

Notice of Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2017
3:00 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE
 COMMITTEE**

Door County Government Center
Chambers Room (C102), 1st floor
421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Establish a Quorum ~ Roll Call
3. Adopt Agenda / Properly Noticed
4. Approve Minutes of December 20, 2016 Legislative Committee Meeting
5. Communications
6. Public Comment
7. Supervisor Response
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - A. WCA – Potential County Resolutions
 - B. Door / Kewaunee Legislative Days April 5-6, 2017
 - C. WCA Ambassador Program - Report
 1. Modernizing 911 Funding
 2. CVSO Funding
 3. Child Welfare Funding
 4. County Land Conservation Staff & Cost-Sharing Grants
 - D. Legislative Exchange
 1. Reporting
 2. Budget Document
 3. Legislative Agenda Document
 4. "Just Fix-It" Resolution
 5. Other issues
 - E. Post Office Operations on Washington Island
10. Matters to be Placed on a Future Agenda or Referred to a Committee, Official, or Employee
11. Next Meeting Date: tbd
12. Adjourn

Deviation from the order shown may occur.

Members of the Door County Board of Supervisors and/or its sub-units may be in attendance at this meeting to listen and gather information. Notice is hereby given that the above meeting may constitute a meeting of the Door County Board of Supervisors or one of its sub-units. However no official action will be taken except by the Legislative Committee.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing assistance to participate in this meeting, should contact the Office of the County Clerk at (920)746 2200. Notification 72 hours prior to a meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to that meeting.

Posted _____, 2016 Initials: _____

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Susan Kohout called the December 20, 2016 meeting of the Legislative Committee to order at 11:30 a.m. at the Door County Government Center.

Establish a Quorum – Roll Call

Committee members present – Steve Sohns, Susan Kohout, Helen Bacon, and Roy Englebert. David Enigl was absent.

Others present – Representative Joel Kitchens, Administrator Ken Pabich, CC Thomas, Public Health Director Rhonda Kolberg, Soil & Water Interim Director Greg Coulthurst, Planning Director Mariah Goode, Register of Deeds Carey Petersilka, Human Services Director Joe Krebsbach, Sanitarian John Teichtler, County Clerk Jill Lau, Tom Leist, Karen Leist and Media Rep Jim Lundstrom.

"These minutes have **not** been reviewed by the oversight committee and are subject to approval at the next regular committee meeting."

Adopt Agenda / Properly Noticed

Motion by Sohns, seconded by Englebert to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approve Minutes of October 11, 2016 Legislative Committee Meeting

Motion by Bacon, seconded by Englebert to approve the meeting minutes of October 11, 2016. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Communications

No communications were presented.

Public Comment

No one from the public commented.

Supervisor Response

N/A.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

Discussion with State Representative Joel Kitchens

Discussion with Representative Kitchens on 2017 Initiatives

Representative Kitchens explained the state budget process. Representative Kitchens is working on legislation which includes the future of education/better counseling to students. Representative Kitchens is the Chair of Children and Families and Vice-Chair of Education.

Availability of Home Care Providers – Supervisor Kohout

Tom and Karen Leist commented on home care providers. Since the implementation of Family Care the quantity and quality of services is less. It is hard to find care providers at the hourly rate of \$9 to \$10. Care providers work extended hours and holidays but aren't compensated for such. Additional funding is needed to assist with attracting and retaining home care providers. Representative Kitchens noted this is a huge societal problem. Kitchens stated legislators are working on a Rural

Initiative to help rural areas provide health care providers and attract young people. Human Services Director Krebsbach explained we don't have enough persons to provide services for the current client

load and it is only expected to get worse in the next year and one half. Supervisor Bacon noted there needs to be more done to make the career more attractable.

Funding for Child Welfare – Joe Krebsbach

Human Services Director Krebsbach explained the county passed a resolution for additional funding. This is a priority for WCA. Krebsbach distributed a chart outlining numbers for Door County Children and Families service referrals. Costs for alternative care has increased approximately \$200,000 over the past five years. The county has not increased personnel to cover the increased work load. Budgets have been adjusted to cover the increased costs. Many of the referrals are related to increased drug use and addiction. Representative Kitchens requested to meet with Krebsbach as the state budget moves forward. Supervisor Kohout questioned if the state could reconsider accepting the Medicaid Expansion monies.

Homeowner Bill of Rights – Mariah Goode

Planning Director Goode expressed her concerns regarding the proposed legislation. Goode requested Representative Kitchens monitor the proposal. Representative Kitchens will monitor and push for the legislation to be presented in the form of a bill.

DNR Re-Organization Forester Positions – Greg Coulthurst

Coulthurst explained three key points which include: Forest Rangers will lose their law enforcement credentials across the state (Door County doesn't have any). County Foresters will have private forest tax law programs separated into another category; non-tax law programs will continue. Where the programs will be housed is a mystery. Coulthurst explained the Soil & Water Department works closely with the County Foresters. Change to the permitting process on concentrated feeding operations, WPDES – Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits – currently DNR writes and approves the permits. Appears that writing will be privatized and the DNR will review and approve. Representative Kitchens noted this will allow the DNR more time to review and approve. Representative Kitchens doesn't expect any reduction in Foresters services. Foresters may have a bigger area to cover but services should remain as is.

Supervisor Sohns explained the Town of Gibraltar is very concerned with the Forest Rangers losing their law enforcement credentials specific to Peninsula State Park. The Town does not have the resources to handle issues within the park. Representative Kitchens will research if the Rangers are losing their law enforcement capabilities completely or just lose the ability to carry a gun.

Wisconsin Fund – John Teichtler

Sanitarian Teichtler noted the county received approximately \$34,000 in funding last year. Costs of systems are increasing. Teichtler expressed the need to continue funding the program. Teichtler suggested if the funding is eliminated tax breaks should be considered for those who are required to replace failing septic systems. Representative Kitchens will monitor the situation.

Sheriff's Deed Legislation – Carey Petersilka

ROD Petersilka explained ROD's have worked on this issue in the past. The legislation directs Sheriff's Deeds to be reported promptly. Currently deeds are given to the winning bidder to record. At times the deeds have taken months to record or aren't recorded at all. Milwaukee County has legislation specific to Milwaukee County; the legislation was included in the Milwaukee Bucks legislation. The legislation has been very successful in Milwaukee County. ROD's are asking to make the legislation apply to the entire state. Representative Ballweg is sponsoring and Senator Olsen is co-sponsoring the proposed Sheriff's Deed legislation. The Sheriff's and the County Treasurers Associations are supportive of the legislation; the Clerk of Courts Association is staying neutral with the legislation.

Petersilka asked Representative Kitchens to support the legislation. Representative Kitchens will review the bill once it is presented.

Communicable Disease Funding – Rhonda Kolberg

Kolberg explained this is being reviewed statewide. Asking for \$5M over the two year budget period to create a base for the communicable disease control. Public Health deals with communicable diseases which include TB, Ebola, hepatitis, influenza, pneumonia, zika virus, meningitis, and pertussis. Kolberg requested Representative Kitchens support funding for Communicable Diseases if at all possible.

NACo – Tax Exempt Bonds – Ken Pabich

Administrator Pabich explained there is a concern in regards to eliminating the tax exempt status of municipal bonds. Pabich has reached out to WCA, Kyle Christianson, to determine where WCA stands on the issue. FYI for now; Pabich will bring information forward as things progress.

Implements of Husbandry – Supervisor Englebert

Supervisor Englebert explained that regulations are allowing overweight hauling on roads. The counties don't enforce Implements of Husbandry laws. The state will enforce, however, Door County only has one State Trooper and response time is a day and one half. The roads aren't able to handle the heavy loads. The local municipalities don't have the resources to enforce the laws. Supervisor Englebert requested ways to enforce the laws. Englebert also requested some of the inconsistencies in the law be reviewed and rewritten. Representative Kitchens serves on the Agriculture Committee and will research the issue.

Rural Broadband – Supervisor Kohout

The Rural Initiatives addresses rural broadband. The Governor is concerned with this issue as well. Representative Kitchens is positive this will be addressed in the next session.

Matters to be Placed on a Future Agenda or Referred to a Committee, Official, or Employee

No new matters as of this meeting.

Next Meeting Date

At call of Chair, second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. – tentatively January 10, 2017.

Adjourn

Motion by Englebert, seconded by Bacon to adjourn. Time 12:54 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jill M. Lau, County Clerk



2017-2018
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Protecting the interests of county government

2017-2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

Wisconsin's unique state-county partnership predates statehood. As with all long-term relationships, there have been ebbs and flows, but counties value efforts made by state elected officials during the most recent legislative session to solidify the partnership.

As partners, counties represent the state through the provision of services to residents statewide. These services include maintaining state roads, administering elections, serving individuals with mental health needs, protecting children from abuse and neglect, enrolling individuals in state and federal programs, and administering the state court system. All of these services contribute to Wisconsin's high quality of life and overall prosperity.

As state leaders work to promote economic growth, it is essential that we continue to prioritize the state-county partnership. A strong investment in county government assures roads are plowed, infrastructure is maintained and citizens are protected – all integral pieces to a strong state economy. This investment may come in the form of additional funding for state programs administered by counties, more flexibility so counties can provide these services more efficiently, or simply a greater level of communication and collaboration between state and county government.

The following pages represent the Wisconsin Counties Association's (WCA) 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda. While many of these items require additional state investment, those investments pay dividends. Counties are committed to using state resources to improve the state's economy and infrastructure for the betterment of Wisconsin citizens, businesses and the state itself.

WCA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM



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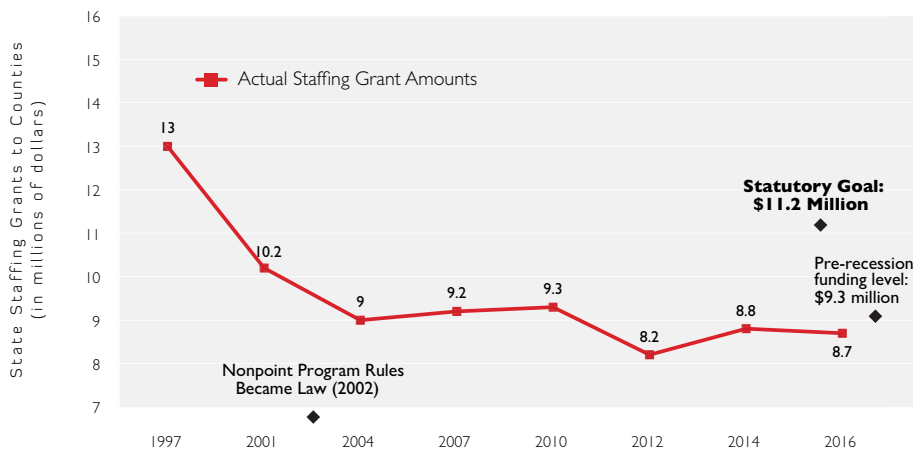
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Government Affairs Assistant
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AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE

- ❑ Increase funding for state and county efforts to combat invasive species.
- ❑ Enact comprehensive groundwater quantity legislation that balances the need to protect groundwater from contamination and overuse while respecting the needs of the agricultural economy.
- ❑ Restore and support the sustainability of the state's forestry account.
- ❑ Provide continued funding for recycling programs, clean sweep and medication collection programs.
- ❑ Maintain the funding for county land conservation staffing and cost-sharing grants established in the 2015-17 biennial budget and further increase funds to reflect the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) statutorily recommended funding level.
- ❑ Enact legislation that provides counties with the authority to establish public improvement standards where there is an absence of standards in a town's ordinance or the town's standards are less restrictive.
- ❑ Ensure that counties have input with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in establishing groundwater quantity criteria that are appropriate in each county and reflect decisions made at the local level.
- ❑ Give counties additional flexibility and autonomy regarding decisions made on shoreland zoning and other land use regulations.

COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION STAFF

Annual State Grants, 1997-2016



COUNTY ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

- ❑ Standardize the County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) Improvement Grant application process to achieve maximum flexibility in the distribution of grant funds.
- ❑ Amend state statute to provide counties absolute home rule authority to establish committee/board size and structure so long as the statutory duties incumbent upon the committees are assigned to a committee/board.
- ❑ Require the Wisconsin State Legislature to wait until local governments produce and provide their numbers, wards, and district information when redistricting and to use local boundaries to create state districts.
- ❑ Amend state statutes to provide counties that pass an ordinance the option to adopt a biennial budget.
- ❑ Modify state statutes to eliminate all references to a "cause" standard for termination of employment, except for those county officers that are elected by county voters or unless as otherwise provided by the county board.
- ❑ Adopt statutory authority for counties to organize independent of state mandate and allow counties to provide regional services uninhibited from state requirements and mandates.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Behavioral Health

- ❑ Increase Medical Assistance reimbursement rates for behavioral health services.
- ❑ Increase funding to counties for substance abuse services to address the increasing impact of opiate and other drug use throughout the state.

Income Maintenance (IM)

- ❑ Continue to support the partnership on the evolution of the IM consortia model by allocating \$1 million GPR to fund state approved activities associated with implementation of Income Maintenance Operational Analysis (IMOA) initiatives and recommendations.
- ❑ Provide adequate GPR funding in the income maintenance administration allocation (IMAA) to ensure an ongoing level of support to county IM consortia.
- ❑ Continue to support consortia fraud and program integrity by allocating another \$1 million GPR for those efforts.

Child Welfare

- ❑ Due to increasing caseloads, increase the children and families aids allocation to allow county child protective services (CPS) workers to provide services to children and families involved in the CPS system.
- ❑ To prevent out-of-home placements and facilitate permanence, increase funding for in-home safety services.

Mental Health Institutes

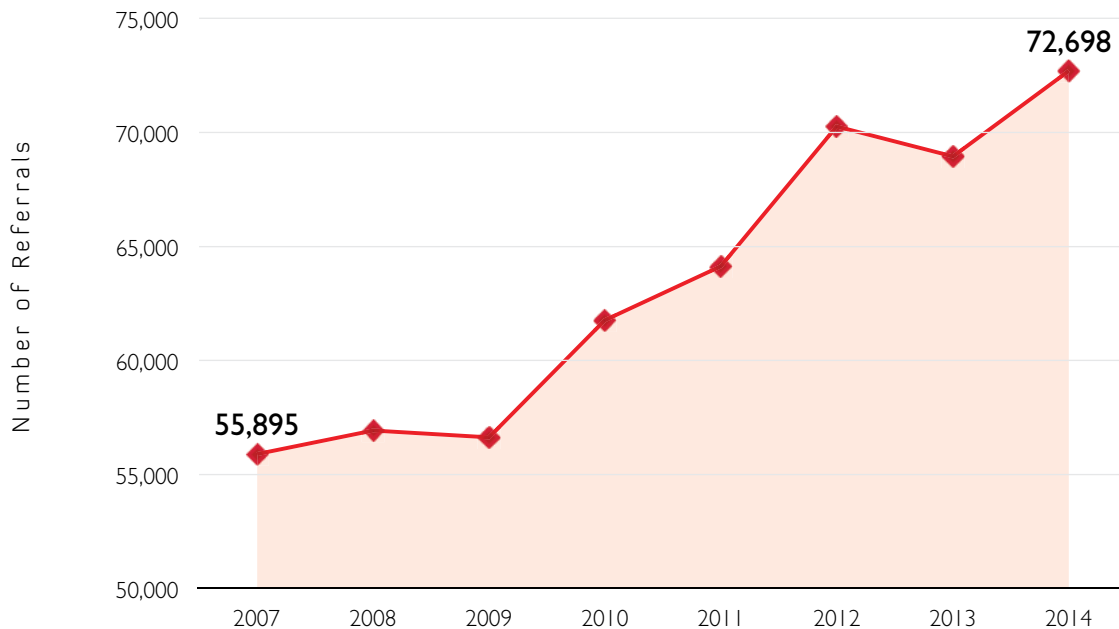
- ❑ Return the remainder of the Department of Health Services' institutional operations and charges appropriation under Wis. Stat. § 20.435(2)(gk) to counties in a manner determined and approved by counties.
- ❑ Adopt statutory language, similar to language found in Wis. Stat. § 20.410 (3)(hm) and (ho), to ensure large surpluses, funded through county charges, do not accumulate in Wis. Stat. § 20.435(2)(gk).

PUBLIC HEALTH

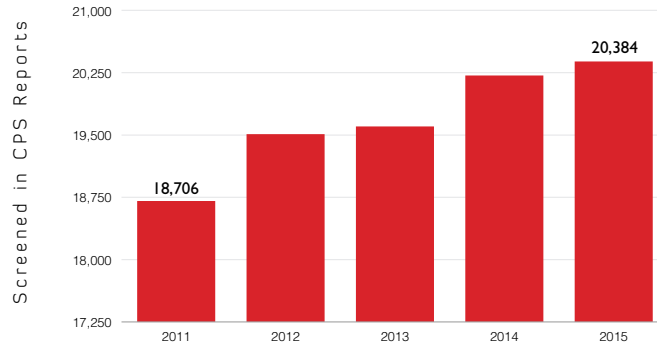
- ❑ Provide \$2.5 million annually to local health departments to control and prevent communicable disease in Wisconsin.
- ❑ Support a statewide study, funded by the state of Wisconsin, on the impact of industrial wind turbines on human health.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) REFERRALS

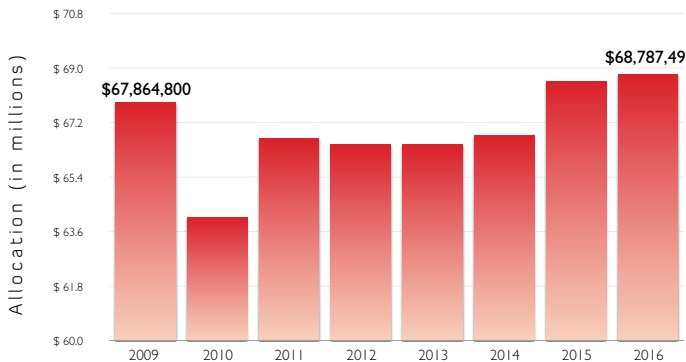
2007-2014



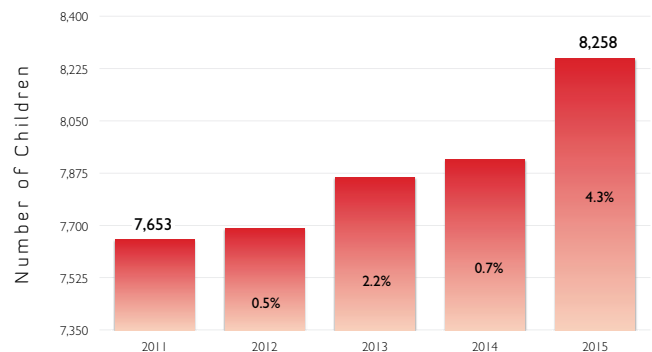
**SCREENED IN CPS REPORTS
2011-2015**



**CHILDREN & FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION
2009-2016**



**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE
2011-2015**



AGING

- ❑ Increase funding for the elderly and disabled transportation program (Wis. Stat. § 85.21).
- ❑ Expand programs and services for persons with dementia and their caregivers. Encourage connection to these services through local Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) and aging units.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- ❑ Increase funding allocated to counties for juvenile justice services to fund all costs associated with bringing 17-year-old first time, non-violent juvenile offenders back to the juvenile justice system. Support bringing 17-year-old first time, non-violent juvenile offenders back to the juvenile justice system only if fully funded.

CHILD SUPPORT

- ❑ Streamline the paternity establishment process in Wisconsin by allowing local child support agencies to assist participants through the paternity establishment process (administrative paternity).
- ❑ To better serve children and families throughout the state, make all child support cases IV-D unless the parties involved choose to opt out.

COUNTY NURSING HOMES

- ❑ Exempt county government-owned IMDs and state-only licensed facilities from the provider bed assessment (bed tax).
- ❑ To ensure a minimum payment to county nursing facilities under the supplemental payment program, modify Wis. Stat. § 49.45(6u)(am) to read as follows: ... the department shall distribute to these facilities and to care management organizations at least \$39,100,000 in each fiscal year.
- ❑ Provide Medical Assistance rate increases to skilled nursing facilities in FY18 and FY19 to: (1) reimburse facilities for direct care services at the median cost of providing care; (2) increase funding for support services by \$5 per day; (3) increase funding for select labor regions to meet the state-wide direct care target; (4) provide an inflationary rate increase in FY19.

JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY

911 FUNDING

- ❑ Find an alternative to the existing landline fee to fund a statewide contract for telecommunications services to public safety answering points (PSAP).
- ❑ Provide statewide funding to allow PSAPs to upgrade to new technologies as vendors will no longer service current systems beginning in 2017.

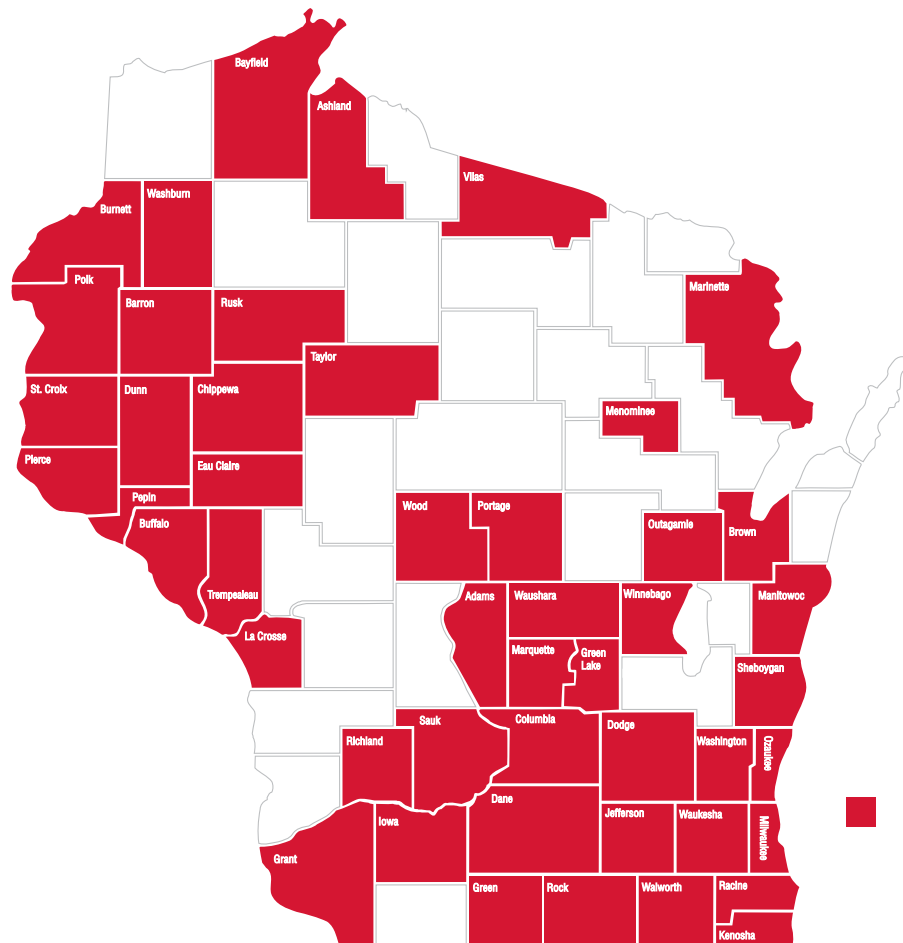
COURTS

- ❑ Increase the filing fees for small claims to correspond with the higher thresholds for small claims court established in 2011 Wisconsin Act 32.
- ❑ Return a greater portion of the court support services fee to counties through increases in court support services, guardian ad litem, and court interpreter payments.

TREATMENT, ALTERNATIVES, AND DIVERSION (TAD)/ EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING (EBDM)

- ❑ Increase state funding to support county efforts to implement TAD and EBDM practices on a statewide basis.

TAD PROGRAM FUNDING DECISIONS CALENDAR YEAR 2017



Source: Wisconsin Department of Justice, 9/7/16

PROBATION & PAROLE HOLDS

- ❑ Increase funding in the appropriation used to make probation and parole hold payments to counties to ensure counties are paid the statutorily set rate of \$40 per day.
- ❑ Eliminate the Department of Corrections' ability to prorate payments to jails.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ❑ Enact statewide legislation prohibiting the enactment of local ordinances restricting the residency of sex offenders.
- ❑ To better connect with the 21st Century Policing initiative, increase training dollars for local law enforcement officers.
- ❑ Participate in the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) via an opt-in from the state of Wisconsin.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- ❑ Increase the annual allocation in the Wisconsin Disaster Fund.
- ❑ Enact legislation requiring that damages recovered from a person liable for a forest fire be paid in equal proportion to the state and to the county in which fire suppression services were performed.

■ Funded counties/tribes - TAD
 Shading of Vilas and Menominee Counties represents Lac du Flambeau and Menominee Tribes.

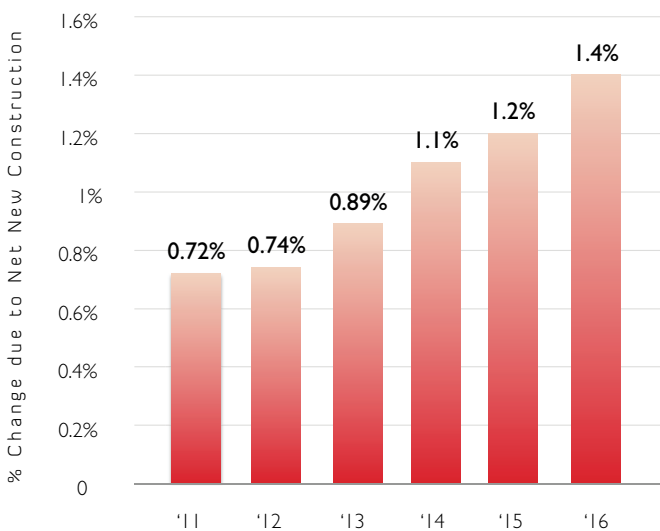
TAXATION & FINANCE

- ❑ Amend property assessment requirements to close the “dark store” property assessment loophole.
- ❑ Amend Wis. Stat. § 70.67(1) so that municipal treasurer bond amounts are required to be in an amount of at least the total county and state portion of the property tax levy.
- ❑ Provide counties flexibility with tax deed publication requirements in Wis. Stats. §§ 75.07 and 75.12.
- ❑ Enact an exemption from levy limits for economic development efforts.
- ❑ Modify the current annual levy limit adjustment from the change in property values due to “net new construction” to the change in property values due to “new construction.”
- ❑ Seek an increase in the shared revenue appropriation to reflect the growing costs of providing state-mandated services.

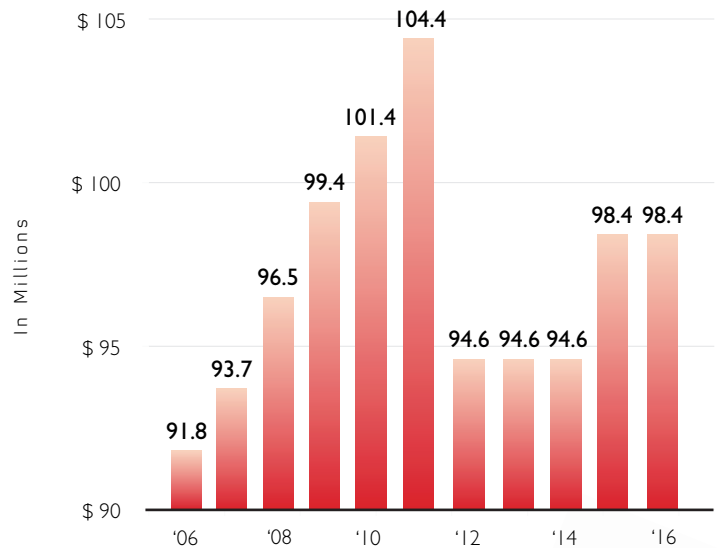
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

- ❑ Adopt long term funding solutions to meet the state’s transportation needs.
- ❑ Invest in the maintenance of the County Trunk Highway system by increasing funding for general transportation aid payments to counties.
- ❑ Increase funding for mass transit operating aids to reflect the growing costs for counties.
- ❑ Maintain state funding levels for the local road and bridge programs.
- ❑ Make additional investments in the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) recognizing that LRIP funding has not been increased since 1998.
- ❑ Increase funding for the Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties formed by Wis. Stat. § 85.21.
- ❑ Increase the level of bonding authorized for the freight rail preservation program (FRPP).
- ❑ Establish a “Federal Swap Program” that gives counties and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) the ability to “exchange” federal funds for state funds within the Surface Transportation Program (STP).
- ❑ Support an increase to the competitive bidding statute by raising the threshold to \$100,000.

NET NEW CONSTRUCTION
2011-2016



COUNTY GENERAL TRANSPORTATION AID PAYMENTS
2006-2016





CAP TEAM

WCA County Ambassador Program

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

State statute requires all counties, except Milwaukee County, to provide child welfare services and employ personnel who devote all or part of their time to child welfare services. Child welfare services include initial assessment of reports received, investigation, the provision of services to children and families, as well the removal of children from their homes to ensure their safety.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) distributes Children and Family Aids to counties for services related to child abuse and neglect and to unborn child abuse, including prevention, investigation, and treatment. Funding may also be used for community-based juvenile justice services. Base funding for the Children and Family Aids allocation is \$68,787,492.

States across the nation, including Wisconsin, are seeing an uptick in the number of individuals using, and ultimately becoming addicted to, substances such as heroin, other opiates, and methamphetamines. The drug-addiction epidemic is increasing the need for child welfare services across Wisconsin.

As an example, the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals has increased significantly over the past several years. The following chart lists the number of CPS referrals from CY 2007 to CY 2015.

Calendar Year	Number of CPS Referrals
2007	55,895
2008	56,934
2009	56,619
2010	61,763
2011	64,132
2012	70,266
2013	68,943
2014	72,698
2015	76,442

Child Welfare Services
Page 2

CURRENT STATUS: Base funding for the Children and Families Aids allocation has not increased despite increased CPS referrals and the need for increased services.

REQUESTED ACTION: Provide a 10% increase in the Children and Family Aids Allocation beginning in CY 18. This equates to an annual increase of \$6,878,749.

TALKING POINTS:

- The Governor’s Task Force on Opioid Abuse recommends additional state resources for Children and Family Aids to help counties hire the social work staff they need to care for the additional victims of the opioid epidemic – children and family members.
- Excluding increases for the payment of increased foster care rates, counties have not received an increase in the Children and Family Aids allocation since the creation of the Department of Children and Families (and even prior to that). The Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services receives annual increases.
- The number of child welfare referrals has increased by 36.8% from 2007-2015.
- It is imperative that counties have sufficient resources to keep children safe in our communities.
- The number of children in out-of-home care (excluding Milwaukee County) has increased by 8% from 2011-2015. Prior to 2011, the number of children in out-of-home placements was decreasing.
- Counties continue to look for ways to keep families safe and together while avoiding costly out-of-home placements.
- Excluding Milwaukee County, the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased on an annual basis – a 9% increase from 2011-2015.
- Counties have seen an increasing number of Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) petitions filed statewide – from 4,392 in 2012 to 4,942 in 2015. A number of counties, by July 2016, had already exceeded their total number of 2015 CHIPS petitions.
- The workload of county child welfare caseworkers has been increasing with the increase in CPS referrals.
- Parental substance abuse cases in the child welfare system are complex and require intensive case management.
- The stress of increased workloads is taking its toll on child welfare workers. Experienced child welfare workers are leaving the profession.
- Counties suspect that increased opioid and methamphetamine usage in Wisconsin is contributing to increased child welfare referrals/out-of-home care placements.

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CAP TEAM

WCA County Ambassador Program

COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION STAFFING AND COST-SHARING GRANTS

County land conservation staff works to promote effective conservation practices. Their work includes efforts to preserve topsoil, protect Wisconsin's vital agricultural economy, and keep lakes and rivers healthy, as well as promote recreation and tourism. County land conservation staff also administers key programs to ensure that manure storage facilities are properly built, drinking water is protected and runoff is properly managed. Overall, these efforts help create jobs and foster economic growth in agriculture, tourism, forest products, fishing, hunting, and recreation.

Since 1997, Wisconsin statutes have set a benchmark for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to maintain certain levels of funding for county conservation staff. While those funding benchmarks have never been fully met, the program requires a minimum level of funding to remain viable. Although that minimum funding level is \$9.3 million per year, recent budget cuts and lapses have reduced funding to as little as \$7.7 million annually. In the past two biennial budgets, the Legislature and Governor provided a one-time biennial increase to supplement the program by using segregated fees from the environmental fund.

Sufficient state funding is needed to support a viable conservation program that helps farmers and other economic sectors by providing technical assistance and cost-sharing funding from different sources. The state investment in the program is small in comparison to the economic benefits.

CURRENT STATUS: Current funding levels are short of the benchmark funding level determined by DATCP needed to ensure program viability.

REQUESTED ACTION: Support the viability of the County Land Conservation Staffing and Cost-Sharing Grant program by appropriating \$2.2 million over the biennium in addition to the current base funding level of \$16.4 million. The requested allocation would provide annual funding of \$9.3 million.

County Land Conservation Grants
Page 2

TALKING POINTS:

- County conservation staff is uniquely qualified to provide technical assistance to design and implement conservation practices. This high level of technical assistance is not available from any other public sector provider.
- County conservation staff:
 - Works on the front lines to manage resource challenges, often serving as “first responders” in the case of floods, droughts and other emergencies.
 - Provides construction oversight and assistance to large-scale livestock operations to assure operator compliance with state agricultural performance standards.
 - Provides educational and technical assistance to help farmers meet state agricultural performance standards and county livestock licensing requirements.
 - Helps farmers secure permits for manure storage and other regulated activities and in the process ensure compliance with standards that protect drinking water.
 - Educates landowners and monitors the implementation of nutrient management plans that ensure nutrients are properly applied.
 - Implements multiple facets of the farmland preservation program, in addition to monitoring conservation compliance.
 - Monitors shoreland and lakes for erosion.

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CAP TEAM

WCA County Ambassador Program

MODERNIZING 911 SERVICES

A state-hosted emergency service IP network (ESInet) is a cost effective way to assist the transition of Wisconsin's 911 system from the obsolete hardware and software used today to Next Generation 911 (NG911) already in place around the country.

Modernizing Wisconsin's 911 system has been a priority for local governments, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry since the 2009-11 state biennial budget. A comprehensive 911 policy and funding reform package was sidetracked in 2009, with the 911 funding source originally intended for 911 modernization and PSAP upgrades renamed the Police and Fire Protection Fee (PFPP) and diverted to the shared revenue program. Since 2009, attempts to redirect the fee to fund overdue 911 upgrades and modernization have been unsuccessful.

Improvements in the technology utilized to deliver 911 services have evolved since 2009, making the discussion around 911 modernization even more critical. During the past 10 years, efforts to enact NG911 have been underway across the country. With the transition from analog to digital NG911, PSAPs will be able to receive emergency communications via text message, video, etc. To enact NG911 in Wisconsin, access to an ESInet is necessary. To date, no PSAP in Wisconsin has access to an ESInet due to the cost of implementation and lack of a network across the state.

A transition from an analog 911 system to a digital 911 solution is also timely due to the fact that hardware and software used by the telecommunications industry to provide 911 throughout Wisconsin is rapidly becoming obsolete. Beginning in 2017, hardware and software used to provide 911 service in some counties will no longer be supported by manufacturers and developers. By 2020, all current 911 system hardware and software will be obsolete or cost prohibitive to maintain.

Due to the high cost of implementation—including the ESInet system and new NG911-capable equipment at the local level—many PSAPs lack the capacity to move toward NG911 on their own. A modernized, state-hosted or funded ESInet is the first step in allowing PSAPs across the state to access the latest technologies, while achieving cost efficiencies through volume purchasing. The ESInet is also the best option to deal with the cybersecurity threats present in the transition from an analog 911 system to a digital 911 system.

Modernizing 911 Services
Page 2

CURRENT STATUS: No PSAPs in Wisconsin have access to an ESInet, the backbone needed to implement NG911. The few PSAPs that are receiving text messages are mainly doing so via the public Internet. With current 911 equipment and services reaching the end of their life cycle or becoming cost prohibitive to maintain, action must be taken now to ensure Wisconsin residents continue to receive high quality service from their local PSAPs.

REQUESTED ACTION:

- Issue an RFP that, where possible, utilizes existing infrastructure, such as BadgerNet, for a statewide ESInet system to provide all PSAPs with the network needed to implement necessary NG911 services.
- Utilize existing funds from the PFPF to create the modernized statewide system, while also maintaining the existing shared revenue appropriation. As referenced by the Wisconsin Interoperability Council, an estimated \$12.5 million would be needed annually to build and maintain the ESInet system.
- Assign a state agency to oversee NG911. Create a council comprised of stakeholder experts who will guide statewide efforts to transition to NG911, as well as consider sustainable funding streams that will enable local PSAPs to purchase and maintain NG911-capable equipment into the future.
- Eliminate or phase out the current surcharge on landline phones (assessed up to 40 cents per month) as the surcharge is unnecessary following the ESInet transition if provider network expenses are included in the RFP.

TALKING POINTS:

- The state must take immediate action as current 911 equipment will be obsolete or cost prohibitive to maintain beginning as early as 2017. Delaying the ESInet transition presents serious public safety concerns as 911 systems are increasingly at risk of failure.
- Wisconsin's investment in BadgerNet provides the foundation for the cost effective implementation of a statewide hosted network.
- A statewide solution is the best option to deal with the cybersecurity threats present in the transition from an analog 911 system to a digital 911 system.
- A modernized, statewide ESInet is the most efficient solution, as individual PSAPs developing their own systems will cost state taxpayers more than a single statewide network.
- The cost of a single, statewide ESInet represents a fraction of the costs PSAPs will incur in implementing NG911, as local governments will need to upgrade to, and maintain, NG911 hardware and software.
- Wisconsin lags behind its neighboring states with its lack of a statewide ESInet. NG911 efforts in the United States have been underway for the past 10 years.

Modernizing 911 Services
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- Individuals with hearing and/or speech impediments will be able to effectively communicate with PSAPs through the use of Next Generation technologies, such as texting or video. Once FirstNet is enacted in Wisconsin, video, accessed through the ESInet, can be sent to first responders to aid in emergency response efforts.
- It took 27 years for all Wisconsin PSAPs to implement E911. The residents of this state cannot and should not wait that long for NG911 service.

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CAP TEAM

WCA County Ambassador Program

CVSO GRANT FUNDING

As required by Wisconsin State Statute (Wis. Stat. §45.80) county boards are required to elect or appoint a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) who must be a resident of Wisconsin and has served honorably on active duty. Also, federally recognized Indian tribes and bands may appoint a Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO) who must be a veteran and serve as a full-time employee. The duties of the CVSO/ TVSO are to advise veterans living within their county about benefits they may be eligible for, and to assist veterans with any issues they may be experiencing based on their service. The CVSO/ TVSO is also statutorily required to report to the county board, work with federal and state agencies that serve veterans, and provide the necessary information on veteran burial locations within the county, amongst other duties.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has the authority to award grants to counties that have a CVSO/ TVSO. For those counties that have a full-time CVSO, the statutory grant amounts range from \$8,500 to \$13,000, based on population. Annually, the grant to CVSOs is funded at \$761,000 statewide. The WDVA shall reimburse a TVSO twice yearly for documented expenses up to \$15,000 per grant.

It was determined during the 2015-17 state budget negotiations the grant program would transition from a block grant to a reimbursement program with new definitions of grant-eligible expenditures. This significant change had unintended consequences due to the lack of rule making and communication between the state and counties. The program is now very difficult and time consuming for the CVSOs/ TVSOs. Ultimately, this change detracts from the goals of the CVSOs/ TVSOs and the WDVA, which is to be a place of support for our veterans, as well as advocate on their behalf.

CURRENT STATUS: The current CVSO/ TVSO “reimbursement system” is administratively cumbersome for CVSOs/ TVSOs and also severely limits the array of veterans services eligible for reimbursement.

CVSO Grant Funding
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REQUESTED ACTION:

- Return the CVSO/ TVSO reimbursement system and grant-eligible expenditures back to the block grant that existed prior to changes made in the 2015-17 state budget. Request that this change be made in the 2017-19 state budget.
- Require oversight of the CVSO/ TVSO grant requests be done by the county executive or administrator who will certify that the grant dollars are expended according to state statute and that it is done in the best interest of all Wisconsin veterans.
- Provide additional funds for the block grant to CVSOs/ TVSOs.

TALKING POINTS:

- The CVSO/ TVSO grant program was intended to assist counties in offering services to veterans by providing state grants based on population ranging from \$8,500 to \$13,000 for full-time CVSOs and up to \$15,000 for TVSOs.
- The grant program was significantly changed in the 2015-17 state budget by transitioning the funds from a block grant to a reimbursement program.
- The transition was done with the best of intentions and with the support of WCA; however, the unintended consequences have made the new process cumbersome and difficult for the CVSOs/ TVSOs to receive the funds they need to help our state's veterans.
- Returning the funds to a block grant, with oversight from the county executive or administrator, is in the best interest of all and most importantly, in helping our veterans.
- Additional funds for the reinstated block grant would help our state's CVSOs/ TVSOs provide the necessary assistance to veterans seeking their help in obtaining benefits and helping in times of a crisis.

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2017-19 Wisconsin State Biennial Budget

Governor Scott Walker released his proposed state budget to a joint session of the Legislature on February 8, 2017. The budget is introduced as Assembly Bill 64 / Senate Bill 30.

Highlights of the Governor's two-year spending plan include:

- An additional \$649 million for K-12 education
- An additional \$140 million for the UW system, which includes a 5 percent tuition cut
- Elimination of state prevailing wage
- Elimination of the state forestry property tax levy
- Reducing the two lowest individual income tax brackets by 0.1 percent each
- Transitioning to a self-insurance model for state employees
- Two-year technical college tuition freeze

The WCA Government Affairs staff has prepared the following summary of provisions in the Governor's budget that are likely to affect counties. WCA will continue to provide members with additional information about the budget as it becomes available. Please check the WCA website at www.wicounties.org for updates.

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AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND LAND USE

Department of Natural Resources Reorganization: The Governor's budget recommends reorganizing and restructuring the department.

Water Quality and Environmental Protection: The Governor's budget provides additional support for forestry management, water quality management expansion, environmental management and protection and natural heritage. Modifications to the Environmental Improvement Program and additional resources for water quality management will ensure the continued protection of the state's ground- and surface water. In addition, through the class action settlement resulting from Volkswagen, settlement funds received by the state will be redirected to replacing aging, inefficient vehicles with clean-powered vehicles.

UW-Extension Pollution Abatement Program: The Governor's budget eliminates the requirement that the DNR allocate \$500,000 in each fiscal year for education and technical assistance provided by the UW-Extension relating to the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program.

County Conservation Activities: The Governor's budget increases the amount of cost sharing for non-point abatement projects and other land and water conservation activities performed by counties by \$825,000 each year.

Soil and Water Resource Management Bond Authority and Cost Share Grants: The Governor's budget provides \$7 million in SEG-supported general obligation bonds for grants to counties for implementation of land and water resource management plans, including cost-share grants to landowners. Funding amounts are consistent with the current biennium.

Environmental Management Account Funding Changes: The Governor's budget increases expenditure authority for watershed nonpoint source contracts and other environmental aids. In addition, the budget reduces the transfer of funding from the general fund by \$3.2 million and instead transfers the aforementioned amount from the general fund to the nonpoint account.

Department of Forestry Relocation: The Governor's budget requires the chief forester to relocate to a location north of STH 29. Further, the budget provides relocation assistance to any existing employees currently in the divisions central office who wish to relocate to a state office north of STH 29.

Timber Sales and Cutting Procedures: The Governor's budget changes the procurement and sale of timber by: 1) raising the threshold from \$3,000 to \$10,000 at which a sale of estimated value must be publicly advertised; 2) eliminating the requirement that the sale notice must be posted in a newspaper and permitting the department to select the best method to advertise timber sales; and 3) extending the

amount of time from two years to five years by which a county must report on when merchantable wood products were cut under an approved cutting plan.

Permitting of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs): The Governor's budget requires that DATCP and DNR jointly conduct a study, to be completed by December 31, 2018, to determine whether the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) should be transferred from DNR to DATCP.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

Broadband Access: The Governor's budget makes changes to funding for grants by the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the construction of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas of the state. The Governor's budget continues to expand funding for broadband and access through transfers in funds and statutory changes for the PSC, Department of Administration's (DOA) Technology for Educational Achievement Program, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Department of Transportation (DOT) for a total of \$30.5 million in FY 2017-18, and approximately \$10 million in FY 2018-19.

The Governor's plan includes delaying the sunset date for the Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) program infrastructure grant to July 1, 2019 resulting in an additional \$15 million available.

The budget also provides \$6 million in new dollars from the Universal Service Fund and \$5 million from E-rate to the Broadband Expansion Grant program in FY 2017-18. Also, the \$1.5 million cap will be lifted thus allowing for \$14 million in total spending in FY 2017-18. Further, the Governor directs unused funds from the Universal Service Fund to the Broadband Expansion Grant program and allows grants and broadband office administration to be funded from under-spending in the rate-assessed Universal Service Fund appropriation. This is an estimated increase of approximately \$1 million in FY 2018-19.

Veterans: The Governor's budget provides \$60,000 in both FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 to create a pilot program for crisis intervention services for veterans in Kenosha and Racine counties.

The Governor also changed the County Veterans Service Office Grant Program by returning the program to a block grant model for disbursement of grant dollars and requiring accountability from the county executive, administrator, or administrative coordinator to certify proper use of the funds. Salary and fringe benefit expenses incurred in 2017 and 2018 shall not exceed 50 percent of the grant funds awarded and salary and fringe benefit expenses incurred in 2019 shall not exceed 25 percent.

Further, the Governor's budget provides \$107,800 in FY 2017-18 and \$143,800 in FY 2018-19 for a County Veterans Service Office liaison position to improve administration and outreach services associated with the program.

Printing, Publishing and Mailing Efficiencies: The Governor's budget allows for an electronic option for all units of government for any printing, publishing, or mailing that is statutorily required. However, the following documents will be excluded from the waiver authority and the electronic option: any election documents, facsimile ballot, referenda, notice of public hearing before a governmental body, and notice of meetings of private and public bodies required by law; and summons, order, citation, notice of sale, or other notice that is intended to inform a person that the person may or shall do an act or exercise a right within a designated period or by a designated date. Also exempted is certified or registered mail.

For mailing, the budget allows the governmental entity to mail the nonexempt document electronically. For printing, the budget allows the governmental entity to make the nonexempt document available to the public on its website. For publishing, the budget allows the governmental entity to publish the nonexempt document on its website. If statute requires that the nonexempt document be published on the website and in another form, the budget allows the governmental entity to publish the document only on the website. The date in which the document is provided on the website is the date of publication.

Rental Unit Energy Efficiency: The Governor's budget eliminates rental unit energy efficiency standards and certifications along with powers of the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) related to those standards and requirements. DSPS will be allowed to take enforcement action for violations of the standards that occur before the effective date of the budget. Also, the budget eliminates the requirement that the owner of the rental property, before transferring ownership, must do one of the following: 1) have the rental unit inspected by a certified inspector who will then issue a certificate that the unit meets minimum energy efficiency standards; 2) if the unit is scheduled for demolition within 2 years, a waiver of certification must be obtained from DSPS or a certified inspector; or 3) obtain a stipulation between the transferee of the unit and DSPS or the city, village, town in which the unit is located showing that the transferee will bring the unit into compliance with minimum energy standards within a year of the transfer.

The Governor's budget eliminates the following: the Register of Deeds may not record a document that transfers real estate that contains a rental unit unless the document is accompanied by that certificate, waiver or stipulation under current law.

Prevailing Wage and Project Labor Agreements: The Governor's budget calls for a full repeal of prevailing wage requirements (state prevailing wage law and highway prevailing wage law) for state construction projects including projects led by the DOT.

The Governor's budget also prohibits any unit of government in Wisconsin from either requiring or considering the use or lack of use of project labor agreements by contractors as a condition of bidding on a public works project. A unit of government is prohibited from 1) requiring a bidder to enter into an agreement with a labor organization; 2) considering whether or not a bidder has or has not entered into an agreement with a labor organization; or 3) requiring that a bidder enter into an agreement that requires them or their employees to become or remain members of a labor organization or pay dues or fees to a labor organization.

Local Government Property Insurance Fund: The Governor's budget closes the LGPI fund to new policies after July 1, 2017 and renewals after December 31, 2017. Coverage cannot be extended beyond December 31, 2018 and all claims must be filed before July 1, 2019 or they will not be covered. Any funds remaining after July 1, 2019 will be dispersed amongst the local governmental units that were insured on July 1, 2017.

Administrative Rules: The Governor's budget provides that if an economic impact analysis for a proposed rule reveals that the cost would be \$10 million or more for implementation, and compliance costs are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to local governmental units over any two-year period, the agency must stop work on the rule and may not continue to promulgate the rule unless 1) the bill that authorizes the promulgation is enacted; or 2) if the agency modifies the rule to address the implementation and compliance costs through a revised impact analysis or any subsequent prepared independent economic impact analyses.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Health Services (DHS)

FoodShare Employment and Training: The Governor's budget extends participation in the FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) program to all able-bodied adults by piloting mandatory FSET program participation for able-bodied adults with school-age children. Once implemented statewide, it is estimated FSET enrollment will increase by roughly 25,000 per year.

Universal Referral for FoodShare Employment and Training: The Governor's budget recommends referring all eligible able-bodied adults to the FoodShare Employment and Training program, allowing vendors to fully explain the benefits of receiving employment and training services. Participation would not be required, and there would be no sanctions to FoodShare benefits for nonparticipation.

Employment and Training for Childless Adults: The Governor's budget increases investment in employment and training services for childless adult Medicaid participants and institutes a requirement that those not employed or who are underemployed participate in available services. Approximately 49,200 enrollees will be referred to employment and training services and DHS is provided with \$1,608,000 GPR and

\$3,216,000 all funds and 2.0 FTE positions in FY18 and \$8,255,500 GPR and \$16,511,000 all funds and 24.0 FTE positions in FY19 to provide these services.

Asset Limit: The Governor's budget implements a \$25,000 liquid asset limit in Wisconsin Shares and FoodShare to focus assistance on those most in need. Associated costs for DHS to implement this requirement are \$118,200 all funds in FY18 and \$3,589,800 all funds in FY19.

Child Support: The Governor's budget reinstates the child support requirement for FoodShare, so both parents are asked to support their children as a condition of receiving benefits. The budget provides \$1,172,300 all funds in FY18 and \$185,800 all funds in FY19 and 1.0 FTE position for systems changes to implement the requirement.

Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP): The Governor's budget strengthens the work requirement and eliminates the premium cliff in the MAPP program to provide incentives for people with disabilities to engage in meaningful work by requiring a monthly premium for all enrollees (\$25 per month unless the premium would be an undue hardship, plus 3 percent of adjusted earned or unearned income that exceeds 100 percent of the FPL). Enrollees will also be required to show proof of paid employment, substantial in-kind work, or participation in pre-employment programming in order to be eligible for this additional support. The budget minimizes the number of MAPP members who might lose access to Medicaid by increasing the medically needy eligibility limit to 100 percent of the federal poverty level. The budget also strengthens the Health and Employment and Counseling program by providing additional funding and position authority. Funding is allocated at \$901,200 all funds in FY18 and \$3,203,900 all funds in FY19. Three FTE positions are also authorized.

Eligibility Determinations and Cost-Sharing: For determinations of financial eligibility and any cost-sharing requirements for the Community Options Program (COP), for certain community integration programs, the Family Care program, Family Care Partnership, IRIS, and certain Medical Assistance programs, the Governor's budget requires DHS to exclude any assets accumulated in the person's independence account and any assets from retirement benefits accumulated from income or employer contributions while employed and receiving state-funded benefits under COP or MAPP benefits. The budget sets the same requirement for excluding retirement benefits from eligibility determinations for the MAPP program as assets accumulated in an independence account are already excluded under current law.

The budget also changes the income limit for Medical Assistance program eligibility for certain elderly, blind, or disabled individuals who are medically needy to 100 percent of the federal poverty line for a family the size of the individual's family.

Children's Long-Term Supports: The Governor's budget expands access to care by providing \$14,067,300 in FY18 and \$25,205,500 in FY19 to eliminate the waiting list for long-term supports for approximately 2,200 children with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, or severe emotional disturbances. The budget also implements

reforms to increase efficiency or service delivery and to develop an equitable funding methodology to ensure county funding remains within the program.

The budget allows DHS to require a county to maintain a specified level of contribution, which is determined by DHS based on historical county expenditures, for the disabled children's long-term support program. Counties are required under the budget to cooperate with DHS to determine an equitable funding methodology and county contribution mechanism going forward and to ensure that county contributions are being expended for the children's long-term support program. The budget also allows DHS to contract with a county or group of counties to deliver children's long-term support program services.

Nursing Home Rates: The Governor's budget provides an increase of \$18,354,900 in FY18 and \$33,118,900 in FY19 to: (a) increase nursing home provider rates by 2 percent in each fiscal year to support direct care workforce and increased resident acuity in nursing homes; (b) increase provider rates by 1 percent in each fiscal year to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities; and (c) increase funding for enhanced behavioral and cognitive impairment incentives.

Personal Care: The Governor's budget supports the Personal Care program direct workforce by providing a 2 percent increase of \$5,034,300 in FY18 and a 2 percent increase of \$9,936,300 in FY19 to address increased program participant acuity.

Birth to 3 Medicaid Reimbursement: The Governor's budget increases Medicaid reimbursement for Birth to 3 by allowing the Birth to 3 allocation to be used for the nonfederal share of any newly implemented Birth to 3 Medicaid services. The budget also authorizes the department to submit any Medicaid state plan amendment that increases Medicaid reimbursement for Birth to 3.

Lead Poisoning: The Governor's budget updates the definition of lead poisoning or lead exposure in statute from 10 micrograms per deciliter to 5 micrograms per deciliter, increases the Medicaid reimbursement for investigations to \$800, and provides \$61,000 all funds in FY18 and \$122,000 all funds in FY19.

Peer-Run Respite Center: The Governor's budget provides \$450,000 in FY19 to develop a Peer-Run Respite Center for Veterans in the Milwaukee area to improve outcomes of veterans in crisis and those having difficulty coping with mental illness.

Children's Crisis Facility: The Governor's budget provides \$249,100 in FY18 and \$996,400 in FY19 to develop an eight bed Crisis Treatment and Stabilization Facility for children to improve outcomes of children in crisis. The facility will be community based and provide mental health services to children in the least restrictive setting. In addition, the facility will improve clinical outcomes while also reducing the number of institutional admissions at Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

Meeting Reimbursement: The Governor’s budget provides \$10,000 in FY18 and \$10,000 in FY19 for the Office of Children’s Mental Health to reimburse individuals for travel costs associated with attending meetings to include people with lived experience in the decision making process.

Forensic Treatment Capacity at Mendota: The Governor’s budget increases forensic treatment capacity and improves patient services at the Mendota Mental Health Institute by providing 73.0 FTE positions and \$7,190,500 in FY18 and \$7,220,100 in FY19 to reduce the current forensic inpatient caseload and admission waiting list.

Income Maintenance Consortia Reestimate: The Governor’s budget recommends funding the income maintenance consortia based on updated caseload assumptions and program requirements (\$12,393,800 in FY18 and FY19).

Child Psychiatry Consultation Program: The Governor’s budget increases funding for the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program by \$500,000 annually.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Children and Family Aids: The Governor’s budget increases the Children and Family Aids allocation by \$1,250,000 PR-F in FY18 and by \$5,000,000 PR-F in FY19 to address increasing child welfare costs. Total Children and Family Aids from all sources would be \$70,630,800 in FY18 and \$74,712,400 in FY19. Increases will begin in CY18.

The budget also increases children and family aids to counties to fully fund a prior foster care rate increase, which was a 2.5 percent increase effective in CY15.

Fostering Futures: The Governor’s budget provides an additional \$200,000 TANF in FY19 to Fostering Futures: Connections Count to develop and implement a trauma-informed training curriculum that is more specific to Wisconsin’s needs. Total program funding would be \$360,300 in FY18 and \$560,300 in FY19.

In-Home Safety Services: The Governor’s budget provides additional funding of \$889,800 TANF in FY18 and \$1,921,600 TANF in FY19 to expand child safety and out-of-home placement services statewide so that children may remain at home with supportive services rather than being placed outside of the home. Similar to Children and Family Aids, the budget requires matching funds by counties (9.89 percent). Total funding for services is \$6,282,500 in FY18 and \$7,314,300 in FY19.

Foster Care/Kinship Care Rates: The Governor’s budget increases foster care and kinship care rates by 2.5 percent annually in each calendar year. The basic foster care and kinship care rate would increase from \$232 to \$238 in CY18 and from \$238 to \$244 in CY19. Additional funding from all fund sources under the bill would be \$861,300 in FY18 and \$2,162,100 in FY19.

Tribal High-Cost Placements: The Governor’s budget provides \$247,500 PR-S in additional funding in each fiscal year and flexibility (consolidating related appropriations) for high-cost tribal out-of-home care placements to meet tribes’ needs. Total available funding for the program would be \$717,500 in each fiscal year.

Child Care: The Governor’s budget eliminates the child care cliff by providing child care subsidies to families participating in Wisconsin Shares whose incomes rise above 200 percent of FPL but with copayments that increase \$1 for every \$3 in additional income. The estimated cost is \$1,962,600 TANF funding in FY19.

The budget also provides that, if an individual who is eligible for a child care subsidy under Wisconsin Shares permanently ceases participating in an approved activity, the individual will remain eligible for the child care subsidy for a period of three months after the individual ceases participation or until the individual’s eligibility is redetermined, whichever is earlier. The budget also provides that an individual will also remain eligible for a child care subsidy while the individual experiences a temporary break in an approved activity, such as a break due to illness, to care for a family member, a school or holiday break, a regular break from seasonal work, or any other break from an approved activity that does not exceed three months.

The Governor’s budget adds a requirement that a child for whom a Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy is sought be immunized according to the immunization requirements implemented by DHS.

Learnfare: The Governor’s budget allows benefits to be sanctioned if a family is not compliant with case management in efforts to address attendance issues, and the Learnfare-eligible student is either habitually truant or unenrolled in school. Currently, sanctions can only be levied for nonenrollment.

Public Benefits and Absenteeism: The Governor’s budget requires the Departments of Children and Families, Public Instruction, Health Services, and Workforce Development to study the population overlap of public benefit programs and chronic absenteeism among students.

Home Visiting Program: The Governor’s budget provides \$3,900,000 in additional TANF funding annually to the state’s home visiting program to expand the number of families served and increase the number of parents equipped with the tools needed to improve chances of success for parents and their children. Program funding would total \$14,297,000 all funds in each fiscal year and \$28,595,400 over the biennium.

Supporting Parents Supporting Kids: The Governor’s budget continues funding for Brown and Kenosha counties for the existing Supporting Parents Supporting Kids program by providing \$200,000 all funds in FY18. The budget provides \$553,636 all funds in FY19 to administer a five-county child support demonstration program to expand an enhanced Supporting Parents Supporting Kids model that provides work, employment training, and parenting services to low-income noncustodial parents to get a

job in order to fulfill financial obligations to his or her child. Grants in FY19 are anticipated to total \$375,000, funded by existing child support program revenue. With the anticipated federal match, funding for the demonstration program over the biennium will total \$938,600 all funds.

Drug Testing for W-2: The Governor's budget requires most new Wisconsin Works applicants to participate in substance abuse screening, testing and, if necessary, treatment. The budget enables DCF to expand the screening process through administrative rules.

Public Assistance Collections: The Governor's budget reallocates 3.0 FTE positions for additional staffing in DCF's Public Assistance Collections Unit to enhance efforts to combat fraud and collect overpayments.

Public Assistance Program Fraud and Error Reduction: The Governor's budget provides \$605,500 in each year of the biennium to reimburse counties for program integrity, and W-2 and child care fraud investigation costs.

Child Victims of Sex-Trafficking: The Governor's budget provides an additional \$2,000,000 GPR in FY19 for services to child victims of sex trafficking. Total funding would be \$2,000,000 in FY18 and \$4,000,000 in FY19. The Governor also recommends modifying current law to expand exclusive original jurisdiction of juvenile courts to include any child who is a victim of or at substantial risk of becoming a sex trafficking victim.

Juvenile Justice

Lincoln Hills/Copper Lakes: The Governor's budget provides 20.5 FTE positions to improve staff ratios and increase services at the Lincoln Hills School and Copper Lake School juvenile facilities.

The budget provides 3.25 FTE positions and \$256,100 GPR in FY18 and \$300,500 GPR in FY19 to expand mental health services for girls at Copper Lake School so that they have similar access to mental health services as juvenile males.

The budget improves staff ratio requirements at Lincoln Hills School as prescribed by the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) by providing 8.25 FTE positions and \$653,400 PR in FY18 and \$653,400 PR in FY19.

The budget provides 9.0 FTE positions and \$93,500 PR in FY18 and \$65,900 PR in FY19 for the safe distribution of medication to the juvenile population.

JCI Population: The Governor's budget projects a juvenile population of 253 in each fiscal year of the biennium.

The budget requires that individuals under the age of 18 be placed at a juvenile correctional facility or a secured residential care center for children and youth, rather than an adult prison, when appropriate.

JCI Rates: The Governor's budget sets the daily rates for juvenile correctional institutions at \$344 in FY18 and \$352 in FY19. The current rate is \$292.

Other:

School Mental Health: The Governor's budget provides \$6.5 million to improve and expand school mental health services. The Governor's budget establishes three new programs: (a) \$3,000,000 in FY19 to support school social work expenditures; (b) \$2,500,000 in FY19 to support school and community health collaborations; and (c) \$491,000 in FY18 and \$514,000 in FY19, as well as 1.0 FTE position, to support training for school employees in trauma-informed care.

Tax Credits: The Governor's budget extends the Wisconsin Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to low and moderate income noncustodial parents who pay their current child support on time and in full throughout the year. The credit will be equal to 2/3 percent of the amount that a single parent with one child can claim under the state EITC, or a 7.5 percent match on the federal EITC. The change will take effect in tax year 2018 and provide \$230,000 annually in benefits to eligible filers.

The Governor's budget creates an employment assistance tax credit (Young Adult Employment Assistance Credit) for young adults aging out of foster care or lost supplemental security income (SSI) benefits due to the age 18 redetermination within the prior three years. The credit would be set at 125 percent of the federal credit for childless adults (benefits approximately 2,000 filers). The credit begins in tax year 2018.

Housing Assistance: The Governor's budget authorizes the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to pilot employment, training or self-sufficiency programming requirements for certain able-bodied adult recipients of Housing Choice Vouchers.

The Governor's budget authorizes WHEDA to implement voluntary self-sufficiency services in coordination with other organizations for Housing Choice Voucher recipients.

Homelessness: The Governor's budget pilots a homelessness employment program to provide homeless individuals with work experience and work routine through jobs cleaning up municipal parks and public spaces with a goal of transitioning them into permanent employment. The budget provides \$75,000 GPR in each year of the biennium to a Wisconsin municipality to pilot the program, with a \$50,000 matching grant requirement.

The Governor's budget provides ten \$50,000 grants annually funded by TANF funds to homeless shelters for intensive case management services for homeless families, with a focus on financial management counseling, continued school enrollment for children, connecting parents who are job training graduates or who have a recent work history with their local workforce development board to employment, and enrolling unemployed or underemployed parents in W-2 or FSET.

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Aids: The Governor's budget provides a 2 percent increase in both fiscal years of the biennium for aids to counties for the transportation of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Tribal Youth Treatment Facility: The Governor's budget provides \$100,000 Tribal gaming revenue in each fiscal year to fund a feasibility study and business plan for a youth wellness center in northern Wisconsin.

JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Offender Reentry: The Governor's budget expands opportunities for inmates within 6 months of their release to be moved to county jails so that they can participate in work release and related employment programs.

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program: The Governor's budget provides \$2 million in one-time GPR funds in FY 2017-18 and \$2 million one-time GPR funds in FY 2018-19 for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program. Also, the Governor's budget provides \$150,000 in one-time GPR funds in FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 for drug courts to be used for grants to counties to help with expansion. This is a 30 percent increase in funding over the base funding.

Pay Progression: The Governor's budget plan provides additional funding for pay progression of \$664,400 GPR in FY 2018-19 for deputy and assistant public defenders and \$1.066 million in GPR in FY 2017-18 and \$2.6 million GPR in FY 2018-19 for deputy and assistant district attorneys to increase retention.

Director of State Courts: The Governor's budget allows the Director of State Courts to develop a pay plan for judges and justices to be submitted to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations for approval. Under current law, annual salaries for judges and justices are reviewed and established in the state compensation plan in the same manner as positions in the state classified service. The pay plan may utilize savings within the Wisconsin Court System from existing appropriations. The budget directs \$334,000 in one time GPR funds in FY 2018-19 to reflect an amount equal to the wage increase provided to other state employees. Non-judicial staff will continue to be covered under the state compensation plan.

Emergency Services: The Governor's budget doubles the match by the state to a municipal contribution to the service award program up to \$500 per year for volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians and first responders. Also recommended is a

reduction in the required service time to qualify for an award from 20 to 15 years and a reduction of the age required to receive a service award from 60 to 53 years.

The budget creates a new emergency medical technician endorsement and an extension in the time period for license renewal from 2 to 4 years. This budget also allows ambulance service providers that receive aids from the Department of Health Services (DHS) to escrow unused moneys and use those moneys in a subsequent year for first responder training and examinations or emergency medical technician training and examinations at any level.

Due to an increase in demand for emergency response training courses for law enforcement, fire services and military personnel, the Governor's budget increased permanent training staff at the Regional All-Climate Training Center by providing 2 FTE permanent positions and relocating existing resources.

TAXATION AND FINANCE

Joint Agency: The Governor's budget provides counties and municipalities the authority to enter into contracts to establish joint agencies or commissions to carry out certain functions that will fulfill each of the participating local governments' obligation to establish such an agency or commission for that function.

Sales Tax Holiday: The Governor's budget creates a "back to school" sales tax holiday effective for two days in both August 2017 and August 2018 for specified school supplies. The sales tax holiday is expected to reduce state sales tax revenues by \$11 million.

Elimination of State Property Tax: The Governor's budget eliminates the state portion (forest mill tax) of the property tax beginning in 2017.

Levy Limits: The Governor's budget modifies levy limits by requiring municipalities and counties to reduce their levy limit authority by the amount that debt service on debt issued before July 1, 2005, would decrease in the current year compared to the prior year.

Direct Payment of Property Tax Credits: The Governor's budget recommends, beginning with distributions in 2018, allowing municipalities which receive in total at least \$3 million from the sum of the school levy tax credit, first dollar credit, and lottery credit to make one ongoing request, rather than annual requests, to receive these payments directly from the state, instead of through the county.

Newspaper Publishing Requirements: The Governor's budget allows an electronic option for all units of government for any statutory printing, publishing, or mailing requirements. The following documents are excluded from the waiver authority and the electronic option: any election documents, facsimile ballot, referenda, notice of public hearing before a governmental body, and notice of meetings of private and public bodies required by law; and a summons, order, citation, notice of sale, or other notice that in

intended to inform a person that the person may or shall do an act or exercise a right within a designated period or by a designated date. In addition, the proposal exempts certified or registered mail.

Shared Revenue: The Governor's budget maintains the current county shared revenue funding allocation, excluding Milwaukee County (see below).

Milwaukee County Shared Revenue: The Governor's budget reduces Milwaukee County's shared revenue payment in fiscal year 2019 by \$1,950,000 each year for 10 years in recognition of the \$26 million Volkswagen emissions settlement funds to be made available to the county for replacement of eligible vehicles.

Fire Suppression: The Governor's budget specifies that a person who sets a forest fire is liable to the state for all of the fire suppression expenses that are shared by the state and the county and that the county's share of expenses, which is otherwise equal to the state's share, is reduced by the amount by which such damages, if paid, exceed the state's share of expenses.

Timber Cutting Notices: The Governor's budget provides that the requirement that the sale of timber cut from a state, county, or community forest be advertised in a local newspaper may be satisfied by posting notice on certain official internet sites. The budget also provides that approval and notice requirements apply to the sale of timber with an estimated value of \$10,000 or more that was cut from a state, county, or community forest. Finally, the budget provides that a county cutting merchantable wood products from a county forest must furnish DNR with a report not more than five years after filing a cutting notice.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

Transfers from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund: The Governor's budget transfers a one-time payment of \$24 million from the Petroleum Inspection Fund to the Transportation Fund in both fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

General Transportation Aids: The Governor's budget includes an increase to counties in General Transportation Aids by increasing the annual amount allocated from \$98.4 million in the current biennium to \$111.1 million by calendar year 2018.

Routine Maintenance Agreements: The Governor's budget increases the allocation for Routine Maintenance Agreements between the state and the counties by \$33,733,000 over the biennium for counties to perform additional maintenance work on the State Trunk Highway and Interstate systems.

Mass Transit Operating Aids: The Governor's budget funds Mass Transit Operating Aids at current levels:

Tier A-1: \$64,193,900

Tier A-2:	\$16,868,000
Tier B:	\$24,486,700
Tier C:	\$5,188,900

Local Bridge Improvement Program: The Governor's budget includes an increase of \$6 million in the Local Bridge Improvement Program. State funding for the program is increased by \$3 million annually. Total program funding increases over the biennium from \$16.9 million to \$22.9 million.

Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP): The Governor's budget increases county LRIP (CHIP) Entitlement Program funding from \$13.9 million in the 2015-17 biennium to \$15.9 million in the 2017-19 biennium. In addition, the budget increases county LRIP (CHIP) Discretionary Program funding from \$10.3 million in the 2015-17 biennium to \$11 million in the 2017-19 biennium.

Majors Projects: The Governor's budget cuts \$16 million from the majors program. The total funding level for the majors program is \$669.9 million in the 2017-19 budget cycle. Delayed projects include US HWY 53, US HWY 12, STH 64 and the Rock County Transportation Plan.

Southeast Mega Projects: The Governor's budget reduces funding from \$414.6 million in the 2015-17 biennium to \$122 million in the 2017-19 biennium. This is a proposed funding reduction of \$292.6 million for the upcoming budget cycle.

State Highway Rehabilitation Funding: The Governor's budget provides \$1.7 billion in funding for the State Highway Rehabilitation Program in the 2017-19 biennium.

Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Specialized Transportation Aids: The Governor's budget increases funding for the program by \$562,200 in the biennium. This amounts to a 2% increase in funding in each year of the budget.

Project Labor Agreements (PLA): The Governor's budget proposal prohibits the state and local units of government from requiring that a bidder enter into a Project Labor Agreement.

State Prevailing Wage Requirements: The Governor's budget eliminates prevailing wage requirements for projects using state dollars. Projects using federal dollars are still applicable to federal Davis-Bacon wage requirement thresholds.

Local Island mail cancelled by the U.S. Postal Service

By Mary Marik

Local mail on Washington Island – mail that originates on the Island and that never leaves the Island because it is destined for an Island address – is now history.

As of late November, all mail – whether to ZIP Code 54246 or any other ZIP Code – will leave Washington Island to be sorted in Green Bay. Mail meant for 54246 will then be sent back to the Island for delivery.

Sean Hargadon, a corporate communications specialist with the U.S. Postal Service whose responsibilities include the Green Bay area, explained to the Observer that standardized mail-processing procedures, including the sorting in Green Bay of all Island mail, is one of many standard practices throughout the Postal Service. And, Hargadon said, these standard practices help with overall operational efficiencies and cost reductions within the USPS.

This change in the delivery process means that all mail originating on the Island that is meant to return to an Island address requires standard and correct addressing.

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PHOTO BY MARY MARIK

Because of the new U.S. Postal Service requirement that “local” Island mail needs to be sent to Green Bay for processing before it is returned to Washington Island for delivery, the label designating “local mail only” has been removed from the drop slots at the Island post office. Now all mail falls into one large bin and is sent to Green Bay.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE ANDERSEN

Sarah and Anna Gibson guard the goods before the official start of the 2016 Bethel Cookie Walk held Dec. 11.

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Local Island mail cancelled by the U.S. Postal Service

The piece must show the address of the intended recipient, visible and legible, only on the side of the piece bearing postage. This includes the name of the recipient, address number, city/town and ZIP Code.

Without all these elements, the piece of mail will be returned to the sender marked "nonsufficient address."

Regarding the postmarks on pieces of mail, Hargadon continued, the Postal Operations Manual states that customers may request a local postmark at the retail counter of the post office.

"Customers who want significant mail volumes postmarked should contact the postmaster to determine if the office has the time, manpower, and any other needed resources to accommodate the request. The post office will cancel as many local mail pieces as they can, but by the cut-off time, the remaining balance must be prepared to be sent to the respective plant for processing."

This new system does not include on-Island mailings such as boxholders and periodic newsletters sent by nonprofits, churches or other groups. Those types of mail are exceptions to the rule and do not have to travel to Green Bay.