



2026-2028 Legislative Agenda Update Process

Executive Committee Presentation

January 15, 2026

Lacy Fox | Legislative Lobbyist

GOALS FOR TODAY

- Review the **process** for updating the legislative agenda
- Outline **action items** for members
- Confirm the **timeline** for completion

BACKGROUND

- The Dane County Legislative Agenda gets updated every two years by the County Board.
- The Agenda is used as:
 - A **guide and planning document** for the legislative lobbyist for what to lobby the Wisconsin State Legislature and the governor's office on for the County, including for the next legislative session.
 - A **resource to create handouts** for state legislators or help shape testimony on issues for committees as the Legislature considers legislation over the next few years.
- If something is not included on the agenda, I will **go before the Executive Committee to explain the issue and ask if they wish to have the County weigh in or not**
- *For reference:* links to some past legislative agendas:
 - 2023-2025 (most recent): [2023 RES-081 - 2023 RES-081](#)
 - 2021-2023 agenda: <https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9300849&GUID=B05132FE-B801-4210-A695-800934B501CA>

REVIEW PROCESS

- The **legislative agenda** is listed by issue area. Each of the standing committees is responsible for reviewing the areas that are relevant to their committee
- An **updated working document** was created to streamline categorization of items, reduce redundancies and adjust language based on recent legislative or administrative action
- A **supporting document for each standing committee** has also been created to help guide the process and discussions

DOCUMENT EXAMPLES

Current Legislative Agenda:

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- Access to High Quality Health Care**

 - **Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental care for all residents, including those on Medical Assistance.
 - **Medicaid Expansion:** Support implementation of the Medicaid expansion under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Accept available federal funds for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of Wisconsin citizens have access to quality and affordable health coverage.
 - **Medicare Expansion:** Support Medicare for All Act to ensure everyone has access to high quality, universal healthcare without the interruptions in care present in an employer-based for-profit system.
 - **State Funding Streams:** Support Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases in key funding areas from the state including Youth Aids, Basic Community Aids, Children and Families Allocation, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Income Maintenance, Children's Community Options Program, and Children's Long Term Support Program.
 - **Gender-affirming care:** Support access to gender-affirming care and procedures and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender identity.

Economic Assistance

 - **Income Maintenance Programs:** Support funding levels and legislation that provide sufficient resources to administer non-cash benefit programs such as Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Child Care and issue benefits to all eligible people. Oppose changes to the eligibility/enrollment process and services funded under Medicaid and Income Maintenance, which limit eligibility and could reduce the number of people receiving benefits.
 - **Childcare:** Support sufficient funding for childcare. Expand eligibility to include childcare support for low-income individuals pursuing higher education leading to employment.
 - **Tax Supports for low-income residents:** Support increasing the state percentage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and expanding eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit program.
 - **Property Tax Exemptions Low Income Housing:** Clarify 70.11 Wis. Stats. to define "maintenance" as "repair and maintenance of property, capital replacements, insurance premiums, project management, debt retirement,

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- project-related reserves, general administrative expenses, resident services, utilities, financing costs, preservation expenses and similar project-related expenses."
 - **Centralization of Economic Support Programs:** Oppose initiatives to remove income maintenance administration from counties and create a centralized income maintenance unit.
 - **Medicaid Funding:** Support enabling counties to accept/administer Medicaid funding at the county level.
 - **Drug Testing:** Oppose legislation that would enact drug testing as a requirement for public benefits. Also oppose drug testing of youth in our public schools.
 - **Health Care Workforce:** Support state and federal workforce development funding to increase the number of health care and mental health professionals in Wisconsin.
 - **Paid Leave:** Support paid family leave for workers.

Updated Working Document:

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

 - **Expand Health Care and Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental care for all residents, including those on Medical Assistance. Support implementation of Medicaid expansion and support Medicare for All Act to ensure everyone has access to high quality, universal health care without the interruptions in care present in an employer-based, for-profit system. Support care that is gender-affirming and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender identity. Oppose undue hardship in eligibility/enrollment of safety net programs, such as legislation that would enact drug testing as a requirement for public
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- benefits. Support state and federal workforce development funding to increase the number of health care and mental health professionals in Wisconsin.

 - **Increase State Funding and Support:** Support adequate funding for Youth Aids, Basic Community Aids, Children and Families Allocation, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Income Maintenance, Children's Community Options Program, Children's Long Term Support Program and administrative services under Medicaid and Income Maintenance agencies, including FoodShare.
 - **Prioritize Family-Supporting Economic Policies:** Support sufficient funding for childcare and reduce barriers to accessing affordable childcare, support paid family leave, support increasing the state percentage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and expanding eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit program.
 - **Access to Comprehensive and Equitable Health Care:** Support codifying the protections of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* into Wisconsin and federal law. Oppose all efforts to restrict abortion and reproductive care, and support expanding access to comprehensive reproductive health services for all individuals. Advocate for the continuation and expansion of the Wisconsin Well Woman Program, and support legislation allowing medical marijuana for individuals with debilitating conditions when recommended by a physician. Support policies that create breastfeeding-friendly workplaces.
 - **Public Health and Community Support Initiatives:** Support policies that extend postpartum Medicaid eligibility to a full year and expand Medicaid to include a housing benefit for pregnant and postpartum individuals. Increase staffing and resources for the state's maternal mortality review process. Support the certification and Medicaid reimbursement of Community Health Workers for services within their scope of practice. Encourage increased state funding for nutritious school meals, such as the Healthy School Meals for All Act. Support state-level reforms that enable counties to enact stronger local ordinances regulating dangerous animals and vicious dogs.

Supporting Document For Committee:

Legislative Agenda for 2026-2028 Working Document
Health and Human Needs Committee

Access to High Quality Care and Family-Supporting Initiatives

SUGGESTED DRAFT FOR 2026-2028:

Lines 125-162

2023-2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

Lines 148-199

ITEMS REMOVED: None

SUGGESTED ADDITIONS:

- Under Public Health and Community Support Initiatives, doula services could be added as something similar to but different as community health workers.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Standing committees will make changes to the updated working document

Supporting materials will indicate any substantive changes, such as an item removal

ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chairs

- ✓ **Schedule** the legislative agenda topic on your next committee meeting
- ✓ **Review** working document and supporting materials that will be sent tomorrow
- ✓ **Ask** questions of Lacy during committee meetings *(optional if you wish to add me to the agenda)*
 - Lacy will also attend to take notes and keep track of proposed changes

All County Board Members

- ✓ **Review** the NEW working document as well as the supporting materials
- ✓ **Prepare a** list of things you'd like to change, add, or remove for your next committee meeting
 - Please submit suggestions ahead of time to staff if you are able!

Reminder: If a member is interested in items outside of their standing committee, they should **attend the relevant standing committee meeting** to give input on those areas

FULL PROCESS



Standing committee meetings should be completed **the first week of March**

THANK YOU!