

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.

55 56 **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.

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

- 89 • **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change by

- 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.

114 **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.

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

- 126 • **Expand Health Care and Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental
127 care for all residents, including those on Medical Assistance. Support
128 implementation of Medicaid expansion and support Medicare for All Act to ensure
129 everyone has access to high quality, universal health care without the interruptions
130 in care present in an employer-based, for-profit system. Support care that is
131 gender-affirming and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender
132 identity. Oppose undue hardship in eligibility/enrollment of safety net programs,
133 such as legislation that would enact drug testing as a requirement for public

- 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

163

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

- 166
- 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

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. 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 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

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 283

- 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 289

- 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.

334

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

357 **Criminal Justice and Corrections**

- 358 • **Criminal Justice Reform and Fairness:** Support policing reforms, including
359 stronger use-of-force policies, such as banning chokeholds, body and dash
360 camera transparency, and independent footage access. Address racial disparities
361 and inequities in the criminal justice system. Ensure fines and fees systems are
362 fair, allow judicial discretion, and pursue increased local revenue from fines and
363

- 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.

410
411

Elections

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

419 Local Road Funding and Projects

- 420 • **Transportation Funding Support:** Support a greater share of state and federal
421 transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services.
422 Increase funding for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the
423 County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation
424 for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require “farmland mitigation” for
425 highway improvement projects. Funding formulas that discriminate against urban
426 counties should be revised and the local match for CHIPS should be decreased.
427 • **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of state construction/maintenance
428 contracts to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance
429 zones. Support innovative approaches to improve work zone safety and legislation
430 to allow for the use of the color green on maintenance vehicles to improve
431 snowplow safety.

432 Bicycle Paths, Recreational Trails, and Mass Transit

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

452

453 **Community, Workforce, and Economic Development**

- 454 • **Access to Broadband:** Support increasing financial support to expand broadband
455 services to underserved areas and change state law to allow all levels of local
456 governments and publicly funded entities to build and subsidize broadband
457 networks and projects in underserved areas.
- 458 • **Worker Protections and Rights:** Oppose permitting an employer to refuse to employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted
459 of a felony, allow local governments to adopt ordinances concerning employment
460 discrimination based on arrest or conviction records, support increasing the
461 minimum wage to a living wage, support all workers having the right to seek safe
462 working conditions, benefits, and fair pay through collective bargaining.
- 463 • **Financial Stability and Workforce Training:** Support expanding the state
464 Transitional Jobs Program, ensuring adequate staffing and funding levels for Dane
465 County Extension's high-quality educational programs for farmers, businesses,
466 communities, families and young people, and exploring options to lower student
467 debt such as refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the
468 loans, reducing interest rates, and ensuring tuition is affordable.
- 469 • **Access to Quality Education:** Support adequate funding for our public schools
470 and ensure all schools receiving public funding are held to the same accountability
471 measures and standards.
- 472 • **Funding for the Arts:** Support increased funding for the arts, especially for art
473 projects in communities, schools, colleges, and public facilities.

474

475 **Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation**

476

- 477 • **Preserve Flood Insurance and Disaster Aid Protections:** Oppose any
478 proposal that would suspend or weaken Wisconsin's floodplain regulations, as
479 doing so would jeopardize access to federal flood insurance and disaster
480 assistance for communities and individuals impacted by floods. Support changes
481 that limit the use of holding tanks for new or replacement septic systems,
482 ensuring they are only used as a last resort and that Wisconsin Fund assistance
483 supports the most cost-effective, environmentally responsible options.
- 484 • **Protect Local Land Use and Planning Authority:** Oppose any state proposals
485 that weaken Dane County's ability to regulate land use and responsibly manage
486 growth through zoning, land division, subdivision regulations, and shoreland,
487 floodplain, and wetland protections. Reject legislation that undermines
488 comprehensive planning statutes, and support efforts to restore and expand
489 county land use authority to promote coordinated planning across jurisdictions.
- 490 • **Maintain Local Oversight of Natural Resources:** Oppose attempts to disturb or
491 destroy Native American effigy mounds and historic burial sites, which are
492 significant cultural and historical landmarks. Oppose "takings" legislation that
493 would require counties to compensate property owners for loss of property value
494 resulting from lawful land use or environmental regulations.
- 495 • **Promote Sustainable and Fair Energy Infrastructure:** Support requiring that
496 new transmission lines, including high-voltage infrastructure, be constructed

497

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.

512
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

515
516 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Legislative Lobbyist be directed
517 to pursue these legislative positions; and

518
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.