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2023 RES-081
2023-2025 DANE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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General Principle

The state shall foster equitable and inclusive opportunities for all state residents by supporting and funding proactive, evidence-based programs and policies that advance the elimination of racial and socio-economic disparities and recognize the unique role counties play in administering state programs by:

1. Fairly sharing responsibility with the counties in determining the scope, design, and cost of statewide programs;
2. Providing adequate and predictable shares of funding for state services delivered by the counties;
3. Helping counties reduce the need to rely on property taxes; and
4. Enhancing the ability of counties to more effectively manage county government.

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

Who benefits?

Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Surface and Ground Water Quality

- **Water Quality:** Maintain DNR funding for water quality planning and watershed projects. Seek a fair share of state funding for inland waterways and lakes. Target state funds to where there is a high likelihood of project success, where recipient units of government have a proven track record of meeting state and local water resource goals. Support additional funding and staffing for local water quality protection and improvement.
- **Stormwater Utility:** Amend Wis. Stats. to allow counties to create and manage stormwater utility. Support local control of erosion and storm water management standards. Oppose standardizing regulation of construction site erosion, storm water management, and prohibiting local governments from enacting local ordinances that are stricter than statewide standards.
- **Comprehensive Approach to Control Lake Levels:** Support a comprehensive approach to managing the levels of the lakes through collaboration with affected parties including dam operators, municipalities and regulatory agencies toward improving natural hydrologic conditions and habitat. Support efforts to manage the Yahara Chain of Lakes by improving the volume of water leaving the Yahara River system, reducing stormwater runoff volumes through increased stormwater infiltration, and improving management of stormwater on impervious surfaces.
- **Keep Asian Carp Out of Wisconsin Waterways:** Urge DNR and federal

- 46 government to increase efforts to stop the advance of Asian carp in Wisconsin.
47
- 48 • **Mining Reform:** Support provisions restoring local government role for mining
49 and suspend floodplain rules that would nullify flood insurance and federal
50 disaster assistance.
 - 51 • **Water Management:** Support local governmental efforts to improve
52 water management through water conservation, a balanced water budget, and
53 enhanced groundwater recharge.
 - 54 • **High-Capacity Wells:** Support science-based regulation of high-capacity wells
55 that considers the individual and cumulative effects of high-capacity irrigation
56 wells on nearby water systems.
 - 57 • **Public Trust Doctrine:** Oppose legislation that erodes the Public Trust
58 Doctrine and DNR's ability to regulate navigable waters and wetlands.

59 **Natural Resources Conservation**

- 60
- 61 • **Stewardship Fund:** Support ongoing appropriations for the state Stewardship
62 Fund that are strong and annually adjusted for inflation. Eliminate Stewardship
63 Fund requirements for hunting and trapping.
 - 64 • **State Urban Forestry Grants:** Allow towns, counties, and non-profits to
65 access both federal and state funds in the Urban Forestry Grant Program.
 - 66 • **DNR Staffing:** Support DNR staff levels that benefit Dane County water
67 programs, including regulatory programs, lake/fishery, runoff specialists,
68 conservation wardens, land conservation, and parks programs.

69 **Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

- 70
- 71 • **Soil & Water Resource Management Program:** Increase available cost
72 share funding to support agricultural producers with implementation of
73 conservation practices to grow the state's agricultural economy as well as
74 protect soil and water resources. Develop a new, sustaining revenue source
75 to fund soil and water conservation programming in Wisconsin to assist
76 agriculture with mitigating, adapting, and building resiliency to climate
77 change.
 - 78 • **Soil Erosion:** Support full implementation and funding of the state's water
79 quality programs and established runoff pollution performance standards for
80 agriculture, non-agriculture, and transportation facilities standards.
 - 81 • **Nonpoint pollution:** Target landowner cost-sharing toward implementing
82 existing agricultural nonpoint pollution performance standards (NR 151) with a
83 goal of statewide compliance by 2035. Support ensuring adequate funding is
84 available to meet cost-share requirements to implement performance
85 standards and prioritize systematic implementation of agricultural
86 performance standards and targeting resource concerns.
 - 87 • **Foreign Interests in Farmland:** Oppose legislation that removes limits on
88 foreign ownership of Wisconsin agricultural land.
 - 89 • **Non-Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock:** Support statewide ban on
non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production/agriculture.

- 90 • **County Conservation Staffing:** Support increasing state aid for county
91 conservation staff to fully implement county land and water resource
92 management plan and provide technical support to implement farm
93 conservation practices.
- 94 • **Nutrient management planning:** Support legislation to increase farm
95 participation in nutrient management planning by improving delivery
96 mechanism and compliance incentives for all Wisconsin farms, especially in
97 highly susceptible areas. Support re-focusing nutrient management
98 programming from cost sharing and planning to implementation and
99 compliance.

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101 **Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience**

- 102 • **Climate Change:** Support legislative efforts to address climate change by
103 reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the severe adverse impacts
104 on our economy, environment, safety, and public health. Enhance county
105 authority and funding for county-level action planning, mitigation, adaptation,
106 and resilience around the impacts of climate change.
- 107 • **Green Jobs Economic Development:** Support statewide grants or
108 incentives for counties to produce a resilient climate change-ready economy
109 and carbon-free future by developing, creating and attracting green job
110 opportunities.
- 111 • **Renewable Energy:** Support legislation and statewide funding that
112 encourages waste-to-energy and renewable energy sources such as wind,
113 solar, and biomass as viable energy sources for utilities and Wisconsin
114 consumers. Support legislation to increase affordability/sustainability of
115 renewable energy in Wisconsin.
- 116 • **Divestment from Fossil Fuels:** Support zero investments in fossil fuel
117 companies for all local governments and state institutions.
- 118 • **Balanced & Fair Partnership Between Digesters, Gas Recovery
119 Programs & Utility Companies:** Create a statewide reimbursement
120 competitive grant program to enhance and fund bioenergy projects.
- 121 • **Energy Efficiency:** Work to defend the statewide Focus on Energy Program
122 and actively support efforts to increase the funding and customer access to that
123 program. Support efforts to return local control for energy related decision
124 making such as establishing commercial building codes. Restore school
125 districts' energy efficiency exemption to the revenue limit.
- 126 • **Reduce Fine Particle Pollution:** Support increased funding and new
127 incentives for fine particle emission reduction programs, including programs
128 that reduce emissions from transportation sources and point sources through
129 the increased use of alternative fuels, renewable energy sources, and energy
130 efficiency improvements.
- 131 • **Diesel Idling Regulations:** Support statewide implementation of diesel idling
132 regulations for trucks, buses, and other diesel engines.
- 133 • **Electric Vehicles:** Oppose any efforts to ban local governments from adding
134 EV charging stations or purchasing alternative fuel vehicles.

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Environmental Health

- **Mercury Rules:** Support changes to the mercury rules to achieve a 90% reduction per DNR rule.
- **Perflourinated Compounds:** Support adopting a state-directed threshold standard of PFAS, PFOA and PFOS as part of a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies contamination sources, remediation options, and tools to cover the associated costs with remediation. Support long-term state funding of PFAs treatment of landfill leachate.
- **Lead Pollution:** Support statewide/utility user funding to help local governments mitigate lead contamination in drinking water. Support increasing statewide awareness and educational efforts related to reducing the use of lead shot and tackle for hunting and fishing.

Access to High Quality Health Care

- **Dental Access:** Support increased access to dental care for all residents, including those on Medical Assistance.
- **Medicaid Expansion:** Support implementation of the Medicaid expansion under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Accept available federal funds for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of Wisconsin citizens have access to quality and affordable health coverage.
- **Medicare Expansion:** Support Medicare for All Act to ensure everyone has access to high quality, universal healthcare without the interruptions in care present in an employer -based for-profit system.
- **State Funding Streams:** Support Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases in key funding areas from the state including Youth Aids, Basic Community Aids, Children and Families Allocation, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Income Maintenance, Children’s Community Options Program, and Children’s Long Term Support Program.
- **Gender-affirming care:** Support access to gender-affirming care and procedures and oppose any legislation with restrictions based on gender identity.

Economic Assistance

- **Income Maintenance Programs:** Support funding levels and legislation that provide sufficient resources to administer non-cash benefit programs such as Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Child Care and issue benefits to all eligible people. Oppose changes to the eligibility/enrollment process and services funded under Medicaid and Income Maintenance, which limit eligibility and could reduce the number of people receiving benefits.
- **Childcare:** Support sufficient funding for childcare. Expand eligibility to include childcare support for low-income individuals pursuing higher education leading to employment.
- **Tax Supports for low-income residents:** Support increasing the state percentage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and expanding eligibility for the Homestead Tax Credit program.
- **Property Tax Exemptions Low Income Housing:** Clarify 70.11 Wis. Stats. to define “maintenance” as “repair and maintenance of property, capital replacements, insurance premiums, project management, debt retirement,

185 project-related reserves, general administrative expenses, resident
186 services, utilities, financing costs, preservation expenses and similar
187 project-related expenses.”

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

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201 **Services for Older Adults, the Developmentally/Physically Disabled, and**
202 **Mentally Ill**

- 203 • **Birth to Three:** Support additional financial support from the state for this
204 program. Support a modification of State Statutes to require health insurers
205 to make third party payments to defray the cost of Birth to Three care for
206 families that have private health insurance policies.
- 207 • **Community Support Program (CSP):** Continue program. Have additional
208 state funding to help reduce county costs and serve those who can benefit
209 from the program.
- 210 • **RSVP Services:** Support increased funding for the RSVP Program
- 211 • **Seniorcare and BadgerCare:** Maintain Seniorcare and BadgerCare
212 continuing programs.
- 213 • **Handicap Access:** Support “visit ability” legislation to allow handicap access
214 devices in new homes or eliminate barriers in older homes.
- 215 • **Long Term Care Reform:** Plans developed by the state in the area of long
216 term care need to protect quality and availability of services to consumers
217 and maintain control by the county of programs or relieve the county of
218 financial aid and/or legal obligations for the programs and participants if the
219 county is not involved with these programs in the future. The required county
220 contribution towards LTC should be equitably negotiated. Amend Chapter 55
221 to delineate state and county responsibilities.
- 222 • **Ageing and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC):** Support increasing state
223 funds to expand and fully fund ADRC services and support programs across
224 the state including funds for dementia care specialists, elder benefits
225 specialists, and care transition services. Support programs for caregivers of
226 adults younger than 60 or people with disabilities, funding for a caregiver
227 coordinator position to manage caregiver program funds, and funding for a
228 marketing plan to increase knowledge of services and programs. Oppose
229 efforts to privatize ADRCs.
- 230 • **Employment Services for Older Adults:** Extend the use of state and county
231 funds to encourage the business community and technical colleges to create
232 and support retraining and placement of older adults entering/re-entering
233 employment, especially those lacking English proficiency.
- 234 • **Family Caregivers:** Provide financial support and tax credits to family
235 caregivers.

- 236 • **Dementia Patient Rights:** Oppose involuntary psychotropic drug
237 administration in Chapters 51 and 55.
- 238 • **Comprehensive Community Services (CCS):** Support continued full
239 funding of the state match.
- 240 • **InvestaCare (Long Term Care Investment Fund):** Support legislation to
241 establish a long-term care investment savings program for individuals 18
242 years and older to meet future long-term care needs through financial
243 contributions.
- 244 • **Family Care/IRIS:** Oppose changes that weaken the Family Care, IRIS, and
245 Partnership programs.
- 246 • **Mental Health and Drug Addiction Care:** Support increased access and
247 sustainable state and federal funding for mental health services and drug
248 addiction treatment programs in Wisconsin communities and schools.
249 Support increasing both public and private insurance coverage and
250 increasing MA reimbursement rates for mental health services and drug
251 addiction treatment programs.
- 252 • **Winnebago Mental Health Transfers:** Urge DHS to rescind its requirement
253 to transfer detained mental health patients to Winnebago Mental Health
254 Institute instead of Mendota.
- 255 • **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation:** • Non-Emergency Medical
256 Transportation (NEMT) is contracted by the state of Wisconsin to provide
257 rides for Medicaid eligible individuals to gain access to medical appointments.
258 Past contracts lacked strong accountability or oversight measures and
259 rewarded vendors for denying rides resulting in complaints about the quality
260 and consistency. Support efforts to hold NEMT vendors accountable, improve
261 oversight of the program, ensure quality, consistent services, resolve
262 complaints and provide incentives for giving rather than denying rides.
- 263 • **Prevention Funding:** Support initiatives that provide additional funds for
264 primary prevention and enforcement programs related to elder abuse and
265 neglect.
- 266 • **IMD Exclusion:** Support the state in its efforts to change the “IMD Exclusion”
267 that ultimately requires counties to fund institutional stays for patients covered
268 by Medicaid.
- 269 • **Educational and Licensure Requirements:** Oppose the reduction of
270 educational and licensure requirements for health care professionals.

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

- 273 • **Career Development for Youth:** Support funding to provide educational,
274 work skill development, transportation and mentoring services for youth or
275 young adults who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped out of high
276 school or who are unemployed post high school and lack the knowledge and
277 skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment.
- 278 • **Early Childhood Initiative:** Support legislation to continue funding for the Early
279 Childhood Initiative programs.
- 280 • **Apprenticeship/Internships:** Provide incentives for the business
281 community and technical college system to create and support
282 apprenticeship/internship opportunities to young adults. Expedite entry and
283 graduation from the programs to meet increasing demands to fill vacancies
284 created by an aging workforce.
- 285 • **Prevention Funding:** Support initiatives that provide additional funds for
286 primary prevention programs including delinquency and child abuse/neglect.
- 287 • **Relative Caregivers:** Support legislation/policies that provide additional
288 state support to relatives who take care of non-custodial children.

- 289 • **Kinship Care:** Support funding to meet needs of all that are eligible.
- 290 • **Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR):** Eliminate WIMCR program
- 291 or fully reimburse counties for the revenues they would have received under
- 292 the Community Services Deficit Reduction Benefit (CSDRB) and Community
- 293 impacted by the creation of WIMCR.
- 294 • **Family Child Care:** Support legislation to extend the state rules governing
- 295 foster care background checks to family day care providers.
- 296 • **At-Risk Youth Report to School Board:** Develop a program for newly
- 297 released at-risk students to interact with/give progress reports to school
- 298 boards.
- 299 • **Law Enforcement Role in Child Abuse & Neglect:** Oppose legislation that
- 300 usurps the authority of county Child Protective Services (CPS) by reporting
- 301 all child abuse and neglect cases to law enforcement in lieu of CPS,
- 302 increases penalties and changes the neglect definition to target low income
- 303 and marginalized communities.
- 304 • **Child Support:** Support increasing funding for the Wisconsin County Child
- 305 Support Program to maintain the current high level of service.
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307 **Youth Justice**

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- 309 • **Youth Justice:** Support continued funding for early intervention and
- 310 intensive treatment programs. Support continued improvements to the youth
- 311 justice and juvenile corrections systems that use research-based restorative
- 312 actions, provide adequate funding for secured residential care centers, and
- 313 expand access to comprehensive mental health services.
- 314 • **Youth Aids:** Support legislation to increase state funding for out-of-home
- 315 care costs for youth offenders now paid for by Dane County. Limit increases
- 316 in state rates for out-of-home placements for youth (including corrections,
- 317 child caring institutions and residential care facilities) to no more than the
- 318 increase in Youth Aids.
- 319 • **17 Year Olds:** Remove 17-year-olds from the adult correctional system and
- 320 return them to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Corrections.
- 321 • **Youth Programs:** Support continuation and expansions of programs
- 322 focusing on prevention of delinquency, alcohol and other drug use, child
- 323 abuse and neglect, and domestic violence. Support increased funding and
- 324 support for youth after school programs including transportation, especially
- 325 at the middle school level.
- 326 • **Youth Courts:** Support and fund Youth Courts in Wisconsin High Schools.
- 327 • **Group Homes:** Support efforts to reassess the maximum daily rate that
- 328 group homes receive.
- 329 • **Alternative placement options:** Support efforts to develop placements
- 330 and services for youth in community-based and other treatment facilities,
- 331 including correctional programs in Dane County.
- 332 • **Restorative Justice:** Support and fund restorative justice actions in middle
- 333 and high schools, communities, and programs that work with youth.
- 334 Especially the creation of alternatives to suspension to prevent youth crime
- 335 and eliminate racial disparities in the justice system.
- 336

337 **Public Health Services**

- 338 • **Local Public Health Emergencies:** Support legislation that recognizes the
- 339 critical role of local public health departments in responding to public health
- 340 emergencies and provides adequate funding to respond to all threats to public

- 341 health. Oppose legislation to preempt or restrict local authority to respond to
342 public health emergencies.
- 343 • **Public Health Services:** Support initiatives that strengthen the ability of local
344 health departments to maintain effective community health initiatives,
345 enhance health and racial equity, and promote optimal health outcomes for
346 all residents. Oppose efforts that prevent local health departments from
347 advocating for strong public health parameters, incorporating health
348 considerations into policy decision-making, and providing community health
349 services based on scientific data.
 - 350 • **Medical Marijuana:** Support legislation allowing residents with debilitating
351 medical conditions to acquire and possess marijuana for medical purposes if
352 supported by their physician.
 - 353 • **Reproductive Health Care:** Repeal all state laws that prohibit all persons
354 from having access to safe and legal abortions, that don't protect reproductive
355 health, and don't ensure a person's dignity, equality, and autonomy. Support
356 codifying the protections of Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey
357 in Wisconsin and Federal law. Oppose all efforts to restrict abortion and other
358 reproductive care as a fundamental right. Support efforts to ensure all people
359 in Dane County and the State of Wisconsin have access to all health care,
360 including abortion care. Support the continued research into effective forms
361 of birth control and reproductive related care for all bodies.
 - 362 • **Support Wisconsin Well Woman Program:** Support maintaining this
363 program for breast and cervical cancer screening. Oppose cuts or service
364 reductions.
 - 365 • **Breastfeeding friendly workplaces:** Support institutional policies that allow
366 individuals who are breastfeeding or pumping to have space to do so.
 - 367 • **School Meals:** Increase state funding for school breakfasts. Maintain
368 nutritional standards for meals that align with MyPlate dietary
369 recommendations.
 - 370 • **Dangerous Animals and Vicious Dog Ordinance:** Amend state law to allow
371 counties to enact stricter ordinances to regulate dangerous animals and
372 vicious dogs having countywide applicability.
 - 373 • **Community Health Workers:** Support creation of a Community Health
374 Worker certification process and establishment of standards for Community
375 Health Worker certification and support services provided by certified
376 Community Health Workers, within their scope of practice, to become
377 reimbursable under a newly established community health benefit in
378 Wisconsin's Medicaid program.
 - 379 • **Maternal Mortality Review Process:** Support increasing staffing and other
380 resources dedicated to reviewing incidents of maternal mortality within the
381 state, with a special focus on incorporating family interviews into the review
382 process.
 - 383 • **Postpartum Medicaid Eligibility:** Support extending the postpartum
384 eligibility period to the end of the month in which the 365th day post-partum
385 occurs. Support expanding Wisconsin Medicaid program to include a housing
386 benefit that prioritizes pregnant and postpartum members for this benefit and
387 increases the amount of food assistance for pregnant and post-partum
388 members.

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Housing

- **Homeless Services:** Provide additional state funding for services to assist individuals, unaccompanied youth and families who are homeless. Expand state programs to address and prevent homelessness including but not limited to the Critical Assistance Program and the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program.
- **Manufactured Housing:** Support legislation to amend state statutes to require adequate notice to residents when mobile home parks are closing, require storm cellars/secure areas in manufactured housing communities, encourage WHEDA to provide funding/financing for the purchase of housing on leased land, remove any barriers to long term leases, allow the purchase of communities by residents and the development of co-operative housing for manufactured housing communities.
- **Restrictions on Local Fair Housing Ordinances:** Oppose legislation that impinges on the rights of tenants by allowing landlords to discriminate based on a tenant's income, occupation, rental history, credit information, arrest/conviction history and Social Security number.
- **Landlord Regulation:** Repeal 2011 WI Act 108, which prohibits local government ordinances that place limits or requirements on landlords (Fair Housing Ordinance). Repeal 2011 WI Act 143, which prohibits a local government from imposing a moratorium on eviction actions and amends/creates new provisions that benefit landlords including but not limited to allowing: landlord discretion in disposing/storing of medical/personal items; landlords to withhold a tenant's security deposit or portion of for damages, unpaid rent/utility bills; and severability of rental agreements. Repeal 2011-2012 budget bill provision, which deletes landlord foreclosure notice. Repeal 2013 WI Act 76 (Prohibit Local Landlord Ordinances).
- **Expanding Affordable Housing Options:** Support state investment in the Dane County Affordable Housing Development Fund. Support additional incentives for developers interested in building affordable housing, and state incentives for landlords to accept housing vouchers, and building affordable housing near public transportation. Support increases for state programs to expand access to affordable housing such as the Rental Housing Development Program. Support allowing local governments to set affordable housing requirements.
- **Tenants' Rights:** Oppose legislation that prohibits local governments from enacting/enforcing ordinances that regulate landlord/tenant relations, which enhance fairness in landlord/tenant relations, foster responsible property ownership and protect the safety & stability of neighborhoods. Support state funding for legal assistance for renters facing eviction and landlord and tenant mediation programs. Support legislation to provide a right to counsel for residential tenants facing evictions. Support legislation requiring a just cause for termination of tenancy and eviction. Support legislation to remove the requirement for scheduling eviction trials within 30 days of initial hearing. Support protection for tenant's rights and their personal property.
- **Lead Remediation:** Support state funding for local lead remediation programs.

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Veterans Services

- **Armed Forces:** Support Dane County soldiers who are presently serving. Support protecting families and jobs rather than utilizing precious resources and funds to wage a war.
- **VFW Halls:** Support a property tax exemption for chartered veterans' organizations.
- **Property Tax Credit:** Drop the disability rating from 100% to 30% or greater.
- **Wisconsin GI Bill:** Support fully funding the Wisconsin GI Bill without any limitations on eligibility.
- **State Funding for the Veterans Trust Fund:** Support increased state funding to insure solvency of the Veterans Trust Fund and to help stabilize the Trust Fund so veterans will no longer pay for their own benefits and programs.
- **Veteran Homelessness:** Support ending veteran homelessness by maximizing state and federal resources and streamlining local housing processes.
- **Mass Transit for Disabled Veterans:** Support fully funding bus passes and other mass transit costs for all service-connected disabled veterans in all Wisconsin locations and transit programs.
- **County Veterans Offices:** Oppose legislation that cuts/restructures CVSO funding, reduces veteran services, or weakens the offices by regionalization.
- **Veterans Administration:** Support and recognize the significance of the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital and area clinics in the lives of veterans and in the Dane County community and oppose privatization of services.

County Personnel, Finance, and Governance

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- **State Mandates:** Oppose any legislation or rule that requires counties to provide a service or administer a program without adequate and ongoing funding. Support creation of a Joint Survey Committee on Local Mandates. Support legislation to allow waivers from state mandates. Support requiring the state to perform a biennial review of all mandated programs to determine continued need for the programs and annually review all mandated programs funded at 50% or less.
- **Fees/Licenses:** Support state-set fees collected by counties to fairly cover administrative costs.
- **Libraries:** Enforce compliance with Wis. Stats. 43.24(6), which requires state funding for public library systems at 13% of local library expenditures.
- **Association Memberships:** Support requiring a simple majority vote of the county board of supervisors to purchase membership in an association of county boards.
- **Room Tax:** Amend the room tax statutes to include counties.
- **Alliant Energy Center:** Support state funding for capital projects on the Alliant Energy Center campus and support authorizing the creation of a taxing authority, known as the Alliant Energy Center District, to be used to repay bonds for the construction, maintenance, and operations of campus facilities.
- **Property Tax Freeze:** Oppose any efforts to limit or prohibit local governments from increasing their expenditures or revenues.
- **Buy Local:** Provide and maintain state funding to create incentives for businesses and all levels of government to buy local produce and products. Oppose the practice of contracting State of Wisconsin government functions or services to out-of-state companies/operations.

- 495 • **Reverse Marriage Ban:** Support a constitutional amendment to delete the
496 marriage ban amendment adopted in the Fall 2006 General Election.
- 497 • **Domestic Partnership Benefits:** Support restoring local governments' ability
498 to provide domestic partner benefits.
- 499 • **State Contracts:** Support requiring sustainability as one criterion in the
500 decision-making or contract selection process for state contracts and requiring
501 vendors to extend benefits to domestic partner relationships.
- 502 • **Restore Impact Fee Authority:** Restore counties to the governmental entities
503 that are authorized to levy impact fees.
- 504 • **Fair and Equitable Taxation:** Support fair and equitable taxation without
505 harming county revenue.
- 506 • **Local Government Control:** Oppose any legislation that limits or deletes local
507 government control including opposition to levy limits and support for county
508 home rule authority.
- 509 • **Prevailing Wage:** Restore the prevailing wage requirement for public works
510 and other projects.
- 511 • **Fair Motorboat Gas Tax Allocation:** Support legislation to fairly allocate
512 motorboat fuel tax through a more equitable distribution formula.
- 513 • **Comprehensive School Funding Reform:** Support changes in the school aid
514 formula to align revenues with educational costs. Distribute resources in
515 accordance with the diverse needs of students and districts to ensure every
516 student receives a quality education. Support moving school funding away from
517 reliance on property taxes.
- 518 • **Changes to Wisconsin Redistricting Statutes:** Oppose changes to the
519 redistricting process that allow the Wisconsin Legislature to develop a map of
520 Congressional, Senatorial and Assembly districts prior to local government
521 input regarding ward boundaries.
- 522 • **Oppose State-Imposed County Board Restructuring:** Oppose legislation
523 that impedes a County Board from governing, budgeting and hiring staff.
- 524 • **Collective Bargaining:** Support legislation allowing local government the
525 option to engage in collective bargaining with public sector employees. Dane
526 County is committed to a fair and respectful bargaining process and to
527 bargaining in good faith with our employees, even if state statutes no longer
528 require collective bargaining between Dane County and its employees. Oppose
529 attacks on workers' rights.
- 530 • **Balance of Power:** Oppose efforts to alter the authority and/or responsibilities
531 among county boards, county executives or administrators, and constitutional
532 officers and upset the balance of power in county government across
533 Wisconsin.
- 534 • **Dark Store Loophole:** Oppose the Dark Store Loophole by clarifying that
535 leases are appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties and
536 that when using the comparable sale method of valuation, assessors shall
537 consider as comparable only those sales within the same market segment
538 exhibiting a similar highest and best use rather than similarly sized but vacant
539 properties in abandoned locations.
- 540 • **Nonpartisan Redistricting:** Support the creation of an independent non-
541 partisan process for the preparation of legislative and congressional district
542 lines. 82% of Dane County voters supported a fair map referendum.
- 543 • **Project Labor Agreements:** Support the restoration of local governments'
544 ability to enter into Project Labor Agreements.
- 545 • **Competitive Bids:** Support updating the threshold for requiring competitive

546 bidding to \$37,000 due to inflation and rising costs since Ch. 59.52 sub 29
547 was established.
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549 **Public Safety and Emergency Management**

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- 551 • **EMS Services:** Support legislation that encourages financial support of
552 volunteers in emergency medical services and that addresses liability issues
553 and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for radio frequency
554 and upgrade requirements.
- 555 • **Communications Surcharge for 911 Systems:** Support legislation to redirect
556 some of the Police and Fire Protection Fee surcharge to 911 Centers.
- 557 • **First Responder Training:** Require training for first responders on appropriate
558 procedures for identifying, assisting, and interacting with older adults as well as
559 other adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental health
560 or other disorders.
- 561 • **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county
562 costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated
563 costs including redaction.
- 564 • **Criminal Background Check:** Support additional funds to the Department of
565 Justice to enable conducting of uniform criminal background checks of to-be-
566 hired direct care workers by public non-profit agencies.
- 567 • **Multi-line Telephone System (MLTS) Calls to 911:** Support legislation
568 requiring owners/operators of these systems to deliver Wisconsin 9-1-1
569 Centers precise location information instead of merely the “headquarters office”
570 location and call-back numbers now delivered when callers from their system
571 dial 9-1-1 seeking aid.
- 572 • **Support Gun Control:** Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed carry
573 permits, make the purchase of a firearm for somebody who is prohibited from
574 possessing a firearm a felony, make the possession of a concealed firearm by
575 those prohibited under Wisconsin law a felony, and require that private gun
576 sales be subject to criminal background checks performed by a federally
577 licensed gun dealer. Support changes to state law that allow local gun
578 regulations.
- 579 • **Concealed Carry Weapons:** Modify the concealed carry law to prohibit
580 concealed weapons from being carried onto the grounds, parking lots or areas
581 associated with convention, entertainment, and sporting facilities, venues
582 where the public assembles for tradeshow, demonstrations, conventions,
583 consumer shows, entertainment, sporting or educational events, including
584 zoos, convention centers, arenas, horse arenas, hockey arenas, concert and
585 sporting venues for public assembly events, including when those facilities are
586 used for private events, institutions of higher learning, public schools, child care
587 facilities, community centers, health care facilities, and public mass
588 transportation. Support setting concealed carry license fees at an amount
589 sufficient to fund all County Sheriffs’ costs associated with administering the
590 law.
- 591 • **Gun Safety:** Support public funding for gun safety education and access to
592 gun locks.
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Criminal Justice and Corrections

- **Racial disparities:** Support all efforts to remove racial inequities and inequitable access to our broken criminal justice system. Support publishing racial disparity and incarceration statistics at all levels of the criminal justice system.
- **Smart Justice:** Support legislation and state investments in smart justice reforms that work to solve the problems of crime such as access to mental health services, treatment for addiction, affordable housing, education, and employment rather than simply punishing people. Support evidence-based, data-driven reforms that enhance fairness and efficiencies while increasing safety and reducing taxpayer costs.
- **Triage and restoration:** Support state investment in community triage and restoration centers.
- **Alternatives to incarceration:** Support alternatives to incarceration throughout the criminal justice system with strong state support for front-end diversion programs.
- **Expungement:** Support removing employment barriers by creating an opportunity for expungement for all ages.
- **Bail, Probation & Parole:** Support comprehensive reform on state parole and probation revocation policy, including decreasing crimeless revocations and allowing individuals to be released pending revocation investigation in order to reduce days in jail. Support reforms to bail and conditions of pretrial release that respects the constitutional rights of the accused, enhances public safety, and incorporates evidence-based strategies.
- **Changes to state DOC process:** Urge the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to hold revocation hearings outside of jails and continue technological changes that help reduce length of stay.
- **Mental Health Courts:** Encourage state support for county mental health courts.
- **Prisoner Re-entry:** Adequately fund prisoner community re-entry programs including transportation to increase success and effectiveness. Support application of a State Plan Amendment to provide pre-release Medical Assistance coverage for eligible individuals to improve access to health care services.
- **Close Public Defender Eligibility Gap:** Support changing Public Defender eligibility level to the same level as eligibility for appointed counsel to eliminate the gap that currently requires the court to appoint counsel at county expense.
- **County Jail:** Support funding for incarceration alternatives.
- **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion:** Support enhancements to public safety and reduce unnecessary corrections related expenditures by (a) Increasing funding for the treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually; (b) Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime can be eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature; (c) Changing the statute so that people with a mental health issue (and not a co-occurring addiction issue) can be eligible; and (d) Focusing the growth in TAD in these three main areas: (1) Expansion of OWI Courts, SSTOP, and other programs that address drunk driving; (2) Expansion of drug treatment programs that can help deal with the growing heroin problem as well as other drugs; and (3) Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted to the communities that have the state's highest incarceration

- 647 rates.
- 648 • **Court Interpreters:** Support appointing court interpreters to all cases
649 regardless of indigence and support an increase in state funding for
650 reimbursement to counties for interpreter services.
- 651 • **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of
652 WCJRA to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options
653 while reducing the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to
654 fund local criminal justice/treatment programs.
- 655 • **Racial Disparity Subcommittee:** Support creation of a state Criminal Justice
656 Coordinating Council subcommittee on racial disparities within the criminal
657 justice system.
- 658 • **State Court System:** Increase state funding of the circuit court system,
659 including court security.
- 660 • **Victim-Witness Program:** Support full state funding of program costs.
- 661 • **Clerk of Court Fees:** Pursue statutory changes to increase the county share
662 of fines/forfeitures.
- 663 • **Fines and Fees:** Support efforts to give judges flexibility and discretion on
664 fines.
- 665 • **Domestic Violence:** Support state funding for domestic violence prevention,
666 intervention, and prosecution, including funding for three ADA positions
667 dedicated to domestic violence and shelter services.
- 668 • **Fee Increase for Jury Trial:** Support legislation to increase the fee for a jury
669 trial from \$6 to \$15. The funding is needed to offset increases in juror
670 compensation.
- 671 • **Prisoner Medical Costs and Hospitalization:** Support any state and federal
672 efforts to maintain Medicaid coverage for incarcerated people and oppose any
673 legislation that would expand the County's statutory obligation to pay medical
674 and hospital costs for anyone other than indigent residents who are being held
675 at the Dane County Jail under the state's criminal laws or for contempt of court.
- 676 • **District Attorney Funding:** Support increased state funding for more Deputy
677 District Attorney and Assistance District Attorney positions to meet growing
678 caseloads.
- 679 • **Mental Health Screenings:** Support and fund mental health screening and
680 treatment for jailed inmates in county juvenile detention, shelter homes, and
681 county jails.
- 682 • **Legalize Marijuana:** Support legislation legalizing marijuana. Dane County
683 voters approved by 82% "yes" votes and 18% "no" votes in November of 2022.
- 684 • **Victim-Witness Services:** Support increasing state funding for victim-witness
685 services to cover additional costs to counties from Marsy's Law.
- 686 • **Public Defenders:** Support pay progression plans and retention initiatives to
687 help ensure adequate access to public defenders for those who need one.
- 688 • **Policing reforms:** Support efforts to ban chokehold and increase transparency
689 on use of force.
- 690 • **Body Cameras:** Support state body camera legislation that requires minimum
691 days of storage of footage, public access to footage, a prohibition of police
692 officers reviewing footage before writing their report of the incident, and funding
693 for public defender staff to review, document, and store body camera footage.
694 Also support state legislation that does not mandate that local law enforcement
695 agencies use body cameras. Support state legislation that funds police vehicle

- 696 dash cameras.
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- **Interstate Traffic Tickets:** Amend State Statutes to allow Wisconsin to join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to facilitate collection of out-of-state traffic violators and capture a needed revenue source for the state and county.
 - **Boating Laws:** Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken driving.
 - **Payday Lenders:** Support legislation to create additional consumer protections from payday lenders.
 - **Human trafficking:** Supports efforts to eradicate human trafficking using a paired approach of increased enforcement and addressing root causes.
 - **Preventing stolen vehicles:** Support efforts to prevent stolen vehicles that will create disincentives to breaking and entering of homes and the intentional stealing of vehicles for financial and recreational purposes.
 - **Drunk Driving:** Support state funding for drunk driving prevention.
 - **Sexual Violence Prevention:** Support state funding for sexual violence prevention efforts, education. Support ADA positions dedicated to sexual violence prosecution.

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716 **Immigrants and Refugees**

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- **Sanctuary Cities/Counties:** Oppose legislation that requires county workers/law enforcement to review immigration status any time an individual comes in contact with government workers. Oppose banning specified immigrants from living in communities. Urge Wisconsin to seek grants for Syrian refugee resettlement.
 - **Drivers' Licenses:** Support legislation that allows undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers' licenses.
 - **In-State Tuition for Immigrants:** Support restoring the law for in-state tuition for state residents who graduated from a Wisconsin High School, but lack proper immigration documentation.

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729 **Bicycle and Recreational Trails**

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- **Transportation Aids:** Support the use of transportation aids for the construction and maintenance of bicycle trails with significant commuter traffic.
 - **Bike Trail Task Force:** Support the creation and development of a statewide Bike Trail Task Force.
 - **Commuter Transportation:** Support integrating bicycle transportation into future commuter transportation systems.
 - **Trail System Development:** Request DNR assistance in the development of regional trail systems.
 - **Eminent Domain:** Repeal Wis. Stat. 32.015, which prohibits local governments from using eminent domain for constructing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

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Mass Transit

- **Regional Transit Authority:** Support legislation allowing local governments to create Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) to provide regional transit services across local government boundaries that is flexible enough to adapt to local needs and has these basic parameters: A representative RTA could be formed by one or more municipal governing bodies passing resolutions in support. A referendum would need to be adopted by a majority of voters in each municipality forming, or seeking to join the RTA. The amount of the sales tax would need to be authorized in the referendum, but could not exceed 0.5%. The governing board would be composed of elected officials, representative of the communities within the RTA area. Support planning funds for regional light rail, bus, or other forms of mass transportation and pursue support from Dane County towns, cities, and villages for this concept.
- **Passenger Rail:** Support state and federal funding to improve Amtrak passenger rail service and establish a high speed passenger rail line connecting Madison with the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago.
- **Airport Authority:** Oppose legislation that takes airport governance away from county government and gives it to a private/public airport authority.
- **Autonomous Taxi/Cars:** Support a tax on the rental of passenger vehicles and mass transit without drivers to support workers displaced by such technologies.
- **Airport Fuel Storage:** Support state and federal funding to help small and medium sized airports transition away from leaded fuel use by increasing unleaded fuel storage capacity at airports and providing assistance to transition small aircraft to unleaded fuel.

Local Road Funding and Projects

- **Local Transportation:** Support a greater share of state and federal transportation funding going toward local transportation needs and services. Funding should be increased for General Transportation Aids, State Highway Maintenance, the County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Specialized Transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities. Require “farmland mitigation” for highway improvement projects. Funding formulas that discriminate against urban counties should be revised and the local match (now 50%) for CHIPS should be decreased.
- **North Mendota Parkway:** Oppose the construction of four lanes on Main Street (HWY 19) in Waunakee. Support an update of the 2003 North Mendota Parkway traffic study, and request WIDOT to consider how the proposed North Mendota Parkway, Hwy 19, CTH K, CTH M and Hwy 113 relate to each other and Hwy 12. Support an implementation review of the “North E-Way”. Support state and federal funding for the North Mendota Parkway.
- **Beltline Study:** Support state funding for the Beltline Planning and Environmental Linkages Corridor Study to develop long-term solutions to address safety, operational, and capacity concerns on US 12/14/18/151 extending from US 14 (city of Middleton) to County N (town of Cottage Grove) in Dane County, Wisconsin. Support local representation on the study committee and state funding for projects recommended by the committee.

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- **Highway Funding:** Require WIDOT to provide more funding up front through operational reimbursement and incentivizing improvements.
 - **Highway Worker Safety:** Earmark a portion of every state construction/maintenance contract to fund increased local law enforcement in construction/maintenance zone. Support innovative approaches to improve work zone safety and legislation to allow for the use of the color green on maintenance vehicles to improve snowplow safety.

801 **Waste and Renewables**

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- **Recycling:** Support long-term state funding for state's recycling program. Support continued state efforts to expand markets for recycled materials. Support allowing local governments or other entities to receive more than one state grant for innovative demonstration projects.
 - **Landfill Siting:** Allow municipalities to replace existing public landfills without a new DNR needs determination. Support modifying landfill negotiation-mediation process to include counties as an appropriate governing body for the approval of negotiated agreements. Support prohibiting the construction of landfills until the negotiation-mediation process is complete.
 - **Clean Sweep:** Support increased state/federal funding for household and Ag Clean Sweep.
 - **Landfill/Solid Waste Fees and Program Reductions:** Oppose state increases to the landfill recycling tipping fee and environmental repair fee. Oppose the elimination or reduction of recycling and solid waste programs.
 - **Landfills:** Allow municipally owned landfills to use the net worth method of establishing financial responsibility. Currently, under Wis. Stats. 289.41(4), only companies may use this method.

821 **Land Use, Land Records, and Land Regulation**

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- **Flood Insurance Threat:** Oppose any proposal to suspend state floodplain rules that nullify federal flood insurance and jeopardize federal disaster assistance for Wisconsin flood victims.
 - **Wisconsin Land Information Program:** Support the continuation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program and grants.
 - **Comprehensive Planning:** Oppose legislation that undermines the comprehensive planning statutes.
 - **Transmission Lines:** Support an independent study of the need for additional high voltage transmission lines through Dane County. Oppose the construction and operation of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line pending the receipt of a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives.
 - **Takings Legislation:** Oppose legislation that would require county government to compensate real property owners for restricted use or loss of property value as a result of law or regulations.
 - **Transmission Line Construction:** Support requiring power lines to be constructed underground to protect Dane County economic and environmental resources while enhancing resiliency and reliability during extreme weather events.

- 841 • **Support Local Control of Nonmetallic Mining:** Oppose any state
842 legislation that preempts local governments from enacting their own
843 nonmetallic mining regulations and oversight of air/water quality, highway
844 damage, noise, and use contracts.
- 845 • **Effigy Mounds & Burial Sites:** Oppose legislation that allows the
846 disturbance or destruction of Native American effigy mounds and old
847 burial sites.
- 848 • **Utility Deregulation:** Oppose any deregulation that leads to higher
849 consumer rates. Any attempts to restructure the delivery of electricity should
850 address: reliability of electrical service, equitable benefits to large and small
851 rate payers, the social and environmental impacts of restructuring, and the
852 ability of counties to aggregate purchase electricity.
- 853 • **Holding Tanks as Systems of Last Resort:** Support changes in statutes
854 and administrative rules that oppose using holding tanks except as a last
855 resort for new and replacement septic systems. Modify rules and statutes to
856 ensure funding from the Wisconsin Fund is for the least costly systems,
857 excluding holding tanks, unless a holding tank is the system of last resort.
- 858 • **Land Use and Natural Resource Protection:** Oppose any proposals that
859 weaken Dane County's ability to responsibly manage the use of land within
860 its jurisdiction, including but not limited to tools like comprehensive planning,
861 zoning, land division/subdivision regulations, and shoreland, floodplain, and
862 wetland regulation.
- 863 • **Restore and Enhance Land Use Authority:** Support efforts to restore and
864 expand Dane County's land use authority including but not limited to
865 comprehensive planning, land division, zoning, and shoreland, wetland, and
866 floodplain regulations to promote countywide planning.

867 Elections

- 869 • **Voter Registration Changes and Voter Identification Requirement:**
870 Oppose legislation that changes same day voter registration, reduces
871 times for absentee ballot voting and/or requires photo identification to
872 vote.
- 873 • **Public Funding for Elections:** Support public financing for local and state
874 elections.

875 Community, Workforce, and Economic Development

- 877 • **Broadband Coverage:** Support increasing financial support to expand
878 broadband services to underserved rural areas and change state law to
879 allow all levels of local governments and publicly funded entities to build and
880 subsidize broadband networks and projects in underserved areas.
- 881 • **Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act:** Oppose permitting an employer to
882 refuse to employ, bar or terminate from employment an individual who has
883 been convicted of a felony and who has not been pardoned for that felony,
884 and pre-empting local government from adopting ordinances concerning
885 employment discrimination based on arrest or conviction records that
886 prohibit activity allowed under the state Fair Employment Act.
- 887 • **Minimum Wage:** Support increasing the minimum wage to a living wage.
- 888 • **Transitional Jobs Program:** Support expanding the state Transitional
889 Jobs Program in the Department of Children and Families.
- 890 • **UW Extension:** Support adequate staffing and funding levels to sustain
891 Dane County Extension's high-quality educational programs for farmers,
892 businesses, communities, families and young people.
- 893 • **Collective Bargaining and Workers Rights:** Support all workers having the

- 894 right to seek safe working conditions, benefits, and fair pay through collective
895 bargaining.
- 896 • **Student Debt:** Support legislation to lower student debt by any means
897 possible including refinancing loans, implementing tax breaks for those paying
898 back the loans, reducing interest rates and ensuring tuition is affordable.
 - 899 • **School Choice Expansion:** Oppose the voucher program or a similar
900 facsimile in the Madison Metropolitan School District or in any Dane County
901 school system.

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903 **Arts**

- 904 • **Arts Funding:** Support increased funding for the arts across Wisconsin,
905 especially for art projects in communities, schools, colleges, and public
906 facilities.

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908 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of
909 Supervisors goes on record in support of this 2023-2025 Dane County Legislative
910 Agenda; and

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912 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Legislative Lobbyist be
913 directed to pursue enactment of these legislative positions; and

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915 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution will be sent to the
916 Governor, the Leadership of both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature, and the
917 Wisconsin legislative delegation representing Dane County.