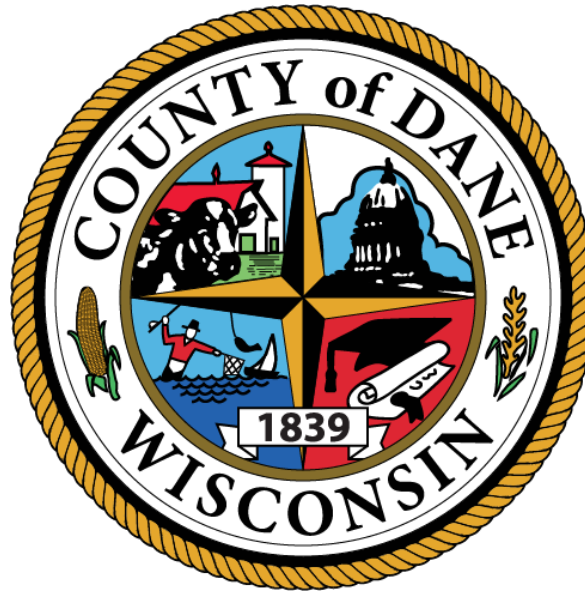




2026-2028 Legislative Agenda Update Process

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:

- 148 **Access to High Quality Health Care**
- 149 • **Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental care for all residents,
 - 150 including those on Medical Assistance.
 - 151 • **Medicaid Expansion:** Support implementation of the Medicaid expansion
 - 152 under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Accept available federal funds
 - 153 for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of Wisconsin citizens have access
 - 154 to quality and affordable health coverage.
 - 155 • **Medicare Expansion:** Support Medicare for All Act to ensure everyone has
 - 156 access to high quality, universal healthcare without the interruptions in care
 - 157 present in an employer-based for-profit system.
 - 158 • **State Funding Streams:** Support Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases
 - 159 in key funding areas from the state including Youth Aids, Basic Community
 - 160 Aids, Children and Families Allocation, Aging and Disability Resource
 - 161 Centers, Income Maintenance, Children's Community Options Program, and
 - 162 Children's Long Term Support Program.
 - 163 • **Gender-affirming care:** Support access to gender-affirming care and
 - 164 procedures and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender
 - 165 identity.
 - 166
 - 167
- 168 **Economic Assistance**
- 169 • **Income Maintenance Programs:** Support funding levels and legislation that
 - 170 provide sufficient resources to administer non-cash benefit programs such
 - 171 as Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Child Care and issue benefits to all
 - 172 eligible people. Oppose changes to the eligibility/enrollment process and
 - 173 services funded under Medicaid and Income Maintenance, which limit
 - 174 eligibility and could reduce the number of people receiving benefits.
 - 175 • **Childcare:** Support sufficient funding for childcare. Expand eligibility to
 - 176 include childcare support for low-income individuals pursuing higher
 - 177 education leading to employment.
 - 178 • **Tax Supports for low-income residents:** Support increasing the state
 - 179 percentage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and expanding
 - 180 eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit program.
 - 181 • **Property Tax Exemptions Low Income Housing:** Clarify 70.11 Wis. Stats.
 - 182 to define "maintenance" as "repair and maintenance of property, capital
 - 183 replacements, insurance premiums, project management, debt retirement,
 - 184

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

Updated Working Document:

- 125 **Access to High Quality Health Care and Family-Supporting Initiatives**
- 126
 - 127 • **Expand Health Care and Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental
 - 128 care for all residents, including those on Medical Assistance. Support
 - 129 implementation of Medicaid expansion and support Medicare for All Act to ensure
 - 130 everyone has access to high quality, universal health care without the interruptions
 - 131 in care present in an employer-based, for-profit system. Support care that is
 - 132 gender-affirming and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender
 - 133 identity. Oppose undue hardship in eligibility/enrollment of safety net programs,
 - 134 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.

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!