

# 2026-2028 Legislative Agenda

## General Principle

Dane County is the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin

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

As such, we believe that by working together the state can help bolster the success and prosperity of Dane County residents by supporting proactive, evidence-based policies and programs that foster economic success and work to eliminate racial and socioeconomic disparities. We appreciate intergovernmental partnerships and believe the state should 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 reliance 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:** Invest funding and staffing in water quality planning and watershed projects and increase funding for inland waterways and lakes. Maintain efforts to keep invasive species out of our bodies of water. Oppose efforts to erode the Public Trust Doctrine and the DNR's ability to regulate navigable waters and wetlands. 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.
- **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

47 prohibiting local governments from enforcing stronger standards. Support local  
48 governmental efforts to improve water management through water conservation,  
49 a balanced water budget, and enhanced groundwater recharge.

- 50 • **Mining Reform and High-Capacity Wells:** Support provisions restoring local  
51 government role for mining and suspend floodplain rules that would nullify flood  
52 insurance and federal disaster assistance. Support science-based regulation of  
53 high-capacity wells that considers the individual and cumulative effects of high-  
54 capacity irrigation wells on nearby water systems.

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## Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Practices

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

## Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience

- 88 • **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change by  
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90 reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the severe adverse impacts on  
91 our economy, environment, safety, and public health. Enhance county authority  
92 and funding for county level action planning, mitigation, adaptation, and  
93 resilience around the impacts of climate change.

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

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### Waste and Renewables

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

### Access to High Quality Health Care and Family-Supporting Initiatives

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

## 164 **Mental Health Care and Services for Older Adults and Individuals with** 165 **Disabilities**

- 167 • **Support for Older Adults and Family Caregivers:** Support continued funding for  
168 critical programs such as SeniorCare, BadgerCare, RSVP, and Aging and  
169 Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), including services like elder benefits  
170 specialists and dementia care. Expand caregiver support by funding programs for  
171 caregivers of adults under 60 or those with disabilities, providing tax credits for  
172 family caregivers, creating caregiver coordinator positions, and marketing  
173 programs to increase public awareness. Encourage retraining and job placement  
174 programs for older adults, particularly those with limited English proficiency.  
175 Support legislation to improve accessibility in housing and continue prevention and  
176 enforcement efforts to address elder abuse and neglect.
- 177 • **Long-Term Care, Dementia, and Disability Services:** Advocate for state long-  
178 term care reforms that protect service quality and availability while ensuring  
179 equitable county contributions and clear delineation of responsibilities between the  
180 state and counties (via Chapter 55). Oppose privatization of ADRCs and any

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

## 208 Services for Children, Youth, and Families

- 210 • **Early Education and the Health and Wellbeing of Children:** Support funding for  
211 early childhood education and initiatives. Support background checks for family  
212 day care providers, similar to those for foster care. Support initiatives that provide  
213 additional funds for primary prevention programs including delinquency and child  
214 abuse/neglect. Increase state support to relatives caring for non-custodial children  
215 and expand access to kinship care. Oppose legislation that usurps the authority of  
216 county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and neglect  
217 cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS or increases penalties and changes the  
218 neglect definition to target low income or marginalized communities. Support  
219 increasing funding for the WI County Child Support Program. Fully reimburse  
220 counties, or eliminate, the WI Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR) program.
- 221 • **Career Development and School Success for Youth:** Support funding to  
222 provide educational, work skill development, transportation and mentoring  
223 services for youth or young adults who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped  
224 out of high school or who are unemployed post high school and lack the knowledge  
225 and skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment. Provide  
226 incentives for the business community and technical college system to create and

227 support apprenticeship/internship opportunities to young adults. Expedite entry  
228 and graduation from the programs to meet increasing demands to fill vacancies  
229 created by an aging workforce.

## 230 Youth Justice

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

## 247 Housing

- 249 • **Access to Safe and Affordable Housing:** Provide additional state funding for  
250 services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families who are  
251 homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness. Support  
252 state investment in Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund and  
253 additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing.  
254 Support funding for local lead remediation programs.
- 255 • **Fair Housing Rights and Regulations:** Support legislation to amend state  
256 statutes to require adequate notice to residents when mobile home parks are  
257 closing, require storm cellars/secure areas in manufactured housing communities,  
258 encourage WHEDA to provide funding/financing for the purchase of housing on  
259 leased land, remove any barriers to long term leases, allow the purchase of  
260 communities by residents and the development of co-operative housing for  
261 manufactured housing communities. Oppose legislation that impinges on the rights  
262 of tenants by allowing landlords to discriminate based on a tenant's income,  
263 occupation, rental history, credit information, arrest/conviction history and Social  
264 Security number. Restore the ability for local governments to enforce/enact fair  
265 housing ordinances and including ones that regulate landlord/tenant relations and  
266 set affordable housing requirements.

## 267 Veterans

- 269 • **Services and Supports for Veterans:** Increase access to the Veteran Property  
270 Tax Credit by lowering the disability rating, which is currently set at 100%. Invest  
271 in resources and services that will support our veterans, such as programs to end

272 veteran homelessness, funding bus passes and other mass transit costs for  
273 service-related disabled veterans. Fund the Wisconsin GI Bill without limitations  
274 on eligibility.

- 275 • **Veteran-related Organizations:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered  
276 veterans' organizations, increase state funding to ensure solvency and stabilize  
277 the Veterans Trust Fund, support and strengthen our County Veterans Service  
278 Offices, and recognize the significance of the William S. Middleton Memorial  
279 Veterans Administration Hospital and area clinics in the lives of veterans and in  
280 the Dane County community and oppose privatization of services.

## 281 282 **Immigrants and Refugees**

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

## 287 288 **Local Control and Intergovernmental Relations**

- 290 • **Mandates, Local Control, and Funding Equity:** Support comprehensive reforms  
291 to ensure counties are not burdened by unfunded state mandates. Oppose any  
292 legislation requiring counties to provide services without adequate and ongoing  
293 funding. Advocate for a Joint Survey Committee on Local Mandates, waivers from  
294 mandates, biennial reviews of all mandated programs, and annual reviews of those  
295 funded at 50% or less. Strongly oppose efforts that erode local government control,  
296 including levy limits, state-imposed restructuring of county boards, and changes to  
297 the balance of power between county executives, boards, and constitutional  
298 officers.
- 299 • **Taxation, Fees, and Economic Sustainability:** Support fair taxation that  
300 preserves county revenue, including restoring impact fee authority to counties.  
301 Advocate for updating the competitive bidding threshold and reinstating prevailing  
302 wage laws and the ability to enter into Project Labor Agreements. Oppose property  
303 tax freezes that undermine local government flexibility. Support fee structures, like  
304 licenses and state-set county fees, that fairly reflect administrative costs, and  
305 extend room tax authority to counties
- 306 • **Investments in Public Infrastructure and Services:** Advocate for capital funding  
307 for the Alliant Energy Center and the creation of a special taxing authority to  
308 support its maintenance and operations. Support funding of public libraries, such  
309 as the former 13% aid requirement. Promote the Buy Local initiative by maintaining  
310 state funding and preventing outsourcing of state services to out-of-state  
311 contractors. Require sustainability to be included in state contracting decisions.
- 312 • **Democracy, Rights, and Labor Protections:** Support collective bargaining rights  
313 for public employees and oppose attacks on workers' rights. Oppose changes to  
314 redistricting laws that remove local government input and support a nonpartisan,  
315 independent redistricting process, which is backed by a majority of Dane County  
316 voters. Advocate for restoring domestic partnership benefits and repealing the  
317 2006 marriage ban amendment. Oppose any legislative changes that limit county

318 authority to govern, budget, or hire staff, and support requiring only a simple  
319 majority of county board members for association memberships.

- 320 • **Education, Community Investment, and Fair Representation:** Endorse  
321 comprehensive school funding reform to align resources with educational costs  
322 and student needs, and to reduce reliance on property taxes. Support state  
323 contracts that prioritize local businesses and provide equitable access to  
324 opportunities.
- 325 • **Local Public Health Infrastructure and Emergency Response:** Support  
326 legislation that recognizes the essential role of local public health departments in  
327 managing public health emergencies and ensures adequate, sustained funding for  
328 all threats to community health. Oppose any legislation that preempts or restricts  
329 local authority to respond to public health crises. Advocate for strengthening local  
330 health departments' capacity to lead effective community health initiatives make  
331 science-based policy recommendations. Oppose efforts that undermine their  
332 authority to implement public health standards or advocate for evidence-based  
333 health practices.

### 335 **Public Safety and Emergency Management**

- 336 • **Support and Enhance EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages  
337 financial support of volunteers in emergency medical services and that addresses  
338 liability issues and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for radio  
339 frequency and upgrade requirements. Require training for first responders on  
340 appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting, and interacting with older adults  
341 as well as other adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental  
342 health or other disorders.
- 343 • **Gun Safety and Violence Prevention:** Support additional funds to the  
344 Department of Justice to enable conducting of uniform criminal background checks  
345 of to-be-hired direct care workers by public non-profit agencies. Support funding  
346 for gun safety education and access to gun locks and safes and changes to state  
347 law to allow local gun regulations. Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed  
348 carry permits, modify concealed carry law to prohibit concealed weapons from  
349 public spaces such as convention centers, zoos, and other public facilities, and set  
350 concealed carry license fees to an amount sufficient to fund all County Sheriffs'  
351 costs associated with administering the law. Support universal background checks  
352 for all gun purchases and other gun violence prevention efforts.
- 353 • **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county  
354 costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated costs  
355 including redaction.

### 356 **Criminal Justice and Corrections**

- 357 • **Criminal Justice Reform and Fairness:** Support policing reforms, including  
358 stronger use-of-force policies, such as banning chokeholds, body and dash  
359 camera transparency, and independent footage access. Address racial disparities  
360 and inequities in the criminal justice system. Ensure fines and fees systems are  
361 fair, allow judicial discretion, and pursue increased local revenue from fines and  
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364 forfeitures. Support reforms to bail and conditions of pretrial release that respects  
365 the constitutional rights of the accused, enhances public safety, and incorporates  
366 evidence-based strategies.

- 367 • **Alternatives to Incarceration and Smart Justice:** Expand Treatment  
368 Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), mental health courts, community triage centers,  
369 and restorative justice programs. Support programs to increase re-entry success,  
370 including health care access and transportation. Fund mental health screenings in  
371 jails, encourage bail and probation reforms to reduce jail populations, including  
372 reducing crimeless revocations. Legalize marijuana and address root causes of  
373 crime through housing, education, mental health, and employment access.  
374 Support medical cost containment for incarcerated individuals and maintain  
375 Medicaid coverage pre-release.
- 376 • **Justice System Operations and Access:** Increase circuit court funding and ADA  
377 positions, and address rising caseloads. Increase funding for public defenders, pay  
378 progression, and eliminate the eligibility gap. Support interpreter access  
379 regardless of indigency and increase funding for interpreter services. Promote  
380 reforms to expungement laws to remove employment barriers and restore  
381 opportunity for all ages. Support adequate state investment in County Circuit  
382 Courts, including court security, court interpreter funding, and increase the county  
383 share of fines/forfeitures, and responsible fee increases. Provide judges with  
384 flexibility and discretion on fines. Increase jury trial fees to support juror  
385 compensation. Join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to improve fine  
386 collection and revenue.
- 387 • **Victim, Community, and Public Safety Support:** Support funding for victim-  
388 witness services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy's Law. Support  
389 state funding for domestic and sexual violence prevention, intervention, and  
390 prosecution, including funding ADA positions dedicated to domestic and sexual  
391 violence and shelter services. Support efforts to eradicate human trafficking while  
392 working to address root causes.
- 393 • **Public Safety Prevention Efforts:** Support state funding for drunk driving  
394 prevention. Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training  
395 for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and  
396 associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken  
397 driving. Support efforts to prevent stolen vehicles that will create disincentives to  
398 breaking and entering of homes and stealing of vehicles for financial and  
399 recreational purposes. Support legislation to create additional consumer  
400 protections from payday lenders.
- 401 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA  
402 to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing  
403 the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal  
404 justice/treatment programs.
- 405 • **Prisoner Medical Costs and Hospitalization:** Support any state and federal  
406 efforts to maintain Medicaid coverage for incarcerated people and oppose any  
407 legislation that would expand the County's statutory obligation to pay medical and  
408 hospital costs for anyone other than indigent residents who are being held at the  
409 Dane County Jail under the state's criminal laws or for contempt of court.

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## Elections

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- **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.
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## Local Road Funding and Projects

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- **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.
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## Bicycle Paths, Recreational Trails, and Mass Transit

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- **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.
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## 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.
- **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.

## 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.
- **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

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

- 505 • **Support Strategic Programs and Tools for Land and Data Management:**  
506 Support continued state funding for the Wisconsin Land Information Program and  
507 its grant mechanisms, which are essential to maintaining accurate land records  
508 and supporting local planning efforts. Encourage sustainable land use practices by  
509 maintaining Dane County's ability to use a full range of planning tools. This  
510 includes resisting any attempts to limit the use of zoning and comprehensive  
511 planning at the local level.

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

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516 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Legislative Lobbyist be directed  
517 to pursue these legislative positions; and

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