapons from
368 public spaces such as convention centers, zoos, and other public facilities, and set
369 concealed carry license fees to an amount sufficient to fund all County Sheriffs'
370 costs associated with administering the law. Support universal background checks
371 for all gun purchases and other gun violence prevention efforts.
- 372 • **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county
373 costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated costs
374 including redaction.

375 **Criminal Justice and Corrections**

- 376 • **Criminal Justice Reform and Fairness:** Support policing reforms, including
377 stronger use-of-force policies, such as banning chokeholds, body and dash
378 camera transparency, and independent footage access. Address racial disparities
379 and inequities in the criminal justice system. Ensure fines and fees systems are
380 fair, allow judicial discretion, and pursue increased local revenue from fines and
381 forfeitures. Support reforms to bail and conditions of pretrial release that respects
382 the constitutional rights of the accused, enhances public safety, and incorporates
383 evidence-based strategies.
- 384 • **Alternatives to Incarceration and Smart Justice:** Expand Treatment
385 Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), mental health courts, community triage centers,
386 and restorative justice programs. Support programs to increase re-entry success,
387 including health care access and transportation. Fund mental health screenings in
388 jails, encourage bail and probation reforms to reduce jail populations, including
389 reducing crimeless revocations. Legalize marijuana [for adults and provide local
390 governments with greater ability to regulate hemp-derived cannabinoids and THC
391 derivatives.](#) ~~and a~~Address root causes of crime through housing, education, mental
392 health, and employment access. Support medical cost containment for
393 incarcerated individuals and maintain Medicaid coverage pre-release.
- 394 • **Justice System Operations and Access:** Increase circuit court funding and ADA
395 positions, and address rising caseloads. Increase funding for public defenders, pay
396 progression, and eliminate the eligibility gap. Support interpreter access
397 regardless of indigency and increase funding for interpreter services. Promote
398 reforms to expungement laws to remove employment barriers and restore
399 opportunity for all ages. Support adequate state investment in County Circuit
400 Courts, including court security, court interpreter funding, and increase the county
401 share of fines/forfeitures, and responsible fee increases. Provide judges with
402 flexibility and discretion on fines. Increase jury trial fees to support juror
403 compensation. Join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to improve fine
404 collection and revenue. [Secure funding that provides no-cost communications
405 services and treat these services as essential services and not profit centers.](#)

Commented [FL7]: Added by PPJ 2/24

Commented [FL8]: Added by PPJ 2/24

- 408 • **Victim, Community, and Public Safety Support:** Support funding for victim-
409 witness services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy's Law. Increase
410 funding for crime victims that have egregious claims against local jurisdiction but
411 are without relief. Support state funding for domestic and sexual violence
412 prevention, intervention, and prosecution, including funding ADA positions
413 dedicated to domestic and sexual violence and shelter services. Support efforts to
414 eradicate human trafficking while working to address root causes. Re-enact a
415 Good Samaritan Law when an "aider" provides emergency medical assistance to
416 another person believed to be experiencing an overdose or adverse reaction to a
417 controlled substance.
- 418 • **Public Safety Prevention Efforts:** Support state funding for drunk driving
419 prevention. Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training
420 for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and
421 associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken
422 driving. Support efforts to prevent stolen vehicles that will create disincentives to
423 breaking and entering of homes and stealing of vehicles for financial and
424 recreational purposes. Support legislation to create additional consumer
425 protections from payday lenders.
- 426 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA
427 to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing
428 the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal
429 justice/treatment programs.
- 430 • **Prisoner Medical Costs and Hospitalization:** Support any state and federal
431 efforts to maintain Medicaid coverage for incarcerated people and oppose any
432 legislation that would expand the County's statutory obligation to pay medical and
433 hospital costs for anyone other than indigent residents who are being held at the
434 Dane County Jail under the state's criminal laws or for contempt of court.

Commented [FL9]: Added by PPJ 2/24

Commented [FL10]: Added by PPJ 2/24 based on the previously approved resolution

436 Elections

- 437 • **Voter Access, Education and Election Administration:** Support election laws
438 that increase voter access and participation, including voter education, public
439 financing of elections, and adequate resources for local governments
440 administering elections. Oppose changes that reduce same-day voter
441 registration, shorten absentee voting periods, or impose additional photo
442 identification requirements. Ensure any election administration changes are done
443 in consultation with election clerks at the local level. Support efforts to encourage
444 and expand opportunities for youth civic engagement.

Commented [FL11]: Added as a suggestion based on feedback from the Clerk. To be reviewed by Exec Committee.

445 Local Road Funding and Projects

- 446 • **Transportation Funding Support:** Support a greater share of state and federal
447 transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services.
448 Increase funding for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the
449 County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation
450 for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require "farmland mitigation" for
451 highway improvement projects. Funding formulas that discriminate against urban
452 counties should be revised and the local match for CHIPS should be decreased.

- 453 • **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of state construction/maintenance
454 contracts to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance
455 zones. Support innovative approaches to improve work zone safety and legislation
456 to allow for the use of the color green on maintenance vehicles to improve
457 snowplow safety.
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459 **Bicycle Paths, Recreational Trails, and Mass Transit**

- 460 • **Bicycle and Trail Infrastructure:** Support the use of transportation aids for the
461 construction and maintenance of bicycle trails with significant commuter traffic, the
462 creation and development of a statewide Bike Trail Task Force, and integrating
463 bicycle transportation into future commuter transportation systems. Request DNR
464 assistance in the development of regional trail systems, and allow local
465 governments to use eminent domain for constructing bicycle and pedestrian
466 infrastructure.
- 467 • **Increased Mass Transit Options:** Allow local governments to create Regional
468 Transit Authorities (RTA) and support planning funds for regional light rail, bus, or
469 other forms of mass transit. Support funding to improve Amtrak passenger rail
470 options.
- 471 • **Airport Authority and Practices:** Oppose legislation that takes airport
472 governance away from county government and gives it to a private/public airport
473 authority. Support state and federal funding to help small and medium sized
474 airports transition away from leaded fuel use by increasing unleaded fuel storage
475 capacity at airports and providing assistance to transition small aircraft to unleaded
476 fuel.
- 477 • **Autonomous Taxi/Cars:** Support a tax on the rental of passenger vehicles and
478 mass transit without drivers to support workers displaced by such technologies.
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480 **Community, Workforce, and Economic Development**

- 481 • **Access to Broadband:** Support increasing financial support to expand broadband
482 services to underserved areas and change state law to allow all levels of local
483 governments and publicly funded entities to build and subsidize broadband
484 networks and projects in underserved areas.
- 485 • **Worker Protections and Rights:** Oppose permitting an employer to refuse to
486 employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted
487 of a felony, allow local governments to adopt ordinances concerning employment
488 discrimination based on arrest or conviction records, support increasing the
489 minimum wage to a living wage, support all workers having the right to seek safe
490 working conditions, benefits, and fair pay through collective bargaining.
- 491 • **Financial Stability and Workforce Training:** Support expanding the state
492 Transitional Jobs Program, ensuring adequate staffing and funding levels for Dane
493 County Extension's high-quality educational programs for farmers, businesses,
494 communities, families and young people, and exploring options to lower student
495 debt such as refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the
496 loans, reducing interest rates, and ensuring tuition is affordable.

Commented [FL12]: During the PWT committee meeting, there was discussion that this section may be better suited under the Local Control and Intergovernmental Relations section of the agenda.

Some of the language does overlap, so the executive committee/county board could choose to add it as a bullet point in that section as-is, or combine the language in other bullet point (such as the Democracy, Rights, and Labor Protections bullet point).

- 497 • **Access to Quality Education:** Support adequate funding for our public schools
498 and ensure all schools receiving public funding are held to the same accountability
499 measures and standards.
- 500 • **Funding for the Arts:** Support increased funding for the arts, especially for art
501 projects in communities, schools, colleges, and public facilities.
- 502 • **Air Service Development:** Support establishing a state-funded Air Service
503 Development program dedicated to providing grants to help Wisconsin commercial
504 airports recruit and maintain air service in order to compete with neighboring states
505 already providing this type of funding to their airports.

Commented [FL13]: Added in response to discussion at the PWT committee meeting.

507 Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation

- 508 • **Preserve Flood Insurance and Disaster Aid Protections:** Oppose any
509 proposal that would suspend or weaken Wisconsin’s floodplain regulations, as
510 doing so would jeopardize access to federal flood insurance and disaster
511 assistance for communities and individuals impacted by floods. Support changes
512 that limit the use of holding tanks for new or replacement septic systems,
513 ensuring they are only used as a last resort and that Wisconsin Fund assistance
514 supports the most cost-effective, environmentally responsible options.
- 515 • **Protect Local Land Use and Planning Authority:** ~~Oppose any state proposals
516 that weaken Dane County’s ability to regulate land use and responsibly manage
517 growth through zoning, land division, subdivision regulations, and shoreland,
518 floodplain, and wetland protections. Reject legislation that undermines
519 comprehensive planning statutes, and support efforts to restore and expand
520 county land use authority to promote coordinated planning across jurisdictions.
521 Oppose any state proposals that weaken Dane County’s or its municipalities’
522 ability to regulate land use and responsibly manage growth through zoning, land
523 division, subdivision regulations, and shoreland, floodplain, and wetland
524 protections. Support legislation requiring that all state agencies treat adopted
525 municipal and county comprehensive plans, farmland preservation plans, and
526 zoning ordinances as binding in siting determinations. Require formal approval
527 by resolution of the affected municipality’s governing body prior to state
528 authorization of large-scale energy generation facilities, utility-scale solar
529 installations, transmission corridors, battery storage facilities, data centers, or
530 other high-impact infrastructure projects. Reject state preemption that overrides
531 locally adopted land use protections or permits the expansion of such projects
532 without municipal consent.~~
- 533 • **Maintain Local Oversight of Natural Resources:** Oppose attempts to disturb or
534 destroy Native American effigy mounds and historic burial sites, which are
535 significant cultural and historical landmarks. Oppose “takings” legislation that
536 would require counties to compensate property owners for loss of property value
537 resulting from lawful land use or environmental regulations.
- 538 • **Promote Sustainable and Fair Energy Infrastructure:** Support requiring that
539 new transmission lines, including high-voltage infrastructure, be constructed
540

Commented [FL14]: Added by EANR on 2/26. Since it is added to the Zoning section, I wanted to call attention to it for additional review and discussion by the Executive Committee.

541 underground where feasible to protect environmental resources, enhance system
542 resiliency, and preserve Dane County's economic vitality. Advocate for an
543 independent study to assess the true need for additional transmission lines in the
544 region. Additionally, oppose utility deregulation efforts that lead to higher consumer
545 rates and support frameworks that prioritize reliability, equitable benefit
546 distribution, and environmental and social outcomes. Preserve counties' ability to
547 aggregate electricity purchases to improve affordability and sustainability.

- 548 • **Support Strategic Programs and Tools for Land and Data Management:**
549 Support continued state funding for the Wisconsin Land Information Program and
550 its grant mechanisms, which are essential to maintaining accurate land records
551 and supporting local planning efforts. Encourage sustainable land use practices by
552 maintaining Dane County's ability to use a full range of planning tools. This
553 includes resisting any attempts to limit the use of zoning and comprehensive
554 planning at the local level. [Support fair retention of real estate transfer fees to](#)
555 [counties.](#)

Commented [FL15]: Added by ZLR 2/24 to reflect a previously passed resolution

556
557
558 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors
559 goes on record in support of this 2026-2028 Legislative Agenda; ~~and,~~

560
561 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Legislative Lobbyist be directed
562 to pursue these legislative positions; ~~and,~~

563
564 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution will be sent to the Governor,
565 the ~~L~~Leadership of both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature, and the Wisconsin
566 legislative delegation representing Dane County.