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2020 RES-429
2021-2023 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 DNR funding for water quality planning and watershed projects. 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 additional funding and staffing for local water quality protection and improvement.
- **Stormwater Utility:** Amend WI Stats. to allow counties to create and manage stormwater utility. Support local control of erosion and storm water management standards. Oppose standardizing regulation of construction site erosion, storm water management, and prohibiting local governments from enacting local ordinances that are stricter than statewide standards.
- **Comprehensive Approach to Control Lake Levels:** Support 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. Support efforts to manage the Yahara Chain of Lakes by improving the volume of water leaving the Yahara River system, reducing stormwater runoff volumes through increased stormwater infiltration, and improving management of stormwater on impervious surfaces.

- **Keep Asian Carp Out of Wisconsin Waterways:** Urge DNR and federal government to increase efforts to stop the advance of Asian carp in Wisconsin.
- **Mining Reform:** Support provisions restoring local government role for mining 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.
- **High-Capacity Wells:** Support science-based regulation of high-capacity wells that considers the individual and cumulative effects of high-capacity irrigation wells on nearby water systems.
- **Public Trust Doctrine:** Oppose legislation that erodes the Public Trust Doctrine and DNR's ability to regulate navigable waters and wetlands.

Natural Resources Conservation

- **Stewardship Fund:** Support ongoing appropriations for the state Stewardship Fund that are strong and annually adjusted for inflation. Eliminate Stewardship Fund requirements for hunting and trapping.
- **State Urban Forestry Grants:** Allow towns, counties, and non-profits to access both federal and state funds in the Urban Forestry Grant Program.
- **DNR Staffing:** Support DNR staff levels that benefit Dane County water programs, including regulatory programs, lake/fishery, runoff specialists, conservation wardens, land conservation, and parks programs.

Sustainable Agricultural Practices

- **Soil & Water Resource Management Program:** Increase available cost share funding to support agricultural producers with implementation of conservation practices to grow the state's agricultural economy as well as protect soil and water resources. Develop a new, sustaining revenue source to fund soil and water conservation programming in Wisconsin to assist agriculture with mitigating, adapting, and building resiliency to climate change.
- **Soil Erosion:** 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.
- **Nonpoint pollution:** Target landowner cost-sharing toward implementing existing agricultural nonpoint pollution performance standards (NR 151) with a goal of statewide compliance by 2035. Support ensuring adequate funding is available to meet cost-share requirements to implement performance standards and prioritize systematic implementation of agricultural performance standards and targeting resource concerns.
- **Foreign Interests in Farmland:** Oppose legislation that removes limits on foreign ownership of Wisconsin agricultural land.
- **Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock:** Support statewide ban on non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production/agriculture.
- **County Conservation Staffing:** Support increasing state aid for county

104 conservation staff to fully implement county land and water resource
105 management plan and provide technical support to implement farm
106 conservation practices.
107 • **Nutrient management planning:** Support legislation to increase farm
108 participation in nutrient management planning by improving delivery
109 mechanism and compliance incentives for all Wisconsin farms, especially
110 in highly susceptible areas. Support re-focusing nutrient management
111 programming from cost sharing and planning to implementation and
112 compliance.

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

- 116 • **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change
117 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the severe adverse
118 impacts on our economy, environment, safety, and public health.
119 Enhance county authority and funding for county-level action planning,
120 mitigation, adaptation, and resilience around the impacts of climate
121 change.
- 122 • **Green Jobs Economic Development:** Support statewide grants or
123 incentives for counties to produce a resilient climate change-ready
124 economy and carbon-free future by developing, creating and attracting
125 green job opportunities.
- 126 • **Renewable Energy:** Support legislation and statewide funding that
127 encourages waste-to-energy and renewable energy sources such as
128 wind, solar, and biomass as viable energy sources for utilities and
129 Wisconsin consumers. Support legislation to increase
130 affordability/sustainability of renewable energy in Wisconsin.
- 131 • **Divestment from Fossil Fuels:** Support zero investments in fossil fuel
132 companies for all local governments and state institutions.
- 133 • **Balanced & Fair Partnership Between Digesters, Gas Recovery**
134 **Programs & Utility Companies:** Create a statewide reimbursement
135 competitive grant program to enhance and fund bioenergy projects.
- 136 • **Energy Efficiency:** Work to defend the statewide Focus on Energy
137 Program and actively support efforts to increase the funding and
138 customer access to that program. Support efforts to return local control
139 for energy related decision making such as establishing commercial
140 building codes. Restore school districts' energy efficiency exemption to
141 the revenue limit.
- 142 • **Reduce Fine Particle Pollution:** Support increased funding and new
143 incentives for fine particle emission reduction programs, including
144 programs that reduce emissions from transportation sources and point
145 sources through the increased use of alternative fuels, renewable
146 energy sources, and energy efficiency improvements.
- 147 • **Diesel Idling Regulations:** Support statewide implementation of
148 diesel idling regulations for trucks, buses, and other diesel engines.

149 **Environmental Health**

- 151 • **Mercury Rules:** Support changes to the mercury rules to achieve a 90%
152 reduction per DNR rule.
- 153 • **Perfluorinated Compounds:** Support adopting a state-directed
154 threshold standard of PFAS, PFOA and PFOS as part of a
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156 comprehensive statewide plan that identifies contamination sources,
157 remediation options, and tools to cover the associated costs with
158 remediation.
159 • **Lead Pollution:** Support statewide/utility user funding to help local
160 governments mitigate lead contamination in drinking water. Support
161 increasing statewide awareness and educational efforts related to
162 reducing the use of lead shot and tackle for hunting and fishing.

163 **Access to High Quality Health Care**

- 166 • **Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental care for all
167 residents, including those on Medical Assistance.
- 168 • **Medicaid Expansion:** Support implementation of the Medicaid
169 expansion under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Accept
170 available federal funds for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of
171 Wisconsin citizens have access to quality and affordable health
172 coverage.
- 173 • **Medicare Expansion:** Support Medicare for All Act to ensure everyone
174 has access to high quality, universal healthcare without the
175 interruptions in care present in an employer -based for-profit system.
- 176 • **State Funding Streams:** Support Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)
177 increases in key funding areas from the state including Youth Aids,
178 Basic Community Aids, Children and Families Allocation, Aging and
179 Disability Resource Centers, Income Maintenance, Children’s
180 Community Options Program, and Children’s Long Term Support
181 Program.

182 **Economic Assistance**

- 185 • **Income Maintenance Programs:** Support funding levels and
186 legislation that provide sufficient resources to administer non-cash
187 benefit programs such as Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Child
188 Care and issue benefits to all eligible people. Oppose changes to the
189 eligibility/enrollment process and services funded under Medicaid and
190 Income Maintenance, which limit eligibility and could reduce the
191 number of people receiving benefits.
- 192 • **Childcare:** Support sufficient funding for childcare. Expand eligibility to
193 include childcare support for low-income individuals pursuing higher
194 education leading to employment.
- 195 • **Tax Supports for low-income residents:** Support increasing the
196 state percentage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and
197 expanding eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit program.
- 198 • **Property Tax Exemptions Low Income Housing:** Clarify 70.11 Wis.
199 Stats. to define “maintenance” as “repair and maintenance of property,
200 capital replacements, insurance premiums, project management,
201 debt retirement, project-related reserves, general administrative
202 expenses, resident services, utilities, financing costs, preservation
203 expenses and similar project-related expenses.”
- 204 • **Centralization of Economic Support Programs:** Oppose initiatives
205 to remove income maintenance administration from counties and
206 create a centralized income maintenance unit.
- 207 • **Medicaid Funding:** Support enabling counties to accept/administer
208 Medicaid funding at the county level.
- 209 • **Drug Testing:** Oppose legislation that would enact drug testing as a

210 requirement for public benefits. Also oppose drug testing of youth in
211 our public schools.

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

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- **Birth to Three:** Support additional financial support from the state for this program. Support a modification of State Statutes to require health insurers to make third party payments to defray the cost of Birth to Three care for families that have private health insurance policies.
- **Community Support Program (CSP):** Continue program. Have additional state funding to help reduce county costs and serve those who can benefit from the program.
- **RSVP Services:** Support increased funding for the RSVP Program
- **Seniorcare and BadgerCare:** Maintain Seniorcare and BadgerCare continuing programs.
- **Handicap Access:** Support “visit ability” legislation to allow handicap access devices in new homes or eliminate barriers in older homes.
- **Long Term Care Reform:** Plans developed by the state in the area of long term care need to protect quality and availability of services to consumers and maintain control by the county of programs or relieve the county of financial aid and/or legal obligations for the programs and participants if the county is not involved with these programs in the future. The required county contribution towards LTC should be equitably negotiated. Amend Chapter 55 to delineate state and county responsibilities.
- **Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC):** Support increasing state funds to expand and fully fund ADRC services and support programs across the state including funds for dementia care specialists, elder benefits specialists, and care transition services. Oppose efforts to privatize ADRCs.
- **Employment Services for Older Adults:** Extend the use of state and county funds to encourage the business community and technical colleges to create and support retraining and placement of older adults entering/re-entering employment, especially those lacking English proficiency.
- **Family Caregivers:** Provide financial support and tax credits to family caregivers.
- **Dementia Patient Rights:** Oppose involuntary psychotropic drug administration in Chapters 51 and 55.
- **Comprehensive Community Services (CCS):** Support continued full funding of the state match.
- **InvestaCare (Long Term Care Investment Fund):** Support legislation to establish a long-term care investment savings program for individuals 18 years and older to meet future long-term care needs through financial contributions.
- **Family Care/IRIS:** Oppose changes that weaken the Family Care, IRIS, and Partnership programs.
- **Mental Health and Drug Addiction Treatment:** Urge the state of Wisconsin to require increased insurance coverage and MA reimbursement rates in addition to adequate and sustainable statewide funding for mental health services and drug addiction treatment

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programs.

- **Winnebago Mental Health Transfers:** Urge DHS to rescind its requirement to transfer detained mental health patients to Winnebago Mental Health Institute instead of Mendota.
- **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation:** Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) is contracted by the state of Wisconsin to provide rides for Medicaid eligible individuals to gain access to medical appointments. Past contracts lacked strong accountability or oversight measures and rewarded vendors for denying rides resulting in complaints about the quality and consistency. Support efforts to hold NEMT vendors accountable, improve oversight of the program, ensure quality, consistent services, resolve complaints and provide incentives for giving rather than denying rides.
- **Prevention Funding:** Support initiatives that provide additional funds for primary prevention and enforcement programs related to elder abuse and neglect.
- **IMD Exclusion:** Support the state in its efforts to change the “IMD Exclusion” that ultimately requires counties to fund institutional stays for patients covered by Medicaid.
- **Educational and Licensure Requirements:** Oppose the reduction of educational and licensure requirements for health care professionals.

Services for Children, Youth, and Families

- **Career Development for Youth:** Support funding to provide educational, work skill development, transportation and mentoring services for youth or young adults who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped out of high school or who are unemployed post high school and lack the knowledge and skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment.
- **Early Childhood Initiative:** Support legislation to continue funding for the Early Childhood Initiative programs.
- **Apprenticeship/Internships:** Provide incentives for the business community and technical college system to create and support apprenticeship/internship opportunities to young adults. Expedite entry and graduation from the programs to meet increasing demands to fill vacancies created by an aging workforce.
- **Prevention Funding:** Support initiatives that provide additional funds for primary prevention programs including delinquency and child abuse/neglect.
- **Relative Caregivers:** Support legislation/policies that provide additional state support to relatives who take care of non-custodial children.
- **Kinship Care:** Support funding to meet needs of all that are eligible.
- **Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR):** Eliminate WIMCR program or fully reimburse counties for the revenues they would have received under the Community Services Deficit Reduction Benefit (CSDRB) and Community impacted by the creation of WIMCR.
- **Family Child Care:** Support legislation to extend the state rules governing foster care background checks to family day care providers.
- **At-Risk Youth Report to School Board:** Develop a program for newly released at-risk students to interact with/give progress reports to school boards.
- **Law Enforcement Role in Child Abuse & Neglect:** Oppose legislation that usurps the authority of county Child Protective Services

- 317 (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and neglect cases to law
318 enforcement in lieu of CPS, increases penalties and changes the
319 neglect definition to target low income and marginalized communities.
320 • **Child Support:** Support increasing funding for the Wisconsin County
321 Child Support Program to maintain the current high level of service.
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323 Youth Justice

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325 • **Youth Justice:** Support continued funding for early intervention and
326 intensive treatment programs. Support continued improvements to the
327 youth justice and juvenile corrections systems that use research-
328 based restorative actions, provide adequate funding for secured
329 residential care centers, and expand access to comprehensive mental
330 health services.
331 • **Youth Aids:** Support legislation to increase state funding for out-of-
332 home care costs for youth offenders now paid for by Dane County.
333 Limit increases in state rates for out-of-home placements for youth
334 (including corrections, child caring institutions and residential care
335 facilities) to no more than the increase in Youth Aids.
336 • **17-Year-Olds:** Remove 17-year-olds from the adult correctional
337 system and return them to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Corrections.
338 • **Youth Programs:** Support continuation and expansions of programs
339 focusing on prevention of delinquency, alcohol and other drug use,
340 child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence. Support increased
341 funding and support for youth after school programs, especially at the
342 middle school level.
343 • **Youth Courts:** Support and fund Youth Courts in Wisconsin High
344 Schools.
345 • **Group Homes:** Support efforts to reassess the maximum daily rate
346 that group homes receive.
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348 Public Health Services

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350 • **Local Public Health Emergencies:** Support legislation that recognizes
351 the critical role of local public health departments in responding to
352 public health emergencies and provides adequate funding to respond
353 to all threats to public health. Oppose legislation to preempt or restrict
354 local authority to respond to public health emergencies.
355 • **Public Health Services:** Support initiatives that strengthen the ability
356 of local health departments to maintain effective community health
357 initiatives, enhance health and racial equity, and promote optimal
358 health outcomes for all residents. Oppose efforts that prevent local
359 health departments from advocating for strong public health
360 parameters, incorporating health considerations into policy decision-
361 making, and providing community health services based on scientific
362 data.
363 • **Medical Marijuana:** Support legislation allowing residents with
364 debilitating medical conditions to acquire and possess marijuana for
365 medical purposes if supported by their physician.
366 • **Women's Health Care:** Repeal all state laws that prohibit women from
367 having access to safe and legal abortions, that don't protect women's
368 health and don't ensure a woman's dignity, equality and autonomy.

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- **Support Wisconsin Well Woman Program:** Support maintaining this program for breast and cervical cancer screening. Oppose cuts or service reductions.
- **Breastfeeding friendly workplaces:** Support institutional policies that allow individuals who are breastfeeding or pumping to have space to do so.
- **School Meals:** Increase state funding for school breakfasts. Maintain nutritional standards for meals that align with MyPlate dietary recommendations.
- **Dangerous Animals and Vicious Dog Ordinance:** Amend state law to allow counties to enact stricter ordinances to regulate dangerous animals and vicious dogs having countywide applicability.

Housing

- **Homeless Services:** Provide additional state funding for services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth and families who are homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness including but not limited to the Critical Assistance Program and the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program.
- **Manufactured Housing:** Support legislation to amend state statutes to require adequate notice to residents when mobile home parks are closing, require storm cellars/secure areas in manufactured housing communities, encourage WHEDA to provide funding/financing for the purchase of housing on leased land, remove any barriers to long term leases, allow the purchase of communities by residents and the development of co-operative housing for manufactured housing communities.
- **Restrictions on Local Fair Housing Ordinances:** Oppose legislation that impinges on the rights of tenants by allowing landlords to discriminate based on a tenant's income, occupation, rental history, credit information, arrest/conviction history and Social Security number.
- **Landlord Regulation:** Repeal 2011 WI Act 108, which prohibits local government ordinances that place limits or requirements on landlords (Fair Housing Ordinance). Repeal 2011 WI Act 143, which prohibits a local government from imposing a moratorium on eviction actions and amends/creates new provisions that benefit landlords including but not limited to allowing: landlord discretion in disposing/storing of medical/personal items; landlords to withhold a tenant's security deposit or portion of for damages, unpaid rent/utility bills; and severability of rental agreements. Repeal 2011- 2012 budget bill provision, which deletes landlord foreclosure notice. Repeal 2013 WI Act 76 (Prohibit Local Landlord Ordinances).
- **Expanding Affordable Housing Options:** Support state investment in the Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund. Support additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing and state incentives for landlords to accept housing vouchers. Support increases for state programs to expand access to affordable housing such as the Rental Housing Development Program. Support allowing local governments to set affordable housing requirements.
- **Tenants' Rights:** Oppose legislation that prohibits local

421 governments from enacting/enforcing ordinances that regulate
422 landlord/tenant relations, which enhance fairness in
423 landlord/tenant relations, foster responsible property ownership
424 and protect the safety & stability of neighborhoods. Support state
425 funding for legal assistance for renters facing eviction and landlord
426 and tenant mediation programs. Support legislation to provide a
427 right to counsel for residential tenants facing evictions. Support
428 legislation requiring a just cause for termination of tenancy and
429 eviction. Support legislation to remove the requirement for
430 scheduling eviction trials within 30 days of initial hearing.

- 431 • **Lead Remediation:** Support state funding for local lead
432 remediation programs.

433 **Veterans Services**

- 436 • **Armed Forces:** Support Dane County soldiers who are presently
437 serving. Support protecting families and jobs rather than utilizing
438 precious resources and funds to wage a war.
- 439 • **VFW Halls:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered veterans'
440 organizations.
- 441 • **Property Tax Credit:** Drop the disability rating from 100% to 30% or
442 greater.
- 443 • **Wisconsin GI Bill:** Support fully funding the Wisconsin GI Bill without
444 any limitations on eligibility.
- 445 • **State Funding for the Veterans Trust Fund:** Support increased
446 state funding to insure solvency of the Veterans Trust Fund and to
447 help stabilize the Trust Fund so veterans will no longer pay for their
448 own benefits and programs.
- 449 • **Veteran Homelessness:** Support ending veteran homelessness by
450 maximizing state and federal resources and streamlining local
451 housing processes.
- 452 • **Mass Transit for Disabled Veterans:** Support fully funding bus
453 passes and other mass transit costs for all service-connected disabled
454 veterans in all Wisconsin locations and transit programs.
- 455 • **County Veterans Offices:** Oppose legislation that cuts/restructures
456 CVSO funding, reduces veteran services, or weakens the offices by
457 regionalization.
- 458 • **Veterans Administration:** Support and recognize the significance of
459 the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital
460 and area clinics in the lives of veterans and in the Dane County
461 community and oppose privatization of services.

462 **County Personnel, Finance, and Governance**

- 464 • **State Mandates:** Oppose any legislation or rule that requires counties to
465 provide a service or administer a program without adequate and ongoing
466 funding. Support creation of a Joint Survey Committee on Local
467 Mandates. Support legislation to allow waivers from state mandates.
468 Support requiring the state to perform a biennial review of all mandated
469 programs to determine continued need for the programs and annually
470 review all mandated programs funded at 50% or less.
- 471 • **Fees/Licenses:** Support state-set fees collected by counties to fairly
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- cover administrative costs.
- **Libraries:** Enforce compliance with WI Stats. 43.24(6), which requires state funding for public library systems at 13% of local library expenditures.
 - **Association Memberships:** Support requiring a simple majority vote of the county board of supervisors to purchase membership in an association of countyboards.
 - **Room Tax:** Amend the room tax statutes to include counties.
 - **Alliant Energy Center:** Support state funding for capital projects on the Alliant Energy Center campus and support authorizing the creation of a taxing authority, known as the Alliant Energy Center District, to be used to repay bonds for the construction, maintenance, and operations of campus facilities.
 - **Property Tax Freeze:** Oppose any efforts to limit or prohibit local governments from increasing their expenditures or revenues.
 - **Buy Local:** Provide and maintain state funding to create incentives for businesses and all levels of government to buy local produce and products. Oppose the practice of contracting State of Wisconsin government functions or services to out-of-state companies/operations.
 - **Reverse Marriage Ban:** Support a constitutional amendment to delete the marriage ban amendment adopted in the Fall 2006 General Election.
 - **Domestic Partnership Benefits:** Support restoring local governments' ability to provide domestic partner benefits.
 - **State Contracts:** Support requiring sustainability as one criterion in the decision-making or contract selection process for state contracts and requiring vendors to extend benefits to domestic partner relationships.
 - **Restore Impact Fee Authority:** Restore counties to the governmental entities that are authorized to levy impact fees.
 - **Fair and Equitable Taxation:** Support fair and equitable taxation without harming county revenue.
 - **Local Government Control:** Oppose any legislation that limits or deletes local government control including opposition to levy limits and support for county home rule authority.
 - **Prevailing Wage:** Restore the prevailing wage requirement for public works and other projects.
 - **Fair Motorboat Gas Tax Allocation:** Support legislation to fairly allocate motorboat fuel tax through a more equitable distribution formula.
 - **Comprehensive School Funding Reform:** Support changes in the school aid formula to align revenues with educational costs. Distribute resources in accordance with the diverse needs of students and districts to ensure every student receives a quality education. Support moving school funding away from reliance on property taxes.
 - **Changes to Wisconsin Redistricting Statutes:** Oppose changes to the redistricting process that allow the Wisconsin Legislature to develop a map of Congressional, Senatorial and Assembly districts prior to local government input regarding ward boundaries.
 - **Oppose State-Imposed County Board Restructuring:** Oppose legislation that impedes a County Board from governing, budgeting and hiring staff.
 - **Collective Bargaining:** Support legislation allowing local government the option to engage in collective bargaining with public sector

- 524 employees. Dane County is committed to a fair and respectful bargaining
525 process and to bargaining in good faith with our employees, even if state
526 statutes no longer require collective bargaining between Dane County
527 and its employees. Oppose attacks on workers' rights.
- 528 • **Balance of Power:** Oppose efforts to alter the authority and/or
529 responsibilities among county boards, county executives or
530 administrators, and constitutional officers and upset the balance of power
531 in county government across Wisconsin.
 - 532 • **Dark Store Loophole:** Oppose the Dark Store Loophole by clarifying that
533 leases are appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties
534 and that when using the comparable sale method of valuation, assessors
535 shall consider as comparable only those sales within the same market
536 segment exhibiting a similar highest and best use rather than similarly
537 sized but vacant properties in abandoned locations.
 - 538 • **Nonpartisan Redistricting:** Support the creation of an independent non-
539 partisan process for the preparation of legislative and congressional
540 district lines. 82% of Dane County voters supported a fair map
541 referendum.
 - 542 • **Project Labor Agreements:** Support the restoration of local
543 governments' ability to enter into Project Labor Agreements.
 - 544 • **Competitive Bids:** Support updating the threshold for requiring
545 competitive bidding to \$37,000 due to inflation and rising costs since Ch.
546 59.52 sub 29 was established.

548 Public Safety and Emergency Management

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- 550 • **EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages financial support of
551 volunteers in emergency medical services and that addresses liability
552 issues and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for
553 radio frequency and upgrade requirements.
 - 554 • **Communications Surcharge for 911 Systems:** Support legislation to
555 redirect some of the Police and Fire Protection Fee surcharge to 911
556 Centers.
 - 557 • **First Responder Training:** Require training for first responders on
558 appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting, and interacting with
559 older adults as well as other adults who may have complications from
560 abuse, dementia, mental health or other disorders.
 - 561 • **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all
562 county costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and
563 associated costs including redaction.
 - 564 • **Criminal Background Check:** Support additional funds to the
565 Department of Justice to enable conducting of uniform criminal
566 background checks of to-be-hired direct care workers by public non-profit
567 agencies.
 - 568 • **Multi-line Telephone System (MLTS) Calls to 911:** Support legislation
569 requiring owners/operators of these systems to deliver Wisconsin 9-1-1
570 Centers precise location information instead of merely the "headquarters
571 office" location and call-back numbers now delivered when callers from
572 their system dial 9-1-1 seeking aid.

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- **Support Gun Control:** Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed carry permits, make the purchase of a firearm for somebody who is prohibited from possessing a firearm a felony, make the possession of a concealed firearm by those prohibited under Wisconsin law a felony, and require that private gun sales be subject to criminal background checks performed by a federally licensed gun dealer. Support changes to state law that allow local gun regulations.
- **Concealed Carry Weapons:** Modify the concealed carry law to prohibit concealed weapons from being carried onto the grounds, parking lots or areas associated with convention, entertainment, and sporting facilities, venues where the public assembles for tradeshow, demonstrations, conventions, consumer shows, entertainment, sporting or educational events, including zoos, convention centers, arenas, horse arenas, hockey arenas, concert and sporting venues for public assembly events, including when those facilities are used for private events, institutions of higher learning, public schools, child care facilities, community centers, health care facilities, and public mass transportation. Support setting concealed carry license fees at an amount sufficient to fund all County Sheriffs' costs associated with administering the law.

Criminal Justice and Corrections

- **Racial disparities:** Support all efforts to remove racial inequities and inequitable access to our broken criminal justice system. Support publishing racial disparity and incarceration statistics at all levels of the criminal justice system.
- **Smart Justice:** Support legislation and state investments in smart justice reforms that work to solve the problems of crime such as access to mental health services, treatment for addiction, affordable housing, education, and employment rather than simply punishing people. Support evidence-based, data-driven reforms that enhance fairness and efficiencies while increasing safety and reducing taxpayer costs.
- **Triage and restoration:** Support state investment in community triage and restoration centers.
- **Alternatives to incarceration:** Support alternatives to incarceration throughout the criminal justice system with strong state support for front-end diversion programs.
- **Expungement:** Support removing employment barriers by creating an opportunity for expungement for all ages.
- **Bail, Probation & Parole:** Support comprehensive reform on state parole and probation revocation policy, including decreasing crimeless revocations and allowing individuals to be released pending revocation investigation in order to reduce days in jail. Support reforms to bail and conditions of pretrial release that respects the constitutional rights of the accused, enhances public safety, and incorporates evidence-based strategies.
- **Changes to state DOC process:** Urge the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to hold revocation hearings outside of jails and continue technological changes that help reduce length of stay.

- 622 • **Mental Health Courts:** Encourage state support for county mental health
623 courts.
- 624 • **Prisoner Re-entry:** Adequately fund prisoner community re-entry
625 programs to increase success and effectiveness.
- 626 • **Close Public Defender Eligibility Gap:** Support changing Public
627 Defender eligibility level to the same level as eligibility for appointed
628 counsel to eliminate the gap that currently requires the court to appoint
629 counsel at county expense.
- 630 • **County Jail:** Support full state funding for probation and parole holds,
631 more funding for incarceration alternatives, and support Justice Impact
632 Statements.
- 633 • **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion:** Support enhancements to
634 public safety and reduce unnecessary corrections related expenditures
635 by (a) Increasing funding for the treatment Alternatives and Diversion
636 (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually; (b) Changing the TAD
637 statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime can be
638 eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature; (c) Changing the statute
639 so that people with a mental health issue (and not a co-occurring
640 addiction issue) can be eligible; and (d) Focusing the growth in TAD in
641 these three main areas: (1) Expansion of OWI Courts, SSTOP, and other
642 programs that address drunk driving; (2) Expansion of drug treatment
643 programs that can help deal with the growing heroin problem as well as
644 other drugs; and (3) Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that
645 are targeted to the communities that have the state's highest
646 incarceration rates.
- 647 • **Court Interpreters:** Support appointing court interpreters to all cases
648 regardless of indigence and support an increase in state funding for
649 reimbursement to counties for interpreter services.
- 650 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of
651 WCJRA to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment
652 options while reducing the prison population and sharing the savings with
653 counties to fund local criminal justice/treatment programs.
- 654 • **Racial Disparity Subcommittee:** Support creation of a state Criminal
655 Justice Coordinating Council subcommittee on racial disparities within
656 the criminal justice system.
- 657 • **State Court System:** Increase state funding of the circuit court system,
658 including court security.
- 659 • **Victim-Witness Program:** Support full state funding of program costs.
- 660 • **Clerk of Court Fees:** Pursue statutory changes to increase the county
661 share of fines/forfeitures.
- 662 • **Fines and Fees:** Support efforts to give judges flexibility and discretion
663 on fines.
- 664 • **Domestic Violence:** Support state funding for domestic violence
665 prevention, intervention, and prosecution, including funding for three ADA
666 positions dedicated to domestic violence and shelter services.
- 667 • **Fee Increase for Jury Trial:** Support legislation to increase the fee for a
668 jury trial from \$6 to \$15. The funding is needed to offset increases in juror
669 compensation.

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- **Prisoner Hospitalization:** Oppose any legislation that would reverse/overturn the WI Supreme Court ruling on the Meriter case.
- **District Attorney Funding:** Support increased state funding for more Deputy District Attorney and Assistance District Attorney positions to meet growing caseloads.
- **Mental Health Screenings:** Support and fund mental health screening and treatment for jailed inmates in county juvenile detention, shelter homes, and county jails.
- **Legalize Marijuana:** Support legislation legalizing marijuana. Dane County voters approved by 76% “yes” votes and 24% “no” votes.
- **Victim-Witness Services:** Support increasing state funding for victim-witness services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy’s Law.
- **Public Defenders:** Support pay progression plans and retention initiatives to help ensure adequate access to public defenders for those who need one.
- **Policing reforms:** Support efforts to ban chokehold and increase transparency on use of force.
- **Body Cameras:** Support state body camera legislation that requires minimum days of storage of footage, public access to footage, a prohibition of police officers reviewing footage before writing their report of the incident, and funding for public defender staff to review, document, and store body camera footage. Also support state legislation that does not mandate that local law enforcement agencies use body cameras. Support state legislation that funds police vehicle dash cameras.
- **Interstate Traffic Tickets:** Amend State Statutes to allow Wisconsin to join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to facilitate collection of out-of-state traffic violators and capture a needed revenue source for the state and county.
- **Boating Laws:** Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken driving.

Immigrants and Refugees

- **Sanctuary Cities/Counties:** Oppose legislation that requires county workers/law enforcement to review immigration status any time an individual comes in contact with government workers. Oppose banning specified immigrants from living in communities. Urge Wisconsin to seek grants for Syrian refugee resettlement.
- **Drivers’ Licenses:** Support legislation that allows undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers’ licenses.
- **In-State Tuition for Immigrants:** Support restoring the law for in-state tuition for state residents who graduated from a Wisconsin High School, but lack proper immigration documentation.

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Bicycle and Recreational Trails

- **Transportation Aids:** Support the use of transportation aids for the construction and maintenance of bicycle trails with significant commuter traffic.
- **Bike Trail Task Force:** Support the creation and development of a statewide Bike Trail Task Force.
- **Commuter Transportation:** Support integrating bicycle transportation into future commuter transportation systems.
- **Trail System Development:** Request DNR assistance in the development of regional trail systems.
- **Eminent Domain:** Repeal Wis. Stat. 32.015, which prohibits local governments from using eminent domain for constructing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Mass Transit

- **Regional Transit Authority:** Support legislation allowing local governments to create Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) to provide regional transit services across local government boundaries that is flexible enough to adapt to local needs and has these basic parameters: A representative RTA could be formed by one or more municipal governing bodies passing resolutions in support. A referendum would need to be adopted by a majority of voters in each municipality forming, or seeking to join the RTA. The amount of the sales tax would need to be authorized in the referendum, but could not exceed 0.5%. The governing board would be composed of elected officials, representative of the communities within the RTA area.
- **Passenger Rail:** Support state and federal funding to improve Amtrak passenger rail service and establish a high speed passenger rail line connecting Madison with the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago.
- **Airport Authority:** Oppose legislation that takes airport governance away from county government and gives it to a private/public airport authority.

Local Road Funding and Projects

- **Local Transportation:** Support a greater share of state and federal transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services. Funding should be increased for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require “farmland mitigation” for highway improvement projects. Funding formulas that discriminate against urban counties should be revised and the local match (now 50%) for CHIPS should be decreased.
- **North Mendota Parkway:** Oppose the construction of four lanes on Main Street (HWY 19) in Waunakee. Support an update of the 2003 North Mendota Parkway traffic study, and request WIDOT to consider how the proposed North Mendota Parkway, Hwy 19, CTH K, CTH M and Hwy 113 relate to each other and Hwy 12. Support an implementation review of the “North E-Way”. Support state and federal funding for the North

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Mendota Parkway.

- **Beltline Study:** Support state funding for the Beltline Planning and Environmental Linkages Corridor Study to develop long-term solutions to address safety, operational, and capacity concerns on US 12/14/18/151 extending from US 14 (city of Middleton) to County N (town of Cottage Grove) in Dane County, Wisconsin. Support local representation on the study committee and state funding for projects recommended by the committee.
- **Highway Funding:** Require WIDOT to provide more funding up front through operational reimbursement and incentivizing improvements.
- **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of every state construction/maintenance contract to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance zone. Support innovative approaches to improve work zone safety and legislation to allow for the use of the color green on maintenance vehicles to improve snowplow safety.

Waste and Renewables

- **Recycling:** Support long-term state funding for state's recycling program. Support continued state efforts to expand markets for recycled materials. Support allowing local governments or other entities to receive more than one state grant for innovative demonstration projects.
- **Landfill Siting:** Allow municipalities to replace existing public landfills without a new DNR needs determination. Support modifying landfill negotiation-mediation process to include counties as an appropriate governing body for the approval of negotiated agreements. Support prohibiting the construction of landfills until the negotiation-mediation process is complete.
- **Clean Sweep:** Support increased state/federal funding for household and Ag Clean Sweep.
- **Landfill/Solid Waste Fees and Program Reductions:** Oppose state increases to the landfill recycling tipping fee and environmental repair fee. Oppose the elimination or reduction of recycling and solid waste programs.

Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation

- **Flood Insurance Threat:** Oppose any proposal to suspend state floodplain rules that nullify federal flood insurance and jeopardize federal disaster assistance for Wisconsin flood victims.
- **Wisconsin Land Information Program:** Support the continuation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program and grants.
- **Comprehensive Planning:** Oppose legislation that undermines the comprehensive planning statutes.
- **Transmission Lines:** Support an independent study of the need for additional high voltage transmission lines through Dane County. Oppose the construction and operation of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line pending the receipt of a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives.

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- **Takings Legislation:** Oppose legislation that would require county government to compensate real property owners for restricted use or loss of property value as a result of law or regulations.
- **Transmission Line Construction:** Support requiring power lines to be constructed underground to protect Dane County economic and environmental resources while enhancing resiliency and reliability during extreme weather events.
- **Support Local Control of Nonmetallic Mining:** Oppose any state legislation that preempts local governments from enacting their own nonmetallic mining regulations and oversight of air/water quality, highway damage, noise, and use contracts.
- **Effigy Mounds & Burial Sites:** Oppose legislation that allows the disturbance or destruction of Native American effigy mounds and old burial sites.
- **Utility Deregulation:** Oppose any deregulation that leads to higher consumer rates. Any attempts to restructure the delivery of electricity should address: reliability of electrical service, equitable benefits to large and small rate payers, the social and environmental impacts of restructuring, and the ability of counties to aggregate purchase electricity.
- **Holding Tanks as Systems of Last Resort:** Support changes in statutes and administrative rules that oppose using holding tanks except as a last resort for new and replacement septic systems. Modify rules and statutes to ensure funding from the Wisconsin Fund is for the least costly systems, excluding holding tanks, unless a holding tank is the system of last resort.
- **Land Use and Natural Resource Protection:** Oppose any proposals that weaken Dane County's ability to responsibly manage the use of land within its jurisdiction, including but not limited to tools like comprehensive planning, zoning, land division/subdivision regulations, and shoreland, floodplain, and wetland regulation.
- **Restore and Enhance Land Use Authority:** Support efforts to restore and expand Dane County's land use authority including but not limited to comprehensive planning, land division, zoning, and shoreland, wetland, and floodplain regulations to promote countywide planning.

Elections

- **Voter Registration Changes and Voter Identification Requirement:** Oppose legislation that changes same day voter registration, restricts absentee ballot voting, and/or requires photo identification to vote.
- **Public Funding for Elections:** Support public financing for local and state elections.

Community, Workforce, and Economic Development

- **Broadband Coverage:** Support increasing financial support to expand broadband services to underserved rural areas and change state law to allow all levels of local governments and publicly funded entities to build and subsidize broadband networks and projects in underserved areas.

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- **Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act:** Oppose permitting an employer to refuse to employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted of a felony and who has not been pardoned for that felony, and pre-empting local government from adopting ordinances concerning employment discrimination based on arrest or conviction records that prohibit activity allowed under the state Fair Employment Act.
- **Minimum Wage:** Support increasing the minimum wage to a living wage.
- **Transitional Jobs Program:** Support expanding the state Transitional Jobs Program in the Department of Children and Families.
- **UW Extension:** Support adequate staffing and funding levels to sustain Dane County Extension's high-quality educational programs for farmers, businesses, communities, families and young people.
- **Collective Bargaining and Workers Rights:** Support all workers having the right to seek safe working conditions, benefits, and fair pay through collective bargaining.
- **Student Debt:** Support legislation to lower student debt by any means possible including refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the loans, reducing interest rates and ensuring tuition is affordable.
- **School Choice Expansion:** Oppose the voucher program or a similar facsimile in the Madison Metropolitan School District or in any Dane County school system.

Arts

- **Arts Funding:** Support increased funding for the arts across Wisconsin, especially for art projects in communities, schools, colleges, and public facilities.