

Legislative Update

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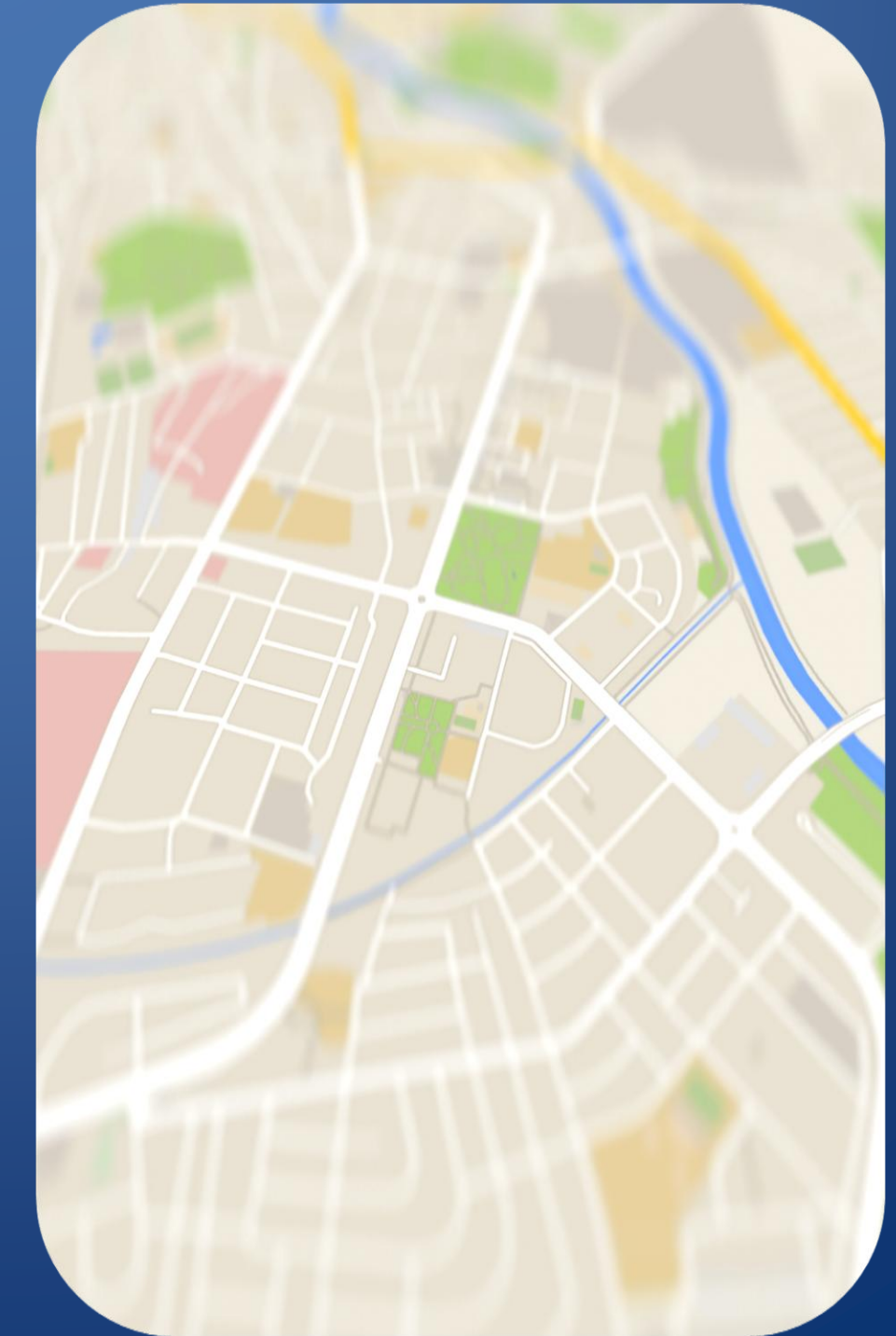
Wisconsin Counties Association



WCA WISCONSIN
COUNTIES
ASSOCIATION

New Legislative Dynamic

- Most competitive maps in a generation
- Dems swept competitive senate races & did well in competitive assembly races
- Much slimmer margins in both houses
- Rule of 17/50 – few exceptions last session
- King makers, deciding votes, and grand bargains
- Will the Dems help? Is it in their best interest? What will they want in return?
- Both sides are thinking about 2026



The 2025-27 Biennial Budget

- GOP still holds 12-4 majority on JFC
- Starting from base budget
- Motion to remove all policy
- JFC will hit the road
- Committee members (majority) will begin compiling all the budget requests in their issue areas
- Finance teams work separately, but together.. kind of
- Co-chairs negotiate based on their caucus position
- Vote on a departmentwide* omnibus motion in executive session



When will the budget be signed?

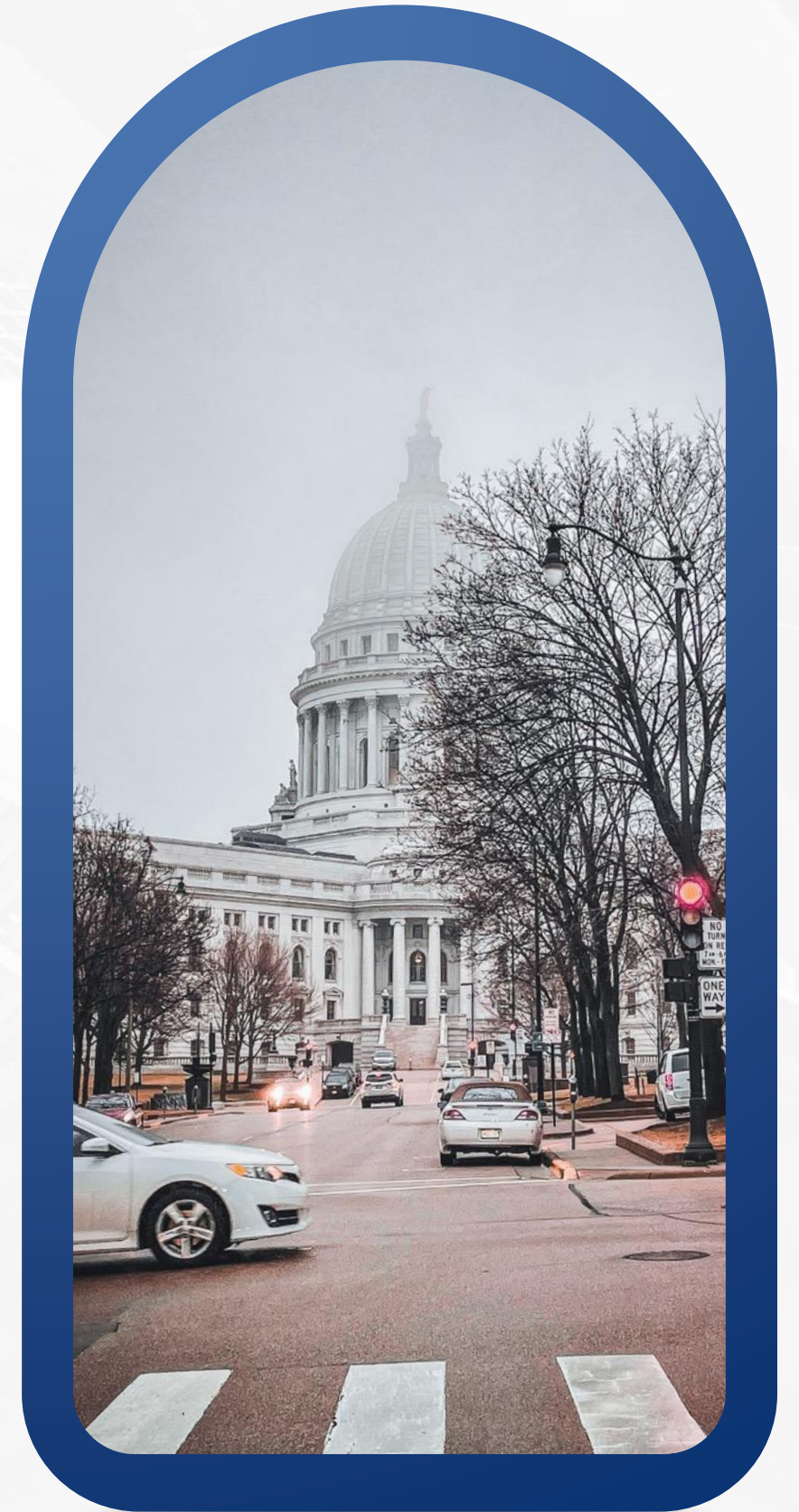
- The 2025-26 state fiscal year begins on July 1, 2025
- 2017 Budget: Signed on September 21st with 99 vetoes
- 2019 Budget: Signed on July 3rd with 78 vetoes
- 2021 Budget: Signed on July 8th with 50 vetoes
- 2023 Budget: Signed on July 5th with 51 vetoes

July 1, 2025

Paternal Veto

Full Veto

Never



Governor's Budget Proposal

- \$118.9 billion in spending (20.3% increase)
- Creation of a new individual tax bracket of 9.8% that applies to taxable income above \$1 million for single and joint married filers and \$500,000 for married couples filing separately
- No tax on tips (cash tips exempt from income taxes)
- Other proposals that have been introduced by GOP over the last couple of years



Tax Implications from Governor's Proposal

- Budget contains \$2.4 billion net tax increase (shortfall would occur)
- Sales tax removed on OTC medications, gas and electric bills for residential purposes, and personal hygiene products
- Property taxes would be frozen two years by giving counties a new state aid equal to 3% of their existing levies
- Increase the school levy tax credit by \$125 million in FY 25-26 and \$250 million in FY 26-27



WCA's Top FOUR Budget Requests



- **Transportation Budget**

Increase in funding for Routine Maintenance Agreements, General Transportations Aids, and the Local Roads Improvement Program – Discretionary Supplemental

- **County Conservation Staffing Grants**

Increase to the county need, defined by a statutory goal, of \$20.2 million annually. 2025 funding is at \$8.9 million per year in base funding and \$2.3 million per year in one-time funding.

- **Mental Health Funding**

Increased funding of \$20 million annually for Community Support Programs and \$21 million annually for Crisis Services

- **Circuit Court Funding**

Increase of \$70 million annually in the Circuit Courts Cost Appropriation

WCCA Request in the Budget

- In 2000, language was included to address performance monitoring of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems by the DSPS. These changes made in 2000 have expanded the type of septic systems and technologies that can now be utilized in areas previously viewed as undevelopable land. We want to ensure there is dedicated funding to continue monitoring.
- While periodic funding has been appropriated from other areas of the Department, there has never been dedicated funding in an amount adequate to run the program.
- Asking for \$50,000 annually.
- Continuing to have conversations with DSPS about how we can work together to get this done.

Where to find valuable information?

Wheeler Report

- View all press releases
- Track bills, appointments, and administrative rules
- Track committee public hearings and executive sessions
- Follow bills through the legislative process
- Get updates sent to your inbox

WisPolitics.com

- Stay up to date on political news from across the state and in Washington DC
- Receive an AM Update, PM Update, Breaking News, and Weekly Reports to your inbox
- Many legislative offices and campaigns will break their news to WisPolitics

Wheeler Report

Bill #	Description	Custom ID	Priority	Senate Hearing	Senate Exec.	Assembly Hearing	Assembly Exec	Passage	Signed	Clients	Statutes	Relating Clause	Comp. #	LRB #	Lobbying Link	Referred To
+ AB-007	Local Project Approval (Tranel, Travis)									None	... More	Requiring local approval for certain wind and solar projects before ... More	SB-003	LRB-1244	Lobby	Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
+ AB-028	Registration Plates (Melotik, Paul)									WCHA	... More	Special registration plates with white lettering on a black ... More	SB-009	LRB-0307	Lobby	Assembly Committee on Transportation
+ AB-030	Land Acquisition (Penterman, William)									None	... More	Prohibiting a foreign adversary from acquiring agricultural or ... More	SB-007	LRB-0037	Lobby	Assembly Committee on Agriculture
+ AB-042	Fowl Regulation (Sortwell, Shae)					2025-03-19 10:00am				None	... More	Local regulation of fowl. ... More	SB-044	LRB-0330	Lobby	Assembly Committee on Local Government

Monday March 17, 2025 - Updated 12:33pm

Governor

11:01am [Gov. Evers](#). ICYMI: Gov. Evers Visits UW Campuses Across the State as Part of Tour Highlighting 2025-27 Executive and Capital Budget Investments in 2025 the Year of the Kid

Legislative

12:32pm [Sen. Jacque](#). McKenna Maronn of Kaukauna High School named to 2025 Senate Scholar Program.

State Agencies

9:57am [DOA](#). Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy to Hold Budget Webinar on March 25

9:16am [DNR](#). Conserve Water, Fix A Leak This Week

WisPolitics.com



Tuesday PM Update -- 4 March 2025

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From WisPolitics ...

— Gov. Tony Evers at a WisPolitics luncheon today said tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China will have a negative impact on Wisconsin and possibly reduce the state's projected \$4.3 billion surplus.

President Donald Trump's proposed 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports officially took effect today after they were delayed for a month. That's along with a 20% tariff on Chinese imports. Trump has said the tariffs are necessary to crack down on fentanyl coming into the United States, while economists have noted they will likely lead to higher prices for Americans. The action has led to retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports.

Monday PM Update -- 3 March 2025

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From WisPolitics ...

— Former conservative Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman has rebuffed several attempts by the Office of Lawyer Regulation to take his deposition in the discipline case against him, raising concerns some of the allegations could lead to criminal charges.

OLR on Friday filed a [motion to compel](#) Gableman to sit for a deposition. The accompanying documents show in addition to concerns about possible criminal charges, Gableman has sought to put off the deposition while he tries to raise funds for his legal defense and to reach a stipulation that could resolve the case.

Political Stock Report

--A collection of insider opinion--
(Feb. 22-28, 2025)

Rising

Billionaire donors: To hear the candidates for Wisconsin's Supreme Court tell it, some billionaires are playing in the race with bad intentions. Just not the one backing them. The race has now entered a phase where the attention is just as much on Elon Musk and George Soros as Brad Schimel and Susan Crawford. And insiders see it as a play to motivate their bases.

Culture wars: Two years ago, Republicans barely made a peep when Dem Gov. Tony Evers included the phrase "person inseminated" in his state budget. The same goes for four years ago when he included a nearly identical change. But it's a different environment now, insiders say. And insiders say the now-viral story is cutting through the clutter in a way that few things do.

Mixed

Derrick Van Orden: There is great opportunity and risk for the second-term lawmaker in the ongoing budget debate in Washington, D.C. If Republicans can pull together to deliver a budget that removes taxes on tips, deals with illegal immigration and reduces federal spending in a way that spares most voters any pain, it could be a boon for the prospects of Van Orden and other 2026 targets. But if Republicans can't keep the government open when federal funding runs out March 14, if voters feel pain from any cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, or if the GOP simply fails to prove it can govern, the effect could produce tough sledding in the midterms next fall — even in a seat that has a decent GOP lean like Van Orden's.

ROFR: State Rep. Rob Brooks' letter seeking guidance from President Donald Trump on the bill Wisconsin utilities desperately want passed looked like it had the potential to derail the legislation. Insiders are now watching to see if the amendment he wants could put it on track to passage.

Falling

Minority Undergraduate Retention Program: Two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled colleges can't take an applicant's race into consideration when deciding who to admit. The conservative 2nd District Court of Appeals [rules](#) that now means Wisconsin will no longer be able to hand out grants through the Minority Undergraduate Retention Program.

Opioid deaths: The number of opioid deaths in Wisconsin has plummeted, following a national trend. The Wisconsin Policy Forum [suggests](#) opioid settlement money starting to flow into the state could build on that trend.

[Read more](#)

Any Questions?

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