

CITY OF MADISON SESSION SUMMARY

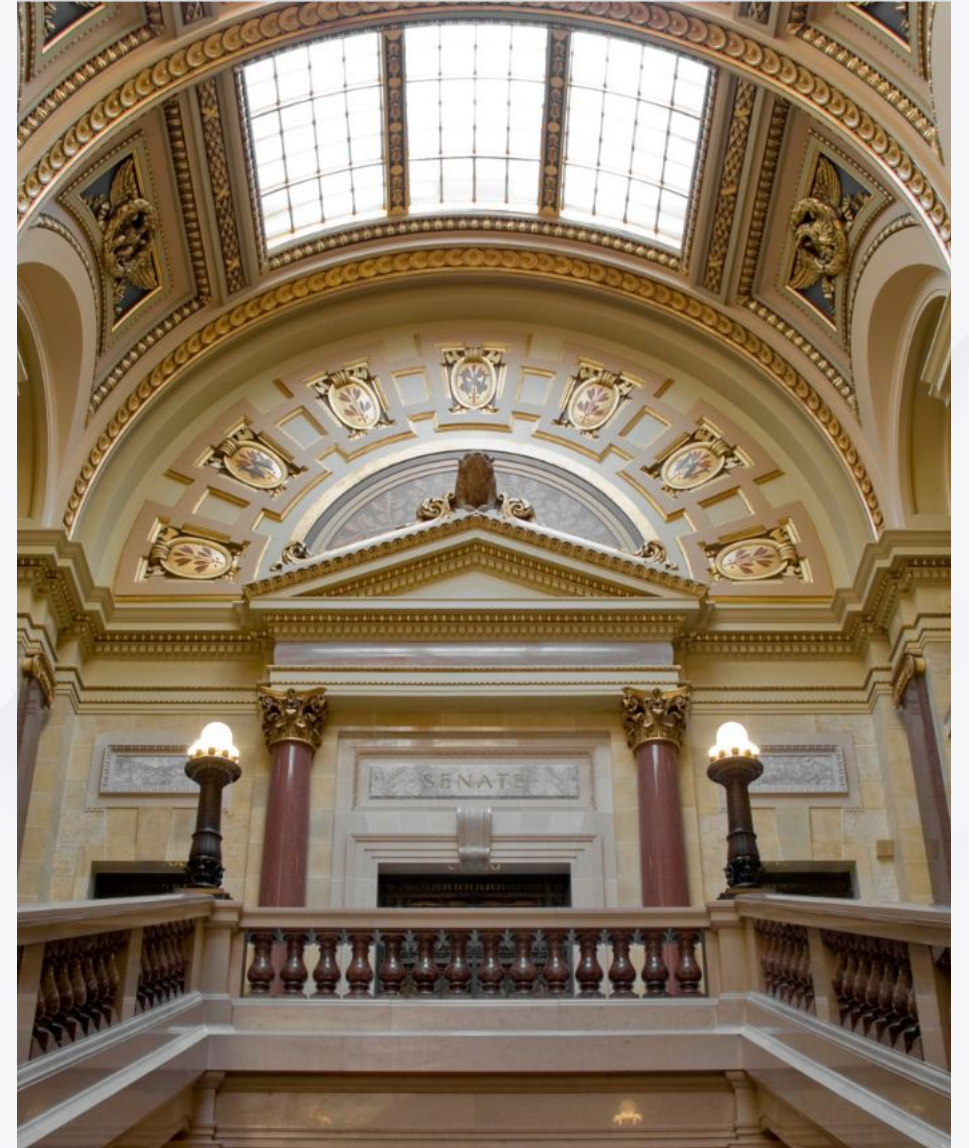
An overview of the 2025–2026 Wisconsin regular state session statistics, Madison's legislative tracker, and the biennial state budget.

2025-26
SESSION STATISTICS



SESSION OVERVIEW

- **State Budget:** On July 3, Wisconsin's new two-year state budget was signed by Gov. Tony Evers, totaling **\$111.1 billion** in spending (12% increase).
- **Strategic Pressures:** Negotiations this session were intense due to slim majorities in the Senate and obvious differences within each caucus.
- **End of Session:** Wisconsin State Assembly Republicans concluded their scheduled floor sessions in February, while the State Senate wrapped up on March 17. All final bills were sent to the Governor on May 27.
- **New Leadership:** Next session will be a very different playing field as Speaker Vos and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu announced they will not be seeking re election.



CITY OF MADISON 2025–26 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

● CREATING MORE HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

- Update the Homestead Tax Credit.
- Extend the life of tax increment districts to allow for additional housing construction.
- Update state building code to allow single stairways in buildings up to 6 floors.
- Consider adding to the Housing Cost Reduction Initiative.

● GROWING TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support funding to rebuild the Badger Interchange.
- Create uniform fuel tax policy for municipalities.
- Maintain or increase state transit aid.
- Repeal the prohibition on using eminent domain for bicycle or pedestrian facilities.
- Create a mechanism for regional transit planning and operations.

● SUPPORTING CHILDCARE OPTIONS

- Continue the successful state Child Care Counts Program.
- Support employers in implementing workforce solutions to address hiring and
- retainment challenges caused by a lack of affordable, reliable childcare for employees.
- Funding for the Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance.
- Support training for childcare workers.

● MAINTAINING COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Expand Medicaid.
- Support local initiatives to create alternative emergency response teams for behavioral health emergencies.
- Support increased funding to cities, towns, and villages to expand and improve emergency medical services (EMS).
- Continue to address PFAS contamination.

● REDUCING PROPERTY TAXES AND ADDRESSING COST OF LIVING

- Fully fund the Payment for Municipal Services Program.
- Maintain or increase Shared Revenue at a rate equal to the growth of State GPR.
- Establish a 2% minimum net new construction factor for the levy limit.
- Eliminate the “covered services” penalty in the levy limit .
- Establish a 1.2% minimum net new construction factor in the Expenditure Restraint Program.
- Allow local option sales tax.

COMMON COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT 2025-26

- 2 lobby days
 - Sept. 24, 2025
 - Feb. 18, 2026
- 9 council members, as well as Council and Mayor's Office staff
- Legislator meetings:
 - Senate Minority Leader Dianne Hesselbein
 - Senate Minority Caucus Chair Mark Spreitzer
 - Minority Caucus Secretary Rep. Mike Bare
 - Rep. Todd Novak, Chair of Assembly Committee on Local Government
 - Minority Caucus Vice-Chair Rep. Clinton Anderson, Ranking Member of Assembly Committee on Local Government
 - Rep. Lori Palmeri, Member of Assembly Committee on Local Government
 - Rep. Shelia Stubbs
 - Rep. Francesca Hong
 - Rep. Alex Joers



WISCONSIN SESSION STATISTICS

Chamber Status & Metric	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills
Bills Introduced	1,238 Bills introduced in Assembly	1,185 Bills introduced in Senate
Failed Passage (pursuant to SJR 1)	947 Bills failed passage	1,011 Bills failed passage
Failed Concurrence (pursuant to SJR 1)	93 Bills failed concurrence	29 Bills failed concurrence
Enacted into Law	136 Enacted into law	111 Enacted into law
Executive Veto Actions	62 Vetoed / 2 Partially Vetoed	34 Vetoed / 1 Partially Vetoed

Note: Verbatim metrics sourced from the legislative ledger "200 - Session Statistics.pdf" for the period ending April 15, 2026.

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION ENACTED

Housing & Development

- ✓ **AB-452 (Plat Approvals):** Allows self-certification of public improvement designs for subdivision approvals.
- ✓ **AB-182 / SB-178:** Modernizes the state's low-income housing tax credit framework.
- ✓ **AB-194 / SB-180:** Modifies program structures under WHEDA to support municipal programs.
- ✓ **AB-424 / SB-427:** Refines statutory rules and requirements for manufactured home rentals.
- ✓ **AB-454 / SB-476:** Establishes and funds a new state workforce home loan program.

Emergency Services

- ✓ **AB-198 / SB-182:** Expands EMS education funding, tuition reimbursement, and pilots Live 911.
- ✓ **AB-199 / SB-183:** Enables Medicaid reimbursement for EMS calls without transport; modifies ERIP eligibility.

Local Gov & Infrastructure

- ✓ **AB-217 / SB-216:** Increases and modernizes public works competitive bidding thresholds.
- ✓ **AB-219 / SB-213:** Enacts a dedicated state tax credit program for rail infrastructure modernization.

2025-27 STATE BUDGET

LOCAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

+\$7M

ANNUAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE BOOST

Rebuilding Municipal Service Pathways

A critical \$7 million annual increase is authorized for the Payments for Municipal Services program. This landmark restoration funds approximately 50% of the state's share that municipalities are entitled to for providing police, fire, and logistics support to state government facilities.

Infrastructure Boosts: Incorporates \$1.4 billion for statewide Medicaid supports and unlocks \$200 million in direct transportation investments through revised transit and licensing fee structures.

CORE EDUCATION & CHILD CARE



K-12 Education

Nearly **\$1.4 billion** in new resources for public schools. Boosts special education aid ratios to 42% in Year 1 and 45% in Year 2 of the biennium.



Child Care Support

Over **\$330 million** provided to child care networks, launching an innovative state-funded general-revenue program to stabilize local centers.



Higher Education

Secured over **\$250 million** in new funding for the Universities of Wisconsin and a **20% increase** for Wisconsin Grants at private colleges.

RELIEF & FOOD SECURITY

Tax Relief Provisions (\$1.5B)

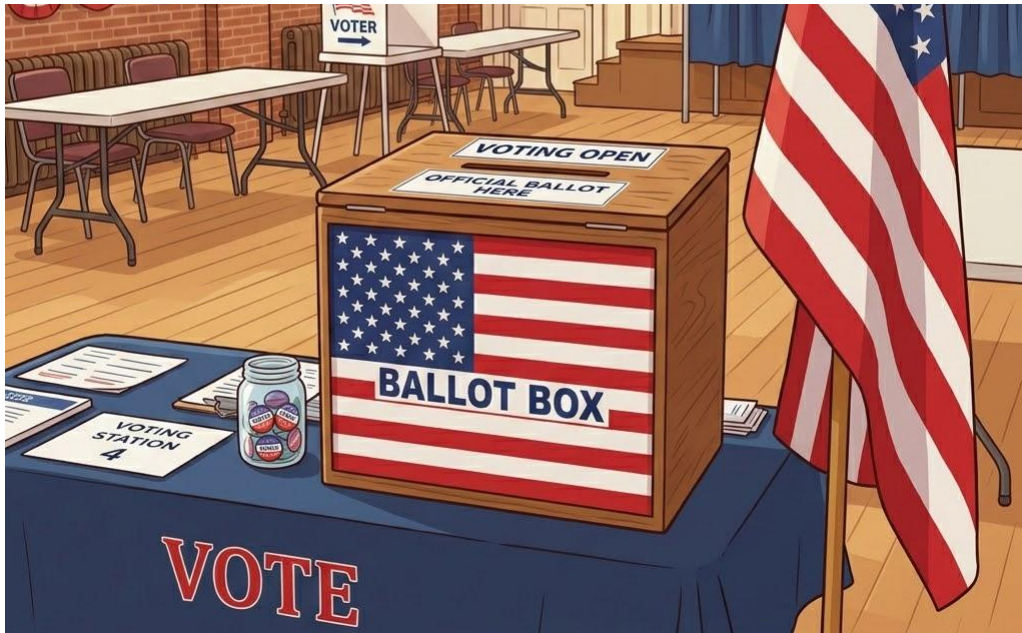
The budget delivers a wide-ranging relief package for Wisconsin households, providing substantial middle-class income tax reductions and robust retirement income exemptions for seniors.

Energy Savings: Eliminates the municipal and state sales tax on electricity to directly reduce household energy bills starting in the next cycle.

Food Security Initiative (\$10M)

Allocates critical state funding to extend the Food Security Initiative grant program across metropolitan and rural centers.

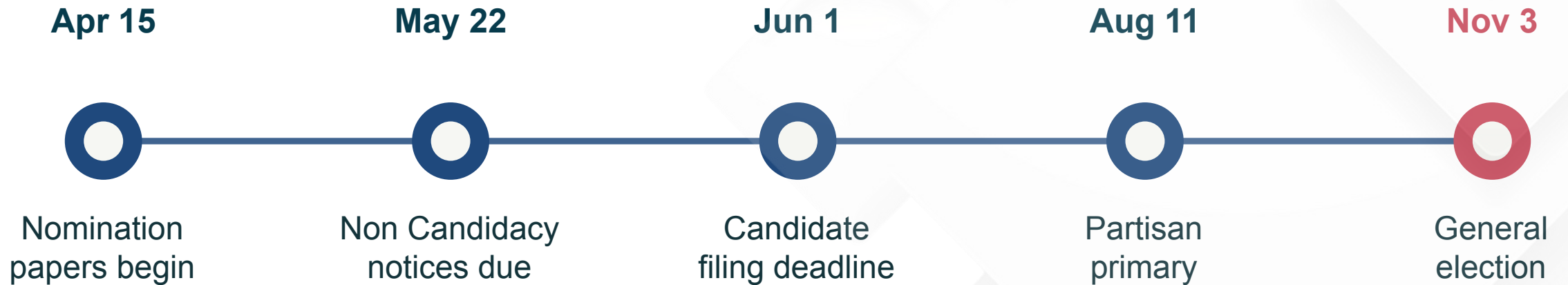
Localized Logistics: Directly links local non-profit assistance agencies, such as food pantries and networks, with localized organic and high-volume food producers.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 ELECTION

2026 Wisconsin Legislative Election Cycle

Republicans hold both chambers; new maps and narrow margins make control competitive.



A Closer Look at How Control Could Flip

Republicans hold both chambers; new maps and narrow margins make control competitive.

Assembly: 54 R majority / 45 D minority



Democratic flip threshold: net +5 seats

50 seats = control

Senate: 18 R majority / 15 D minority



Democratic flip threshold: net +2 seats

17 seats = control

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your active leadership and representation this session!

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