

1
2 **DRAFT PROPOSED UPDATES – 3/5/26**
3

4 **2026-2028 Legislative Agenda**
5

6 **General Principle**
7

8 Dane County is the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin
9

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.
13

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.
27

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?
34

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.

- **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.

Commented [FL1]: Added by EANR 2/26

Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Practices

- **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

contamination in drinking water. Support increasing statewide awareness and educational efforts related to reducing the use of lead shot and tackle for hunting and fishing.

Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience

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

Waste and Renewables

- **Landfills and Recycling:** Allow municipalities to replace existing public landfills without a new DNR needs determination and allow them to use the net worth method of establishing financial responsibility. Oppose state increases to the landfill recycling tipping fee and environmental repair fee. Oppose the elimination or reduction of recycling and solid waste programs. 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. Support increased state/federal funding for household and agricultural Clean Sweep.

Access to High Quality Health Care and Family-Supporting Initiatives

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

Mental Health Care and Services for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities

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

Commented [FL2]: Added by HHN 2/26

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

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

Services for Children, Youth, and Families

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

Commented [FL3]: Approved by HHN 2/26

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

- **Career Development and School Success 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. 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.
- Local Government Authority for Legal Services: Provide authority for counties to make payments to community-based organizations and other organizations, whether or not operated for profit, based in this state for the provision of civil legal services to individuals and families.

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

Youth Justice

- **Reform the Juvenile Justice System:** Return 17-year-olds to juvenile court and corrections, expand restorative justice initiatives in schools and communities, including but not limited to Youth Courts, and work to reduce disparities and prevent youth crime through alternatives to suspension.
- **Prevention and Youth Programs:** Expand funding for after-school, prevention, and early intervention programs and support youth programs addressing substance use, abuse, and violence prevention. Prioritize youth programs at the middle-school level and prevent barriers to participation, such as transportation.
- **Funding and Cost-Sharing for Youth Services:** Increase state funding for Youth Aids and limit out-of-home placement cost hikes, reassess the maximum daily rate that group homes receive, and support fair funding structures for community placements.
- **Enhance Mental Health and Community-Based Care:** Support access to comprehensive mental health services for youth, community-based treatment and correctional options, and fund secured residential care centers and alternative placements.

Housing

- **Access to Safe and Affordable Housing:** Provide additional state funding for services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families who are homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness. Support state investment in Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund and additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing. Support funding for local lead remediation programs.
- **Fair Housing Rights and Regulations:** 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. 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. Restore the ability for local governments to enforce/enact fair housing ordinances and including ones that regulate landlord/tenant relations and set affordable housing requirements.

Veterans

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

Immigrants and Refugees

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

Local Control and Intergovernmental Relations

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

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

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

Public Safety and Emergency Management

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

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

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

Criminal Justice and Corrections

- **Criminal Justice Reform and Fairness:** Support policing reforms, including stronger use-of-force policies, such as banning chokeholds, body and dash camera transparency, and independent footage access. Address racial disparities and inequities in the criminal justice system. Ensure fines and fees systems are fair, allow judicial discretion, and pursue increased local revenue from fines and forfeitures. 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.
- **Alternatives to Incarceration and Smart Justice:** Expand Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), mental health courts, community triage centers, and restorative justice programs. Support programs to increase re-entry success, including health care access and transportation. Fund mental health screenings in jails, encourage bail and probation reforms to reduce jail populations, including reducing crimeless revocations. Legalize marijuana for adults and provide local governments with greater ability to regulate hemp-derived cannabinoids and THC derivatives. and address root causes of crime through housing, education, mental health, and employment access. Support medical cost containment for incarcerated individuals and maintain Medicaid coverage pre-release.
- **Justice System Operations and Access:** Increase circuit court funding and ADA positions, and address rising caseloads. Increase funding for public defenders, pay progression, and eliminate the eligibility gap. Support interpreter access regardless of indigency and increase funding for interpreter services. Promote reforms to expungement laws to remove employment barriers and restore opportunity for all ages. Support adequate state investment in County Circuit Courts, including court security, court interpreter funding, and increase the county share of fines/forfeitures, and responsible fee increases. Provide judges with flexibility and discretion on fines. Increase jury trial fees to support juror compensation. Join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to improve fine collection and revenue. Secure funding that provides no-cost communications 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

- **Victim, Community, and Public Safety Support:** Support funding for victim-witness services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy's Law. Increase funding for crime victims that have egregious claims against local jurisdiction but are without relief. Support state funding for domestic and sexual violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution, including funding ADA positions dedicated to domestic and sexual violence and shelter services. Support efforts to eradicate human trafficking while working to address root causes. Re-enact a Good Samaritan Law when an "aider" provides emergency medical assistance to another person believed to be experiencing an overdose or adverse reaction to a controlled substance.
- **Public Safety Prevention Efforts:** Support state funding for drunk driving prevention. 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. Support efforts to prevent stolen vehicles that will create disincentives to breaking and entering of homes and stealing of vehicles for financial and recreational purposes. Support legislation to create additional consumer protections from payday lenders.
- **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal justice/treatment programs.
- **Prisoner Medical Costs and Hospitalization:** Support any state and federal efforts to maintain Medicaid coverage for incarcerated people and oppose any legislation that would expand the County's statutory obligation to pay medical and hospital costs for anyone other than indigent residents who are being held at the 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

Elections

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

Local Road Funding and Projects

- **Transportation Funding Support:** Support a greater share of state and federal transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services. Increase funding 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 for CHIPS should be decreased.

- **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of state construction/maintenance contracts to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance zones. 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.

Bicycle Paths, Recreational Trails, and Mass Transit

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

Community, Workforce, and Economic Development

- **Access to Broadband:** Support increasing financial support to expand broadband services to underserved 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.
- **Worker Protections and Rights:** Oppose permitting an employer to refuse to employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted of a felony, allow local governments to adopt ordinances concerning employment discrimination based on arrest or conviction records, support increasing the minimum wage to a living wage, support all workers having the right to seek safe working conditions, benefits, and fair pay through collective bargaining.
- **Financial Stability and Workforce Training:** Support expanding the state Transitional Jobs Program, ensuring adequate staffing and funding levels for Dane County Extension's high-quality educational programs for farmers, businesses, communities, families and young people, and exploring options to lower student debt such as refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the 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).

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

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

Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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