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2 **DRAFT PROPOSED UPDATES—CONSOLIDATED COMMITTEE**
3 **AMENDMENTS – 3/5/26**

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5 **2026-2028 Legislative Agenda**

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7 **General Principle**

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9 Dane County is the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin

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

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

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

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

- 31 Who benefits?
32 Who is burdened?
33 Who does not have a voice at the table?
34 How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?
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36 **Surface and Ground Water Quality**

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

46 volumes through increased stormwater infiltration, and improving management of
47 stormwater on impervious surfaces.

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

Commented [FL1]: Added by EANR 2/26

64 Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Practices

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

91 Support long-term state funding of PFAS treatment of landfill leachate. Support
92 statewide/utility user funding to help local governments mitigate lead
93 contamination in drinking water. Support increasing statewide awareness and
94 educational efforts related to reducing the use of lead shot and tackle for hunting
95 and fishing.

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

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

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122 **Waste and Renewables**

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

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

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

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

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- 177 • **Support for Older Adults and Family Caregivers:** Support continued funding for
- 178 critical programs such as SeniorCare, BadgerCare, RSVP, and Aging and

Commented [FL2]: Added by HHN 2/26

179 Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), including services like elder benefits
180 specialists and dementia care. Expand caregiver support by funding programs for
181 caregivers of adults under 60 or those with disabilities, providing tax credits for
182 family caregivers, creating caregiver coordinator positions, and marketing
183 programs to increase public awareness. Encourage retraining and job placement
184 programs for older adults, particularly those with limited English proficiency.
185 Support legislation to improve accessibility in housing and continue prevention and
186 enforcement efforts to address elder abuse and neglect.

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

218 Services for Children, Youth, and Families

- 219 • **Early Education and the Health and Wellbeing of Children:** Support funding for
220 early childhood education and initiatives. Support background checks for family
221 day care providers, similar to those for foster care. Support initiatives that provide
222 additional funds for primary prevention programs including delinquency and child
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Commented [FL3]: Approved by HHN 2/26

225 abuse/neglect. Increase state support to relatives caring for non-custodial children
226 and expand access to kinship care. Oppose legislation that usurps the authority of
227 county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and neglect
228 cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS or increases penalties and changes the
229 neglect definition to target low income or marginalized communities. Support
230 increasing funding for the WI County Child Support Program. Fully reimburse
231 counties, or eliminate, the WI Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR) program.

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

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

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

245 Youth Justice

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

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

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

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

262 Housing

263 • **Access to Safe and Affordable Housing:** Provide additional state funding for
264 services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families who are
265 homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness. Support
266 state investment in Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund and
267 additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing.
268 Support funding for local lead remediation programs.
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- **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.
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283 **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.
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297 **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.
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303 **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
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315 consistent with Dane County's principles of local control and effective service
316 delivery.
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Commented [FL5]: Approved as an addition by the
Personnel and Finance Committee

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

353 **Public Safety and Emergency Management**

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

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

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

377 Criminal Justice and Corrections

- 379 • **Criminal Justice Reform and Fairness:** Support policing reforms, including
380 stronger use-of-force policies, such as banning chokeholds, body and dash
381 camera transparency, and independent footage access. Address racial disparities
382 and inequities in the criminal justice system. Ensure fines and fees systems are
383 fair, allow judicial discretion, and pursue increased local revenue from fines and
384 forfeitures. Support reforms to bail and conditions of pretrial release that respects
385 the constitutional rights of the accused, enhances public safety, and incorporates
386 evidence-based strategies.
- 387 • **Alternatives to Incarceration and Smart Justice:** Expand Treatment
388 Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), mental health courts, community triage centers,
389 and restorative justice programs. Support programs to increase re-entry success,
390 including health care access and transportation. Fund mental health screenings in
391 jails, encourage bail and probation reforms to reduce jail populations, including
392 reducing crimeless revocations. Legalize marijuana for adults and provide local
393 governments with greater ability to regulate hemp-derived cannabinoids and THC
394 derivatives. ~~and a~~Address root causes of crime through housing, education, mental
395 health, and employment access. Support medical cost containment for
396 incarcerated individuals and maintain Medicaid coverage pre-release.
- 397 • **Justice System Operations and Access:** Increase circuit court funding and ADA
398 positions, and address rising caseloads. Increase funding for public defenders, pay
399 progression, and eliminate the eligibility gap. Support interpreter access
400 regardless of indigency and increase funding for interpreter services. Promote
401 reforms to expungement laws to remove employment barriers and restore
402 opportunity for all ages. Support adequate state investment in County Circuit
403 Courts, including court security, court interpreter funding, and increase the county
404 share of fines/forfeitures, and responsible fee increases. Provide judges with
405 flexibility and discretion on fines. Increase jury trial fees to support juror
406 compensation. Join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to improve fine

Commented [FL7]: Added by PPJ 2/24

407 collection and revenue. Secure funding that provides no-cost communications
408 services and treat these services as essential services and not profit centers.

Commented [FL8]: Added by PPJ 2/24

409 • **Victim, Community, and Public Safety Support:** Support funding for victim-
410 witness services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy's Law. Increase
411 funding for crime victims that have egregious claims against local jurisdiction but
412 are without relief. Support state funding for domestic and sexual violence
413 prevention, intervention, and prosecution, including funding ADA positions
414 dedicated to domestic and sexual violence and shelter services. Support efforts to
415 eradicate human trafficking while working to address root causes. Re-enact a
416 Good Samaritan Law when an "aider" provides emergency medical assistance to
417 another person believed to be experiencing an overdose or adverse reaction to a
418 controlled substance.

Commented [FL9]: Added by PPJ 2/24

419 • **Public Safety Prevention Efforts:** Support state funding for drunk driving
420 prevention. Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training
421 for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and
422 associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken
423 driving. Support efforts to prevent stolen vehicles that will create disincentives to
424 breaking and entering of homes and stealing of vehicles for financial and
425 recreational purposes. Support legislation to create additional consumer
426 protections from payday lenders.

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

427 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA
428 to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing
429 the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal
430 justice/treatment programs.

431 • **Prisoner Medical Costs and Hospitalization:** Support any state and federal
432 efforts to maintain Medicaid coverage for incarcerated people and oppose any
433 legislation that would expand the County's statutory obligation to pay medical and
434 hospital costs for anyone other than indigent residents who are being held at the
435 Dane County Jail under the state's criminal laws or for contempt of court.

437 Elections

438 • **Voter Access, Education and Election Administration:** Support election laws
439 that increase voter access and participation, including voter education, public
440 financing of elections, and adequate resources for local governments
441 administering elections. Oppose changes that reduce same-day voter
442 registration, shorten absentee voting periods, or impose additional photo
443 identification requirements. Ensure any election administration changes are done
444 in consultation with election clerks at the local level. Support efforts to encourage
445 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.

Commented [ML12R11]: Approved by Exec Comm on 3-5-26.

446 Local Road Funding and Projects

447 • **Transportation Funding Support:** Support a greater share of state and federal
448 transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services.
449 Increase funding for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the
450 County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation
451 for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require "farmland mitigation" for

452 highway improvement projects. Funding formulas that discriminate against urban
453 counties should be revised and the local match for CHIPS should be decreased.
454 • **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of state construction/maintenance
455 contracts to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance
456 zones. Support innovative approaches to improve work zone safety and legislation
457 to allow for the use of the color green on maintenance vehicles to improve
458 snowplow safety.
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460 **Bicycle Paths, Recreational Trails, and Mass Transit**

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

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

Commented [FL13]: 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).

496 debt such as refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the
497 loans, reducing interest rates, and ensuring tuition is affordable.

498 • **Access to Quality Education:** Support adequate funding for our public schools
499 and ensure all schools receiving public funding are held to the same accountability
500 measures and standards.

501 • **Funding for the Arts:** Support increased funding for the arts, especially for art
502 projects in communities, schools, colleges, and public facilities.

503 • Air Service Development: Support establishing a state-funded Air Service
504 Development program dedicated to providing grants to help Wisconsin commercial
505 airports recruit and maintain air service in order to compete with neighboring states
506 already providing this type of funding to their airports.

Commented [FL14]: Added in response to discussion at the PWT committee meeting.

508 Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation

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510 • **Preserve Flood Insurance and Disaster Aid Protections:** Oppose any
511 proposal that would suspend or weaken Wisconsin’s floodplain regulations, as
512 doing so would jeopardize access to federal flood insurance and disaster
513 assistance for communities and individuals impacted by floods. Support changes
514 that limit the use of holding tanks for new or replacement septic systems,
515 ensuring they are only used as a last resort and that Wisconsin Fund assistance
516 supports the most cost-effective, environmentally responsible options.

517 • **Protect Local Land Use and Planning Authority:** ~~Oppose any state proposals~~
518 ~~that weaken Dane County’s ability to regulate land use and responsibly manage~~
519 ~~growth through zoning, land division, subdivision regulations, and shoreland,~~
520 ~~floodplain, and wetland protections. Reject legislation that undermines~~
521 ~~comprehensive planning statutes, and support efforts to restore and expand~~
522 ~~county land use authority to promote coordinated planning across jurisdictions.~~
523 Oppose any state proposals that weaken Dane County’s or its municipalities’

524 ability to regulate land use and responsibly manage growth through zoning, land
525 division, subdivision regulations, and shoreland, floodplain, and wetland
526 protections. Support legislation requiring that all state agencies treat adopted
527 municipal and county comprehensive plans, farmland preservation plans, and
528 zoning ordinances as binding in siting determinations. Require formal approval
529 by resolution of the affected municipality’s governing body prior to state
530 authorization of large-scale energy generation facilities, utility-scale solar
531 installations, transmission corridors, battery storage facilities, data centers, or
532 other high-impact infrastructure projects. Reject state preemption that overrides
533 locally adopted land use protections or permits the expansion of such projects
534 without municipal consent.

Commented [FL15]: 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.

535 • **Maintain Local Oversight of Natural Resources:** Oppose attempts to disturb or
536 destroy Native American effigy mounds and historic burial sites, which are
537 significant cultural and historical landmarks. Oppose “takings” legislation that
538 would require counties to compensate property owners for loss of property value
539 resulting from lawful land use or environmental regulations.

Commented [ML16]: Amended in Executive Committee (3-5-26) as follows: Oppose any state proposals that weaken the ability for local governments to regulate land use and responsibly manage growth through zoning, land division, subdivision regulations, and shoreland, floodplain, and wetland protections. Support legislation that treats local government comprehensive plans, farmland preservation plans, and zoning ordinances as binding in siting determinations. Reject state preemption that overrides locally-adopted land use protections or permits the expansion or authorization of large-scale energy generation facilities, utility-scale solar installations, transmission corridors, or data centers without local government consent.

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- **Promote Sustainable and Fair Energy Infrastructure:** Support requiring that new transmission lines, including high-voltage infrastructure, be constructed 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.
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Commented [FL17]: Added by ZLR 2/24 to reflect a previously passed resolution

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

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

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

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