



2017-18 State of Wisconsin Legislative Session

The following legislative proposals are suggested for enactment by the State of Wisconsin during its 2017-2018 Biennial Session.

1. Revenues
 - Continue the State Shared Revenues and Expenditure Restraint Program and increase funding levels.
 - Provide more local revenue options to reduce reliance on property taxes.
 - Maintain Personal Property Taxes unless alternative revenue source is adopted to ensure homeowners do not have to bear increased tax burden.
 - Increase the funding for Municipal Services Payments so that affected municipalities are able to recoup a more realistic amount of their costs to provide municipal services at state facilities within their borders.
2. Transportation
 - Continue the State programs of transportation aids, including state highway aids and state connecting highway aids and increase funding levels.
 - Modify the aids formula to provide additional funding to municipalities that are fully developed with higher per lane miles of roads and very old infrastructure.
 - Improve funding for alternate forms of transportation, including rail, transit and bicycling.
3. Spending and Tax Levy Limits
 - Eliminate spending and tax levy limits for municipalities. If limits are not eliminated, then maintain spending limit at CPI and change levy limit to CPI.
4. Property Tax Exemptions
 - Reduce number and scope of property tax exemptions that shift the burden of paying for municipal services to residential property owners.
5. Municipal Labor Relations
 - Establish Wisconsin FMLA regulations to be the same as federal FMLA.
 - Require protective service union members to be subject to the same legislation as that imposed on non-protective service union members (i.e., WI Acts 10/32 mandates).
 - Revise Wisconsin healthcare mandates/regulations to be same as federal.
 - Establish Wisconsin employment law mandates/regulations to be same as federal (such as WFEA in line with all applicable federal laws).
 - Prohibit final offers submitted by (Police & Fire) unions from exceeding the City's allowable spending and levy limits.
 - Prohibit arbitration from using comparable wage and benefit increases in other cities when choosing between the two final offers (Police & Fire unions).
 - Require an arbitrator to favor the final offer that best matches the economic and budget conditions of the City (Police & Fire unions).
 - Prohibit the arbitrator from considering the City's fund balances when choosing the final offer (Police & Fire unions).
 - Allow part-time employees the ability to opt-out of retirement benefits or create non-pension positions.
 - Eliminate overtime in calculations for retirement benefits with ETF.
6. State Mandates
 - Reduce State employment laws on sexual harassment, workers compensation, unemployment compensation, FMLA, etc. down to the level of federal laws.
 - Relax the water quality standards that limit the amount of phosphorus allowed in wastewater treatment plant effluent.
 - Reduce DOT rules and regulations for transportation projects to improve design timeframe.
 - Provide full funding for recycling mandates; reduce tipping fees.
 - Provide for the allowable increase of beer license fees from \$100 to \$500 and liquor license fees from \$500 to \$2,500.

- Support true early voting instead of in-person absentee voting.
- Restore corroboration for voter registration.
- Restore municipalities' ability to redistrict before the State redistricts.
- Support independent agency, i.e., G.A.B. or Legislative Reference Bureau, to administer redistricting for the State.
- Support charging for redaction time relative to open record requests.
- Provide the mandated funding level of 13% (now 8%) for public library system aids.
- Modify State library laws to specify and clarify the powers of a federated system and local library boards.
- Increase maximum allowable municipal court fees.
- Preserve a municipality's ability to utilize utility PILOTS to its fullest.
- Require State agencies to provide timely and dependable financial information which is critical to municipal budget preparation.
- Prohibit State agencies from deleting or reducing municipal aid payments after local budgets are adopted.
- Recognize and provide direct funding for Milwaukee Central Library as a State resource library.

7. Development

- Provide financial incentives for older city, brownfield TIFs.
- Change condemnation law to allow property owner to accept eminent domain/condemnation offer, but allow at a later date the ability to litigate the amount, including attorney fees.
- Invest in programs that support foreclosure prevention, intervention, and neighborhood stabilization and allow municipalities the ability to start action on Zombie properties and obtain property in cases where no other parties are interested in the property.
- Support legislation that would allow the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to lower the base value of a specific property within a TIF district when that subject property has been vacant for an extended period of time; when it has been damaged by a natural disaster; or where the property's redevelopment progress has been stalled by market conditions.
- Develop a robust innovative "Seed and Growth Capital" program that complements Wisconsin's forward thinking culture and supports entrepreneurial activities.
- Support workforce training programs.
- Support tax credit portability and create an income tax credit transfer program that can be used to enhance Wisconsin's business development and job creation activities.
- Adopt the International Building Code for one and two family dwelling units.

8. Safety

- Fund crime prevention programs; remove barriers to crime reduction.
- Fund domestic and sexual assault service programs.
- Provide funding and/or financial options for paramedics.
- Support municipalities' sex offender ordinances.
- Maintain existing asset forfeiture legislation.

9. Public Works

- Support environmental and sustainability programs.
- Provide funding for storm water maintenance projects.
- Provide funding for Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests response.
- Provide funding or funding options for parks/culture, etc.