

2017-2018 Dane County
Legislative Agenda



General Principles

The unique role counties play in administering state programs—human services, transportation, the environment, surface and ground waters, health, the justice system and other state-mandated services—must be recognized.

1. The state must fairly share responsibility with the counties in determining the scope, design, and cost of statewide programs;
2. The state must provide an adequate and predictable share of funding for state services delivered by the counties;
3. The state must help counties reduce the need to rely on property taxes;
4. The state should enhance the ability of counties to more effectively manage county government;
5. The state shall perform a biennial review of all mandated programs to determine continued need for the programs and annually review all mandated programs funded at 50% or less.



Dane County Legislative Agenda Priorities

The following ten legislative agenda priorities (in no particular order) were identified and approved by the Executive Committee in February 2017. The entirety of the Dane County Legislative Agenda from the resolution approved by the Dane County Board of Supervisors in January 2017 follows the priorities.

Racial Equity: The elimination of racial disparities and the elevation of racial equity are among the most important priorities and responsibilities of Dane County. Specific areas that help alleviate racial disparities include Child Welfare, Economic Wellbeing, Family Structure, Youth Initiatives, Education, Prevention, Employment, Criminal Justice, Health Care, Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, Contracting and Service Delivery.

Local Transportation: Support a greater share of state and federal transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services. Funding should be increased for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require “farmland mitigation” for highway improvement projects. In addition, funding formulas that discriminate against urban counties should be revised and the local match (now 50%) for CHIPS should be decreased.

District Attorney Funding: Support increased state funding for more Assistant District Attorney positions to meet growing caseloads.

Renewable Energy: Support statewide funding in the form of grants and incentives leading to the increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biomass. Support legislation to increase affordability/sustainability of renewable energy in Wisconsin. Oppose legislation that restricts or prevents waste-to-energy and renewable energy as viable energy sources for utilities and consumers.

Water Quality: Maintain level of DNR funds for water quality planning and watershed projects. Support increased DNR financial assistance as an incentive to reduce non-point source pollution. Seek a fair share of state funding for inland waterways and lakes. Target state funds to where there is a high likelihood of project success, where recipient units of government have a proven track record of meeting state and local water resource goals. Support legislation to provide additional funding and staffing for local water quality protection, improvement and unfunded mandates.

Recycling: Support long-term state funding for state’s recycling program. Support continued state efforts to expand markets for recycled materials. Amend statutes to allow local governments or other entities to receive more than one state grant for innovative demonstration projects.

Keeping 17 year-olds in the juvenile justice system: Remove 17 year olds from the adult correctional system and return them to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Corrections.



Homeless Services: Provide additional state funding for services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth and families who are homeless.

Public Assistance: Oppose any legislation that imposes requirements on the receipt of public assistance

Local Government Control: Oppose any legislation that limits or deletes local government control including opposition to levy limits and support for county home rule authority.

Rural Broadband: Urge the State of Wisconsin to increase financial support/seek federal funding to expand broadband services to underserved rural areas.



Eliminate Racial Disparities

The elimination of racial disparities and the elevation of racial equity are among the most important priorities and responsibilities of Dane County. Specific areas that help alleviate racial disparities include Child Welfare, Economic Wellbeing, Family Structure, Youth Initiatives, Education, Prevention, Employment, Criminal Justice, Health Care, Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, Contracting and Service Delivery.

In order to impact the current state and community crisis, we must be deliberate and proactive in our public policy response.

1. **Juvenile Justice:** Support continued funding for early intervention and intensive treatment programs.
2. **Career Development for Youth:** Support funding to provide educational, work skill development, transportation and mentoring services for youth or young adults who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped out of high school or who are unemployed post high school and lack the knowledge and skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment.
3. **Early Childhood Initiative:** Support legislation to continue funding for the Early Childhood Initiative programs.
4. **Apprenticeship/Internships:** Provide incentives for the business community and technical college system to create and support apprenticeship/internship opportunities to young adults. Expedite entry and graduation from the programs to meet increasing demands to fill vacancies created by an aging workforce.
5. **17 Year Olds:** Remove 17 year olds from the adult correctional system and return them to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Corrections.
6. **Countywide Youth Collaboration:** Create two pilot programs funded at \$100,000 to foster countywide collaborative actions with School Districts, Law Enforcement Task Forces (drug, gang....). County Human Services, Sheriff, District Attorney, Community Youth Service Organizations and target services for all students, including parole activities.
7. **Prevention Funding:** Support initiatives that provide additional funds for primary prevention programs including delinquency, child abuse/neglect and elder/abuse neglect.
8. **Youth Programs:** Support continuation and expansions of programs focusing on prevention of delinquency, alcohol and other drug use, child abuse and neglect and domestic violence. Support increased funding and support for youth after school programs, especially at the middle school level.
9. **Youth Aids:** Support legislation to increase state funding for out-of-home care costs for juvenile offenders now paid for by Dane County. Limit increases in state rates for out of home placements for juveniles (including corrections, child caring institutions and residential care facilities) to no more than the increase in Youth Aids.
10. **Relative Caregivers:** Support legislation/policies that provide additional State support to relatives who take care of non-custodial children.
11. **Dental Access:** Support policies and/or legislation that would ensure access to dental care for all residents including those on Medical Assistance.
12. **Voter Registration Changes and Voter Identification Requirement:** Oppose legislation which changes same day voter registration, alters times for absentee ballot voting and requires photo identification to vote.
13. **Support Wisconsin's Successful System of Election Day Voter Registration:** Support Election Day voter registration and urge Wisconsin Legislature to maintain the current system.
14. **Regional Transit Authority (RTA):** Restore statutory language to allow creation of a Regional Transit Authority/Authorities covering at a minimum the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Area, and support statutory language to allow up to a half-cent sales tax which would go to citizens for a binding referendum, be contingent on re-



ceiving federal transit funds and RTA governance/operating structure would be determined after consultation with community partners participating in the RTA. Support that sales tax funds are used for commuter rail, bus transit, emergency/disabled transportation, local road and county highway projects.

15. **State Audit Probation & Parole Program:** Request the Legislative Audit Bureau to analyze Wisconsin's probation and parole program for effectiveness and efficiencies; to identify improvements in procedures to streamline the revocation process in order to reduce days in jail; and compare the Wisconsin program to other states.
16. **Prisoner Re-Entry:** Adequately fund prisoner community re-entry programs to increase success and effectiveness.
17. **Youth Courts:** Support and fund Youth Courts in Wisconsin High Schools.
18. **Close Public Defender Eligibility Gap:** Support changing Public Defender eligibility levels to the same level as eligibility for appointed counsel to eliminate the gap that currently requires the court to appoint counsel at county expense.
19. **Minority Outreach:** Support state-sponsored outreach to communities about available support services.
20. **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.
21. **Restrictions on Local Fair Housing Ordinances:** 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.
22. **Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act:** Oppose permitting an employer to refuse to employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted of a felony and who has not been pardoned for that felony, and pre-empting local government from adopting ordinances concerning employment discrimination based on arrest or conviction records that prohibit activity allowed under the state Fair Employment Act.
23. **Landlord Regulation:** Repeal 2011 WI Act 108, which prohibits local government ordinances that place limits or requirements on landlords (Fair Housing Ordinance). Repeal 2011 WI Act 143, which prohibits a local government from imposing a moratorium on eviction actions and amends/creates new provisions that benefit landlords including but not limited to allowing: landlord discretion in disposing/storing of medical/personal items; landlords to withhold a tenant's security deposit or portion of for damages, unpaid rent/utility bills; and severability of rental agreements. Repeal 2011-2012 budget bill provision which deletes landlord foreclosure notice. Repeal 2013 WI Act 76 (Prohibit Local Landlord Ordinances).
24. **Minimum wage:** Enacted 11/4/14 Referendum Ballot question, "Should the State of Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?" Dane County voters approved this item by 73.6% yes votes and 26.4% no votes.
25. **Medicaid Expansion:** Support implementation of the Medicaid expansion under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Allow Wisconsin to use the Medicaid option to close the gap in BadgerCare for childless adults. If WI closes the gap, full federal funding will be available for three years 2014-2016, followed by gradual reductions to 90% by 2020. ACA creates other innovative benefits and programs that states and counties will help to implement. Accept available federal funds for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of Wisconsin citizens have access to quality and affordable health coverage.
26. **County Jail:** Support full state funding for probation/parole holds; continued support for the Treatment Alternative Program (TAP); more funding for incarceration alternatives; support Justice Impact Statements.
27. **Court Interpreters:** Support appointing court interpreters to all cases regardless of indigency and support an increase in state funding for reimbursement to counties for interpreter services.
28. **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal justice/treatment programs.



29. **Prevailing Wage:** Oppose legislation that eliminates the prevailing wage requirement for public works and other projects. The prevailing wage guarantees fair bids, quality work and middle class wages for skilled workers in Dane County.
30. **Sanctuary Cities/Counties:** Oppose legislation that requires county workers/law enforcement to review immigration status any time an individual comes in contact with government workers. Oppose banning specified immigrants from living in communities. Urge Wisconsin to seek grants for Syrian refugee resettlement.
31. **Racial Disparity Subcommittee:** Support creation of a state Criminal Justice Coordinating Council subcommittee on racial disparities within the criminal justice system.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

1. **State Court System:** Increase state funding of the circuit court system, including court security.
2. **Victim-Witness Program:** Support full state funding of program costs.
3. **Child Support:** Request the Legislature designate additional state monies to the Wisconsin County Child Support Program in order to continue to provide the current high level of service.
4. **EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages financial support of volunteers in emergency medical services and that address liability issues and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for radio frequency and upgrade requirements.
5. **Clerk of Court Fees:** Pursue statutory changes to increase the county share of fines/forfeitures.
6. **License Fee:** Support \$12 for driver's license suspension if the fee is payable by the defendant.
7. **Communications Surcharge for 911 Systems:** Support legislation to redirect electronic communications surcharge to County 911 Centers.
8. **Recording Fees:** Support legislation that allows counties to re-coup the cost of locating/recording 911 records for individuals when the costs of searching/recording those records exceed \$25. Current statutes prohibit counties from recouping the cost when the cost exceeds \$50.
9. **Conceal and Carry Weapons:** Provide an exclusion for the facilities and grounds of the Alliant Energy Center, "Weapons may not be carried onto the grounds, parking lots or areas associated with convention, entertainment and sporting facilities nor brought into venues where the public assembles for tradeshows, demonstrations, conventions, consumer shows, entertainment, sporting or educational events, including zoos, convention centers, arenas, horse arenas, hockey arenas, concert and sporting venues for public assembly events, including when those facilities are used for private events."; oppose weapons in institutions of higher learning, public schools, child care facilities, community centers and health care facilities; and amend conceal and carry legislation to increase all fee amounts to provide County Sheriffs with sufficient funds to administer the conceal and carry law.
10. **First Responder Training:** Require training for first responders (police officers, paramedics...) on appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting and interacting with older adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental health or other disorders.
11. **Domestic Violence:** Support state funding for domestic violence prevention, intervention and prosecution, including funding for three ADA positions dedicated to domestic violence, and shelter services.
12. **Fee Increase for Jury Trial:** Support legislation to increase the fee for a jury trial from \$6 to \$15. The funding is needed to offset increases in juror compensation.
13. **Prisoner Hospitalization:** Oppose any legislation that would reverse/overturn the WI Supreme Court ruling on the Meriter case. Update the statutory language regarding prisoner hospitalization.
14. **Industrial Hemp:** Support legalizing the production of industrial hemp.
15. **District Attorney Funding:** Support increased state funding for more Assistant District Attorney positions to meet growing caseloads.



16. **Criminal Background Check:** Support additional funds to the Department of Justice to enable the conducting of uniform criminal background checks of to-be-hired direct care workers by public and non-profit agencies.
17. **Emergency Communications Interoperability:** Enact local and state communication networks for disaster events and fund through State grants.
18. **Interstate Traffic Tickets:** Amend State Statutes allowing Wisconsin to join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to facilitate collection of out of state traffic violators and capture a needed revenue source for the state and county.
19. **Multi-line Telephone System (MLTS) calls to 911:** Support legislation requiring owner/operators of these systems to deliver to Wisconsin 9-1-1 Centers precise location information instead of merely the "headquarters office" location and call-back numbers now delivered when callers from their system dial 9-1-1 seeking aid.
20. **Support Gun Control:** Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed carry permits, make the purchase of a firearm for someone who is prohibited from possessing a firearm a felony, make the possession of a concealed firearm by those prohibited under Wisconsin law a felony and require that private gun sales be subject to criminal background checks performed by a federally licensed gun dealer.
21. **Mental Health Screenings:** Support and fund mental health screening and treatment for inmates in county juvenile detention, shelter homes and county jails.
22. **Legalize Marijuana:** Support legislation legalizing marijuana. Dane County voters approved by 64.5% yes votes and 35.5% no votes.
23. **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated costs including redaction.

Human Services

1. **Key Funding Streams:** Support Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases in key funding areas from the state including Youth Aids, Community Aids, COP and CIP.
2. **W-2 Funding:** Support funding to pay all W-2 cash benefits and administrative expenses
3. **Childcare:** Support sufficient funding for childcare. Expand eligibility to include childcare support for low-income individuals pursuing higher education leading to employment.
4. **Homeless Services:** Provide additional State funding for services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth and families who are homeless.
5. **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, project-related reserves, general administrative expenses, resident services, utilities, financing costs, preservation expenses and similar project-related expenses."
6. **Centralization of Economic Support Programs:** Oppose initiatives to remove income maintenance administration from counties and create a centralized income maintenance unit.
7. **Medicaid Funding:** Support enabling counties to accept/administer Medicaid funding at the county level.
8. **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.
9. **Birth to Three:** Support additional financial support from the state for this program. Support a modification of State Statutes to require health insurers to make third party payments to defray the cost of Birth to Three care for families that have private health insurance policies.
10. **Community Support Program (CSP):** Continue program. Have additional state funding to help reduce county costs and serve those whom can benefit from the program.



11. **RSVP Services:** Support increased funding for the RSVP Program
12. **Seniorcare and BadgerCare:** Maintain Seniorcare and BadgerCare continuing programs.
13. **Handicap Access:** Support “visit ability” legislation to allow handicap access devices in new homes or eliminate barriers in older homes.
14. **Long Term Care Reform:** Plans developed by the state in the area of long term care need to protect quality and availability of services to consumers and maintain control by the county of programs or relieve the county of financial aid and/or legal obligations for the programs and participants if the county is not involved with these programs in the future. The required county contribution towards LTC should be equitably negotiated. Support adequate funding for the start-up and ongoing funding of ADRCs. Amend Chapter 55 to delineate state and county responsibilities.
15. **Equitable Funding for Long Term Care:** Extend higher federal MA reimbursement rates under the federal stimulus package to current county-administered long term care MA waiver programs where county revenues comprise the non-federal match. Support freezing further county participation in Family Care until the State can fully fund county program start-up costs and find more equitable ways of funding Family Care without penalizing counties, such as Dane, for the substantial financial commitment and innovative approaches already taken to meet long term care needs of its residents.”
16. **Employment Services for Older Adults:** Extend the use of state and county funds to encourage the business community and technical colleges to create and support retraining and placement of older adults entering/re-entering employment, especially those lacking English proficiency.
17. **Family Caregivers:** Provide financial support and tax credits to family caregivers.
18. **Dementia Patient Rights:** Oppose involuntary psychotropic drug administration in Chapters 51 and 55.
19. **Comprehensive Community Services (CCS):** Support continued full funding of the state match.
20. **InvestaCare (Long Term Care Investment Fund):** Support legislation to establish a long term care investment savings program for individuals 18 years and older to meet future long term care needs through financial contributions.
21. **Family Care/IRIS:** Oppose changes that weaken the Family Care and IRIS programs, eliminate CIP/COP waivers, propose negative changes to the Family Support program/Medicaid Personal Care Services, and weaken or privatize Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). Such changes will create dire consequences for people with developmental/physical disabilities, including children and their families and older adults in Dane County.
22. **Mental Health and Drug Addiction Treatment:** Urge the state of Wisconsin to require increased insurance coverage and MA reimbursement rates in addition to adequate statewide funding for mental health services and drug addiction treatment programs.
23. **Winnebago Mental Health Transfers:** Urge DHS to rescind its requirement to transfer detained mental health patients to Winnebago Mental Health Institute instead of Mendota.
24. **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation:** Currently Medical Transportation Management Inc. (MTM) is contracted by the state of Wisconsin to provide rides for Medicaid eligible individuals to gain access to medical appointments. Contract provisions are skewed to reward MTM for denying rides instead of providing rides. Ongoing complaints about the quality of service suggest little accountability or oversight creating greater problems for the “transportation disadvantaged.” Support entities or other actions that will hold MTM accountable, improve oversight of the program, ensure quality, consistent services, resolve complaints and provide incentives for giving not denying rides.
25. **Kinship Care:** Support funding to meet needs of all that are eligible.
26. **Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR):** Eliminate WIMCR program or fully reimburse counties for the revenues they would have received under the Community Services Deficit Reduction Benefit (CSDRB) and Community Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming (CBMAC) programs which were impacted by the creation of WIMCR.
27. **Family Child Care:** Support legislation to extend the state rules governing foster care background checks to family day care providers.



28. **At-Risk Youth Report to School Board:** Develop a program for newly released at-risk students to interact with/ give progress reports to school boards.
29. **Law Enforcement Role in Child Abuse & Neglect:** Oppose legislation that usurps the authority of county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting all child abuse and neglect cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS, increases penalties and changes the neglect definition to target low income and marginalized communities.
30. **Response to Local Public Health Emergencies:** Support legislation that recognizes the critical role of local Public Health Departments in responding to public health emergencies and provides adequate funding to respond to all threats to public health.
31. **Public Health Prevention:** Support initiatives that maintain the integrity and effectiveness of public health prevention services.
32. **Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease:** Support the WI Department of Health and Family Services in its efforts to amend the administrative code to include Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a reportable disease.
33. **Medical Marijuana:** Support legislation allowing residents with debilitating medical conditions to acquire and possess marijuana for medical purposes if supported by their physician. Dane County voters approved this item in 11/2/10 general election, 75.49% yes and 24.50% no.
34. **Women's Health Care:** Repeal all state laws that prohibit women from having access to safe and legal abortions, that don't protect women's health and don't ensure a woman's dignity, equality and autonomy.
35. **Support Wisconsin Well Woman Program:** The Wisconsin Well Women Program pays for preventive health screening services (Mammograms, Pap Smears.....) for women with little or no health insurance coverage. Support maintaining the program and oppose any cuts or elimination.
36. **Armed Forces:** Support the Dane County soldiers who are presently serving. Support protecting families and jobs rather than utilizing precious resources and funds to wage a war.
37. **VFW Halls:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered veterans' organizations.
38. **Property Tax Credit:** Eliminate the 65 year old age limit, drop the disability rating from 100% to 30% or greater, and allow 10 consecutive years of Wisconsin residency after separation (this expands eligibility to veteran applicants whose home of record was not Wisconsin).
39. **Trust Fund:** Support an increase from state GPR to help stabilize the Trust Fund so veterans will no longer pay for their own benefits and programs. The Trust Fund is financed through veteran programs such as personal and home loans.
40. **Wisconsin GI Bill:** Fully fund the Wisconsin GI Bill without any limitations on eligibility.
41. **State Funding for the Veteran Trust Fund:** Support increased funding in the State budget bill to insure solvency of the Veterans Trust Fund including but not limited to, the exploration of permanent state funding for the WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the veteran programs/benefits that the Department oversees.
42. **Ending Veteran Homelessness:** Support ending veteran homelessness by maximizing state and federal resources and streamlining local housing processes.
43. **Mass Transit for Disabled Veterans:** Support fully funding bus passes and other mass transit costs for all service-connected disabled veterans in all Wisconsin locations and transit programs.
44. **County Veteran Offices:** Oppose legislation that cuts/restructures CVSO funding, reduces veteran services or weakens the offices by regionalization.



Transportation, Land Use and the Environment

1. **Water Quality:** Maintain level of DNR funds for water quality planning and watershed projects. Support increased DNR financial assistance as an incentive to reduce non-point source pollution. Seek a fair share of state funding for inland waterways and lakes. Target state funds to where there is a high likelihood of project success, where recipient units of government have a proven track record of meeting state and local water resource goals. Support legislation to provide additional funding and staffing for local water quality protection, improvement and unfunded mandates.
2. **Local Transportation:** Support a greater share of state and federal transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services. Funding should be increased for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require "farmland mitigation" for highway improvement projects. In addition, funding formulas that discriminate against urban counties should be revised and the local match (now 50%) for CHIPS should be decreased.
3. **Support state-federal funding for Amtrak service to Milwaukee and Madison.** Support continued state funding for further planning and implementation of a commuter rail system and regional bus links to outlying communities in Dane County. Also, support increased funding for Transport 2020 and rail rehabilitation and purchases.
4. Support state/federal funding for the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative.
5. **Bicycle Trail Funding:** Work with Legislators and State Agencies to obtain transportation aids for bicycle trails with significant commuter traffic. Support allowing bike path maintenance costs to be eligible for transportation aids. Support the creation and development of a statewide Bike Trail Task Force. Integrate bicycle transportation into future commuter transportation systems
6. **Regional Trail System:** Request DNR assistance in development of regional trail systems.
7. **Highway Workers Safety:** Earmark a portion of every state construction/maintenance contract to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance zones.
8. **Soil Erosion:** Support DNR and/or legislative streamlining of NR297 process to deal more quickly with cropland soil erosion that threatens water resources. Control soil erosion to acceptable limits, e.g., tolerable soil loss levels, for the production of food and fiber. Support DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management programs implementation, e.g., NR243 cost sharing and Land and Water Resource Management Plan implementation and cost sharing.
9. **Recycling:** Support long-term state funding for state's recycling program. Support continued state efforts to expand markets for recycled materials. Amend statutes to allow local governments or other entities to receive more than one state grant for innovative demonstration projects.
10. **Landfill Siting:** Allow municipalities to replace existing public landfills without a new DNR needs determination. Amend statutes to modify landfill negotiation-mediation process to include counties as an appropriate governing body for the approval of negotiated agreements. Amend statutes to prohibit the construction of landfills until the mediation-negotiating process is complete.
11. **Cleansweep:** Support increased state/federal funding for household and Ag Clean Sweep.
12. **Boating Laws:** Support legislation making fines and associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken driving.
13. **Stewardship Fund:** Support annually adjusting the State Stewardship Fund for inflation to maintain at least 1990 funding levels. Eliminate Stewardship Fund requirements for hunting and trapping.
14. **State Urban Forestry Grants:** Allow towns, counties, and non-profits to access both the federal and state funds in the Urban Forestry Grant Program.
15. **Payments in Lieu of Taxes:** Authorize counties to make payments in lieu of taxes to other local units of government when the county takes land off the tax rolls for conservation purposes.



16. **Holding Tanks as Systems of Last Resort:** Support changes in statutes and administrative rules that oppose using holding tanks except as a last resort for new and replacement septic systems. Modify rules and statutes to ensure funding from the Wisconsin Fund is for the least costly systems, excluding holding tanks, unless a holding tank is the system of last resort.
17. **Revise Formula for DATCP Administrative Funding to Counties:** Support a revision in the formula the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) uses to distribute administrative funding to counties for administration of the Farmland Preservation Program, Nutrient Management Program and the implementation of performance standards. Use criteria for distribution that include number of farms, acres of cropland, number of livestock and amount of resource waters in a county.
18. **State Commercial Building Code:** Support the exemption from the state Commercial Building Code of farm buildings used for agricultural purposes or horse boarding/stabling facilities.
19. **Fair Motorboat Gas Tax Allocation:** Support legislation to fairly allocate motorboat fuel tax through a more equitable distribution formula.
20. **Stormwater Utility:** Amend the WI Stats. to allow counties to create and manage a stormwater utility.
21. **Mercury Products Ban:** The State should ban the sale of mercury-containing products, with the exception of dental fillings and fluorescent lamps. If the ban is implemented on a phased-in basis, retailers should be required to take back for recycling those mercury-containing products that they are selling until the ban for each product takes effect.
22. **Boater Registration Act:** Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training for operation of motorized watercraft.
23. **Mercury Rules:** Support changes to the mercury rules to achieve a 90% reduction per DNR rule.
24. **Wisconsin Land Information Program:** Support the continuation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program and grants.
25. **DNR Budget Reductions:** Oppose reductions in DNR staffing that affect Dane County water programs, including regulatory programs, lake/fishery, runoff specialists, conservation wardens, land conservation and parks programs.
26. **Comprehensive Planning:** Oppose legislation, which repeals the comprehensive planning statutes.
27. **Power Plants:** Support efforts to clean up dirty power plants.
28. **Transmission Lines:** Request the State supports an independent study of the need for additional high voltage transmission lines through Dane County.
29. **Takings Legislation:** Oppose legislation that would require county government to compensate real property owners for restricted use or loss of property value as a result of law or regulations.
30. **Airport Authority:** Oppose legislation that takes airport governance away from county government and gives it to a private/public airport authority.
31. **American Transmission Company (ATC) Requirement:** Urge Wisconsin Public Service Commission to require ATC to construct power lines underground to protect Dane County economic and environmental resources while enhancing resiliency and reliability during extreme weather events.
32. **Reduce Fine Particle Emissions:** Target fine particle pollution non-attainment areas by providing increased funding and new incentives for fine particle emission reduction programs, including programs that reduce emissions from transportation sources and point sources through the increased use of alternative fuels, renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency improvements.
33. **Diesel Idling Regulations:** Support statewide implementation of diesel idling regulations for trucks, buses and other diesel engines.
34. **Comprehensive Approach to Control Lake Levels:** Request the DNR to adopt a comprehensive approach to managing the levels of the lakes through collaboration with affected parties, including dam operators, municipalities and regulatory agencies toward improving natural hydrologic conditions and habitat.



35. **Oppose State Increases in Landfill/Solid Waste Fees and Program Reductions:** Oppose state increases to the landfill recycling tipping fee and environmental repair fee. Oppose the elimination or reduction of recycling and solid waste programs.
36. **Verona Road Project:** Support mitigation measures to lessen the impact of the Verona Road construction project on surrounding neighborhoods and local businesses. Those measures include noise barriers, monitoring air quality, preservation of commercial areas, minimizing impacts on established neighborhoods, storm water management (steer away from Dunn's Marsh), and develop bike lanes, pedestrian/bicycle bridges and sidewalks on frontage and neighborhood roads.
37. **Alternative Energy Production:** Support statewide funding in the form of grants and incentives leading to the increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biomass.
38. **Green Jobs Economic Development:** Support statewide funding in the form of grants or incentives, for counties to develop, create and attract green job opportunities with green companies or industry.
39. **Keep Asian Carp Out of Wisconsin Waterways:** Call on the WI Department of Natural Resources and the federal government to increase their efforts to stop the destructive advance of the Asian carp through Wisconsin.
40. **Mining Reform:** Monitor mining reform legislation, oppose provisions that usurp local government role and suspend floodplain rules that would nullify flood insurance and federal disaster assistance.
41. **Renewable Energy:** Oppose legislation that restricts or prevents waste-to-energy and renewable energy as viable energy sources for utilities and consumers.
42. **North Mendota Parkway:** Oppose the construction of four lanes on Main Street (HWY 19) in Waunakee. Support an update of the 2003 North Mendota Parkway traffic study, and request WIDOT to consider how the proposed North Mendota Parkway, Hwy 19, CTH K, CTH M and Hwy 13 relate to each other and Hwy 12. Support an implementation review of the "North E-Way".
43. **Restore Funding for Soil & Water Resource Management Program:** Return \$9.3 million to state aid for county conservation employees who assist WI farmers and help grow the state's agriculture industry.
44. **Clean Energy Choice:** Support legislation to increase affordability/sustainability of renewable energy in Wisconsin.
45. **Divestment from Fossil Fuels:** Support zero investments in fossil fuel companies for Dane County, all local governments and state institutions.
46. **Support Local Control of Erosion and Storm Water Management Standards:** Oppose standardizing regulation of construction site erosion, storm water management and prohibiting local governments from enacting local ordinances that are stricter than statewide standards.
47. **Support Local Control of Nonmetallic Mining:** Oppose any state legislation that preempts local governments from enacting their own nonmetallic mining regulations and oversight of air/water quality, highway damage, noise and use contracts.
48. **Update Wisconsin 2030 State Rail Plan:** Support funding and planning for intercity rail serving Dane County and Madison and urge WIDOT to work with Minnesota DOT on Milwaukee-Twin Cities High Speed Rail Study.
49. **Water Management:** Support local governmental efforts to improve water management through water conservation, a balanced water budget and enhanced groundwater recharge.
50. **High Capacity Wells:** Oppose limiting, relaxing or thwarting the regulation of high capacity wells.
51. **Foreign Interests in Farmland:** Oppose legislation that removes limits on foreign ownership of Wisconsin agricultural land.
52. **Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock:** Support national/statewide ban on non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production/agriculture.
53. **Effigy Mounds & Burial Sites:** Oppose legislation that allows the disturbance or destruction of Native American effigy mounds and old burial sites.



- 54. **Highway Funding:** Require WIDOT to provide more funding up front through operational reimbursement and incentivizing improvements.
- 55. **Balanced & Fair Partnership Between Digesters, Gas Recovery Programs & Utility Companies:** Create a statewide reimbursement competitive grant program to enhance and fund bioenergy projects.
- 56. **Lead Pollution:** Support statewide/Utility User funding to help local governments mitigate lead contamination in drinking water.
- 57. **Public Trust Doctrine:** Oppose legislation that erodes the Public Trust Doctrine and DNR's ability to regulate navigable waters.
- 58. **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change. Enhance county authority and funding for county-level action planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience around the impacts of climate change, including climate change influenced by human activity.

Local Government Services

- 1. **Fees/Licenses:** State-set fees collected by counties should fairly cover administrative costs.
- 2. **Libraries:** Enforce compliance with WI Stats. 43.24(6) which require state funding for public library systems at 13% of local library expenditures.
- 3. **Legislative Mandates:** Oppose any state or federal legislation or rules/regulations promulgated by federal or state agencies that would require counties to provide a service or administer any program without adequate and ongoing funding; support creation of a Joint Survey Committee on Local Mandates. Support legislation to allow waivers from state mandates.
- 4. **Association Memberships:** Amend WI Stats. 59.07(27) to require a simple majority vote of the county board of supervisors to purchase membership in an association of county boards.
- 5. **Utility Deregulation:** Oppose any deregulation that leads to higher consumer rates. Any attempts to restructure the delivery of electricity should address: reliability of electrical service, equitable benefits to large and small rate payers, the social and environmental impacts of restructuring and the ability of counties to aggregate to purchase electricity.
- 6. **Room Tax:** Amend the room tax statutes to include counties.
- 7. **Alliant Energy Center District:** Provide enabling legislation or a grandfather clause within the Wisconsin Center District and Bradley Center agreement to extend the same authority to the Alliant Energy Center.
- 8. **County Board Elections:** Change the state statutes requiring County Board members to be sworn in on the third Tuesday to allow the seating of temporary Board members until a recount is completed.
- 9. **TABOR/Property Tax Freeze:** Urge state to pay for required programs to reduce property tax growth, not pass more constitutional amendments.
- 10. **Offshore Contracting:** Oppose the practice of contracting state of Wisconsin government functions or services to overseas companies/operations.
- 11. **Local Government Control:** Oppose any legislation that limits or deletes local government control including opposition to levy limits and support for county home rule authority.
- 12. **Reverse Marriage Ban:** Support a constitutional amendment to delete the marriage ban amendment adopted in the Fall '06 General Election.
- 13. **Domestic Partnership Benefits:** Continue to allow local governments to provide domestic partner benefits.
- 14. **State Contracts:** Require the State to award contracts to vendors that extend spousal benefits to include employees in domestic partner relationships.
- 15. **Manufactured Housing:** 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, encour-



age 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.

- 16. Grant Program Continuity:** Require that when the state awards contracts or otherwise funds a project, the state should require sustainability as one criterion in the decision-making or contract selection process.
- 17. Buy Local:** Provide and maintain state funding to create incentives for businesses and all levels of government to buy local produce and products.
- 18. Arts Funding:** Support increased funding for the arts across Wisconsin.
- 19. Restore Impact Fee Authority:** Restore counties to the governmental entities that are authorized to levy impact fees.
- 20. Affordable Housing Trust Fund:** Support enabling legislation to allow Dane County to create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 21. Dangerous Animals and Vicious Dog Ordinance:** Amend state law to allow counties to enact stricter ordinances to regulate dangerous animals and vicious dogs having countywide applicability.
- 22. Comprehensive School Funding Reform:** Support changes in the school aid formula to align revenues with educational costs. Distribute resources in accordance with the diverse needs of students and districts to ensure every student receives a quality education. Support moving school funding away from reliance on property taxes.
- 23. Support Wisconsin Workers' Rights to Organize and Collectively Bargain:** Dane County is committed to a fair and respectful bargaining process and in bargaining in good faith with our employees, even if state statutes no longer require collective bargaining between Dane County and its employees. Oppose attacks on workers' rights.
- 24. Population Change:** Dane is nearing the 500,000 population mark. Support legislation to address issues within the state statutes that pertain to counties with a population of 500,000 or more (Milwaukee County) by changing the population figure to 750,000 or more throughout the state statutes. There are 160 provisions in state law that apply to counties that size. One of the most problematic provisions, the state takeover of Dane County child welfare services, would cost county taxpayers \$58.8 million.
- 25. In-State Tuition for Immigrants:** Support restoring the law for in-state tuition for state residents who graduated from a Wisconsin High School, but lack proper immigration documentation.
- 26. Flood Insurance Threat:** Oppose any proposal to suspend state floodplain rules that nullify federal flood insurance and jeopardize federal disaster assistance for Wisconsin flood victims.
- 27. UW Cooperative Extension's Relationship with Dane County Extension Department and Wisconsin Idea Partnership:** Support Wisconsin Idea Partnership to address funding reductions to UW System through the budget bill and the impacts that the Badger Partnership will create for UW Extension and its partnerships with county extension agencies, including the Dane County Extension Department
- 28. Changes to Wisconsin Redistricting Statutes:** Oppose changes to the redistricting process that allow the Wisconsin Legislature to develop a map of Congressional, Senatorial and Assembly districts prior to local government input regarding ward boundaries.
- 29. Collective Bargaining Rights:** Support workers having the right to seek safe working conditions, benefits and fair pay through collective bargaining and oppose legislation that weakens it.
- 30. Online Retailers Sales Tax:** Support legislation requiring online retailers with Wisconsin ties to collect and remit WI State and local sales tax.
- 31. Reduce Holding Period for Unclaimed Animals from 7 to 3 Days:** Change state law to reduce the unclaimed animal holding period from 7 to 3 days. This would shorten the County/Humane Society holding contract and allow the Dane County Humane Society to place an animal up for adoption much sooner.
- 32. Fair and Equitable Taxation:** Support fair and equitable taxation without harming county revenue.
- 33. Public Funding for Elections:** Support public funding/financing for local/state elections.



34. **School Choice Expansion:** Oppose any legislation/action to expand the voucher program or a similar facsimile in the Madison Metropolitan School District or in any Dane County school system.
35. **Oppose State-Imposed County Board Restructuring:** Oppose legislation that impedes a County Board from governing, budgeting and hiring staff.
36. **Tenants' Rights:** Oppose legislation that prohibits local governments from enacting/enforcing ordinances that regulate landlord/tenant relations which enhance fairness in landlord/tenant relations, foster responsible property ownership and protect the safety & stability of neighborhoods.
37. **Collective Bargaining:** Support legislation allowing local government the option to engage in collective bargaining with public sector employees.
38. **UW Hospital & Clinics (UWHC):** Support restoring the rights of workers at UWHC.
39. **Student Debt:** Support legislation to lower student debt by any means possible including refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying back the loans, reducing interest rates and ensuring tuition is affordable.
40. **Nonpartisan Redistricting:** Support legislation to require a nonpartisan system for redistricting legislative and congressional districts in the state. Dane County voters approved by 82.1% yes votes and 17.9% no votes.
41. **Wisconsin Arts Agency:** The state shall fully fund and create a free-standing Wisconsin Arts Agency to enhance the lives of youth, older adults and all Wisconsin citizens by funding art projects in Communities, Schools, Colleges and Public Works/Building construction across the state.
42. **Rural Broadband Coverage:** Urge the State of Wisconsin to increase financial support/seek federal funding to expand broadband services to underserved rural areas.

