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3 **2025 RES-400**
4 **2026-2028 DANE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

5 **General Principle**
6

7 Dane County is the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin

8
9 Dane County is an economic powerhouse that embraces Wisconsin's traditions of
10 tourism, supporting small businesses and economic development, and staying true
11 to our state's values of supporting both our urban and rural neighbors.
12

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

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

27 In furthering these principles Dane County will assess policies via an analysis that
28 asks:

- 29 Who benefits?
- 30 Who is burdened?
- 31 Who does not have a voice at the table?
- 32 How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?
33

34 **Surface and Ground Water Quality**
35

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

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

62 **Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

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

92 water. Support increasing statewide awareness and educational efforts related to
93 reducing the use of lead shot and tackle for hunting and fishing.

94
95 **Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience**
96

- 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.

121
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.

133

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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

173

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

175 **Disabilities**

176

- 177 • **Support for Older Adults and Family Caregivers:** Support continued funding for
- 178 critical programs such as SeniorCare, BadgerCare, RSVP, and Aging and
- 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). Improve access and
201 provide financial support for community-based mental health care services.
202 Endorse the state's effort to change the IMD Exclusion, which places undue
203 financial burdens on counties for institutional care.
- 204 • **Medical Access and Transportation Equity:** Support improvements to the Non-
205 Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) program by holding vendors
206 accountable, improving oversight, ensuring consistent and quality services.
207 Ensure that people with disabilities and low-income individuals have access to
208 essential medical appointments. Also, support adequate funding and accessibility
209 for county-run services and oppose reductions in educational and licensure
210 standards for health professionals to ensure safe, qualified care.
- 211 • **Youth, Families, and Early Intervention Services:** Advocate for sustained
212 support of the Birth to Three program, including requiring private insurers to
213 contribute as third-party payers. Support increased funding for prevention and
214 early intervention programs that serve children, youth, and families, especially in
215 mental health and disability services.

216 **Services for Children, Youth, and Families**

- 217 • **Early Education and the Health and Wellbeing of Children:** Support funding for
218 early childhood education and initiatives. Support background checks for family
219 day care providers, similar to those for foster care. Support initiatives that provide
220 additional funds for primary prevention programs including delinquency and child
221 abuse/neglect. Increase state support to relatives caring for non-custodial children
222 and expand access to kinship care. Oppose legislation that usurps the authority of
223 county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and neglect
224 cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS or increases penalties and changes the
225
226

227 neglect definition to target low income or marginalized communities. Support
228 increasing funding for the WI County Child Support Program. Fully reimburse
229 counties, or eliminate, the WI Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR) program.

- 230 • **Career Development and School Success for Youth:** Support funding to
231 provide educational, work skill development, transportation and mentoring
232 services for youth or young adults who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped
233 out of high school or who are unemployed post high school and lack the knowledge
234 and skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment. Provide
235 incentives for the business community and technical college system to create and
236 support apprenticeship/internship opportunities to young adults. Expedite entry
237 and graduation from the programs to meet increasing demands to fill vacancies
238 created by an aging workforce.
- 239 • **Local Government Authority for Legal Services:** Provide authority for counties
240 to make payments to community-based organizations and other organizations,
241 whether or not operated for profit, based in this state for the provision of civil legal
242 services to individuals and families.

244 Youth Justice

- 245
- 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.

263 Housing

- 264
- 265 • **Access to Safe and Affordable Housing:** Provide additional state funding for
266 services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families who are
267 homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness. Support
268 state investment in Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund and
269 additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing.
270 Support funding for local lead remediation programs.
- 271 • **Fair Housing Rights and Regulations:** Support legislation to amend state
272 statutes to require adequate notice to residents when mobile home parks are

273 closing, require storm cellars/secure areas in manufactured housing communities,
274 encourage WHEDA to provide funding/financing for the purchase of housing on
275 leased land, remove any barriers to long term leases, allow the purchase of
276 communities by residents and the development of co-operative housing for
277 manufactured housing communities. Oppose legislation that impinges on the rights
278 of tenants by allowing landlords to discriminate based on a tenant's income,
279 occupation, rental history, credit information, arrest/conviction history and Social
280 Security number. Restore the ability for local governments to enforce/enact fair
281 housing ordinances and including ones that regulate landlord/tenant relations and
282 set affordable housing requirements.
283

284 **Veterans**

285

- 286 • **Services and Supports for Veterans:** Increase access to the Veteran Property
287 Tax Credit by lowering the disability rating, which is currently set at 100%. Invest
288 in resources and services that will support our veterans, such as programs to end
289 veteran homelessness, funding bus passes and other mass transit costs for
290 service-related disabled veterans. Fund the Wisconsin GI Bill without limitations
291 on eligibility.
- 292 • **Veteran-related Organizations:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered
293 veterans' organizations, increase state funding to ensure solvency and stabilize
294 the Veterans Trust Fund, support and strengthen our County Veterans Service
295 Offices, and recognize the significance of the William S. Middleton Memorial
296 Veterans Administration Hospital and area clinics in the lives of veterans and in
297 the Dane County community and oppose privatization of services.
298

299 **Immigrants and Refugees**

300

- 301 • **Support our Immigrant and Refugee Communities:** Support Driver Licenses
302 for All policies, access to in-state tuition for residents who graduated from a
303 Wisconsin high school, and ensure a safe and welcoming community for all.
304

305 **Local Control and Intergovernmental Relations**

306

- 307 • **Mandates, Local Control, and Funding Equity:** Support comprehensive reforms
308 to ensure counties are not burdened by unfunded state mandates. Oppose any
309 legislation requiring counties to provide services without adequate and ongoing
310 funding. Advocate for a Joint Survey Committee on Local Mandates, waivers from
311 mandates, biennial reviews of all mandated programs, and annual reviews of those
312 funded at 50% or less. Strongly oppose efforts that erode local government control,
313 including levy limits, state-imposed restructuring of county boards, and changes to
314 the balance of power between county executives, boards, and constitutional
315 officers. Engage on emerging legislative issues and administrative rules that
316 directly affect county operations, finances, or services, provided positions remain
317 consistent with Dane County's principles of local control and effective service
318 delivery.

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

360
361 **Public Safety and Emergency Management**
362

- 363 • **Support and Enhance EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages
364 financial support of volunteers in emergency medical services and that addresses

- 365 liability issues and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for radio
366 frequency and upgrade requirements. Require training for first responders on
367 appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting, and interacting with older adults
368 as well as other adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental
369 health or other disorders. Encourage financial support for local governments to
370 adequately communicate, prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies
- 371 • **Gun Safety and Violence Prevention:** Support additional funds to the
372 Department of Justice to enable conducting of uniform criminal background checks
373 of to-be-hired direct care workers by public non-profit agencies. Support funding
374 for gun safety education and access to gun locks and safes and changes to state
375 law to allow local gun regulations. Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed
376 carry permits, modify concealed carry law to prohibit concealed weapons from
377 public spaces such as convention centers, zoos, and other public facilities, and set
378 concealed carry license fees to an amount sufficient to fund all County Sheriffs'
379 costs associated with administering the law. Support universal background checks
380 for all gun purchases and other gun violence prevention efforts.
 - 381 • **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county
382 costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated costs
383 including redaction.

384 **Criminal Justice and Corrections**

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

411 Courts, including court security, court interpreter funding, and increase the county
412 share of fines/forfeitures, and responsible fee increases. Provide judges with
413 flexibility and discretion on fines. Increase jury trial fees to support juror
414 compensation. Join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to improve fine
415 collection and revenue. Secure funding that provides no-cost communications
416 services and treat these services as essential services and not profit centers.

- 417 • **Victim, Community, and Public Safety Support:** Support funding for victim-
418 witness services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy’s Law. Increase
419 funding for crime victims that have egregious claims against local jurisdiction but
420 are without relief. Support state funding for domestic and sexual violence
421 prevention, intervention, and prosecution, including funding ADA positions
422 dedicated to domestic and sexual violence and shelter services. Support efforts to
423 eradicate human trafficking while working to address root causes. Re-enact a
424 Good Samaritan Law when an “aider” provides emergency medical assistance to
425 another person believed to be experiencing an overdose or adverse reaction to a
426 controlled substance.
- 427 • **Public Safety Prevention Efforts:** Support state funding for drunk driving
428 prevention. Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training
429 for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and
430 associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken
431 driving. Support efforts to prevent stolen vehicles that will create disincentives to
432 breaking and entering of homes and stealing of vehicles for financial and
433 recreational purposes. Support legislation to create additional consumer
434 protections from payday lenders.
- 435 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA
436 to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing
437 the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal
438 justice/treatment programs.
- 439 • **Prisoner Medical Costs and Hospitalization:** Support any state and federal
440 efforts to maintain Medicaid coverage for incarcerated people and oppose any
441 legislation that would expand the County’s statutory obligation to pay medical and
442 hospital costs for anyone other than indigent residents who are being held at the
443 Dane County Jail under the state’s criminal laws or for contempt of court.

444 Elections

- 445 • **Voter Access, Education and Election Administration:** Support election laws
446 that increase voter access and participation, including voter education, public
447 financing of elections, and adequate resources for local governments
448 administering elections. Oppose changes that reduce same-day voter
449 registration, shorten absentee voting periods, or impose additional photo
450 identification requirements. Ensure any election administration changes are done
451 in consultation with election clerks at the local level. Support efforts to encourage
452 and expand opportunities for youth civic engagement.

455

456 **Local Road Funding and Projects**

457

- 458 • **Transportation Funding Support:** Support a greater share of state and federal
459 transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services.
460 Increase funding for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the
461 County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation
462 for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require “farmland mitigation” for
463 highway improvement projects. Funding formulas that discriminate against urban
464 counties should be revised and the local match for CHIPS should be decreased.
- 465 • **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of state construction/maintenance
466 contracts to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance
467 zones. Support innovative approaches to improve work zone safety and legislation
468 to allow for the use of the color green on maintenance vehicles to improve
469 snowplow safety.

470

471 **Bicycle Paths, Recreational Trails, and Mass Transit**

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

492

493 **Community, Workforce, and Economic Development**

494

- 495 • **Access to Broadband:** Support increasing financial support to expand broadband
496 services to underserved areas and change state law to allow all levels of local
497 governments and publicly funded entities to build and subsidize broadband
498 networks and projects in underserved areas.
- 499 • **Financial Stability and Workforce Training:** Support expanding the state
500 Transitional Jobs Program, ensuring adequate staffing and funding levels for Dane
501 County Extension’s high-quality educational programs for farmers, businesses,

502 communities, families and young people, and exploring options to lower student
503 debt such as refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the
504 loans, reducing interest rates, and ensuring tuition is affordable.

- 505 • **Access to Quality Education:** Support adequate funding for our public schools
506 and ensure all schools receiving public funding are held to the same accountability
507 measures and standards.
- 508 • **Funding for the Arts:** Support increased funding for the arts, especially for art
509 projects in communities, schools, colleges, and public facilities.
- 510 • **Air Service Development:** Support establishing a state-funded Air Service
511 Development program dedicated to providing grants to help Wisconsin commercial
512 airports recruit and maintain air service in order to compete with neighboring states
513 already providing this type of funding to their airports.

514

515 **Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation**

516

- 517 • **Preserve Flood Insurance and Disaster Aid Protections:** Oppose any
518 proposal that would suspend or weaken Wisconsin's floodplain regulations, as
519 doing so would jeopardize access to federal flood insurance and disaster
520 assistance for communities and individuals impacted by floods. Support changes
521 that limit the use of holding tanks for new or replacement septic systems,
522 ensuring they are only used as a last resort and that Wisconsin Fund assistance
523 supports the most cost-effective, environmentally responsible options.
- 524 • **Protect Local Land Use and Planning Authority:** Oppose any state proposals
525 that weaken the ability of local governments to regulate land use and responsibly
526 manage growth through zoning, land division, subdivision regulations, and
527 shoreland, floodplain, and wetland protections. Support legislation that treats local
528 government comprehensive plans, farmland preservation plans, and zoning
529 ordinances as binding in siting determinations. Reject state preemption that
530 overrides locally-adopted land use protections or permits the expansion or
531 authorization of large-scale energy generation facilities, utility-scale solar
532 installations, transmission corridors, or data centers without local government
533 consent.
- 534 • **Maintain Local Oversight of Natural Resources:** Oppose attempts to disturb or
535 destroy Native American effigy mounds and historic burial sites, which are
536 significant cultural and historical landmarks. Oppose "takings" legislation that
537 would require counties to compensate property owners for loss of property value
538 resulting from lawful land use or environmental regulations.
- 539 • **Promote Sustainable and Fair Energy Infrastructure:** Support requiring that
540 new transmission lines, including high-voltage infrastructure, be constructed
541 underground where feasible to protect environmental resources, enhance system
542 resiliency, and preserve Dane County's economic vitality. Advocate for an
543 independent study to assess the true need for additional transmission lines in the
544 region. Additionally, oppose utility deregulation efforts that lead to higher consumer
545 rates and support frameworks that prioritize reliability, equitable benefit
546 distribution, and environmental and social outcomes. Preserve counties' ability to
547 aggregate electricity purchases to improve affordability and sustainability.

- 548
- **Support Strategic Programs and Tools for Land and Data Management:**
549 Support continued state funding for the Wisconsin Land Information Program and
550 its grant mechanisms, which are essential to maintaining accurate land records
551 and supporting local planning efforts. Encourage sustainable land use practices by
552 maintaining Dane County's ability to use a full range of planning tools. This
553 includes resisting any attempts to limit the use of zoning and comprehensive
554 planning at the local level. Support fair retention of real estate transfer fees to
555 counties.

556

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

559

560 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Legislative Lobbyist be directed
561 to pursue these legislative positions.

562

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