

**City of West Allis
Legislative Package
2013-2014 State of Wisconsin Legislative Session**

The following legislative proposals are suggested for enactment by the State of Wisconsin during its 2013-2014 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.

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 WI 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).
 - Establish WI healthcare mandates/regulations to be same as federal (such as mental health parity).
 - Establish WI 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).

6. State Mandates

- Eliminate the maintenance of efforts for public safety and emergency services.
- Eliminate the maintenance of efforts for libraries; substitute an alternative rule that would continue to ensure basic levels of library financing for participants in federated library systems.
- 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.

7. Development Cont'd.

- 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.

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.

9. Public Works

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