

2023-25

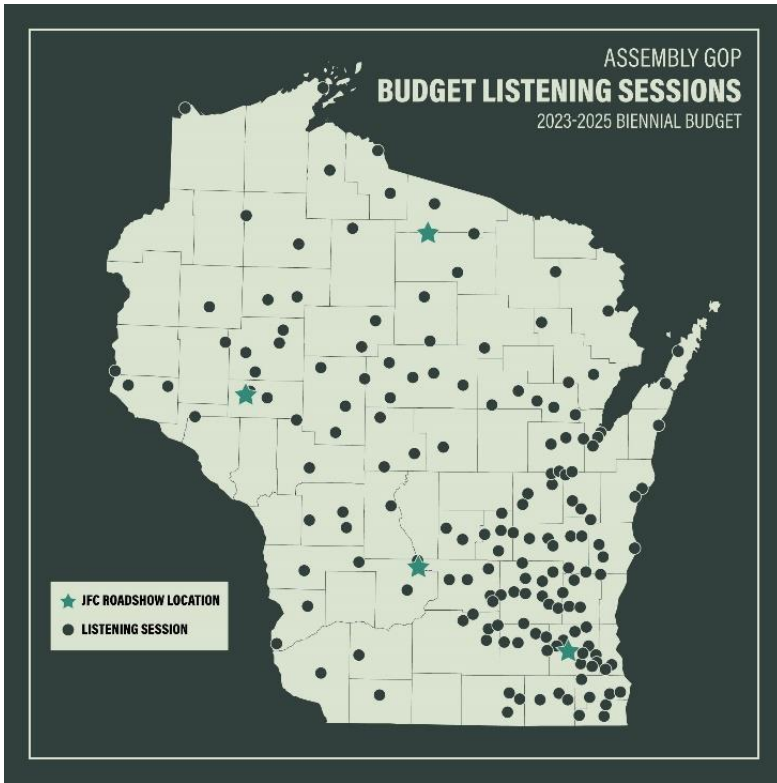
Joint Committee on
Finance Budget

A Budget Made for Wisconsin

Assembly GOP Summary
June 27, 2023

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A Budget Made for Wisconsin

The 2023-25 budget crafted by Republicans is made for all of Wisconsin. The Joint Committee on Finance heard from thousands of individuals by email and in person at our four statewide listening sessions. In addition, Assembly Republicans held over 180 local listening sessions to hear directly from their constituents.

Our budget reflects the priorities of Wisconsinites with substantial investments in key programs, while providing the largest tax cut in state history. ***We demonstrated, once again, that it's possible to fund important priorities—like funding high-quality education for all students, investing in our roads and supporting the accessibility of healthcare—while delivering meaningful tax relief to our residents and businesses.***

This budget is for all of Wisconsin, so whether you live in Superior, Kenosha, or anywhere in between, your community and each individual living in it will be better served through improved services and lower taxes.

Reducing Taxes

Republicans approved the largest tax cut in state history—over \$4.4 billion—because we believe individuals know how to spend their own money better than the government does. So regardless of whether it's helping offset the inflationary pressures families are facing, going toward reducing debt or buying a stay-cation, we know that when taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned dollars, it is money well-spent.

Income taxes:

Single/Head of Household	Married Joint	Married Separate	Current Law Tax Rate	Republican Proposal
\$0 - \$13,810	\$0 - \$18,420	\$0 - \$9,210	3.54%	3.50%
\$13,810 - \$27,630	\$18,420 - \$36,840	\$9,210 - \$18,420	4.65%	4.40%
\$27,630 - \$304,170	\$36,840 - \$405,550	\$18,420 - \$202,780	5.30%	4.40%
\$304,170 +	\$405,550 +	\$202,780 +	7.65%	6.50%

The Republican plan reduces income taxes by \$3.5 billion dollars—averaging \$537 per filer each year. This represents an *average cut of over 15%* and impacts every taxpayer in the state. And while all taxpayers receive a benefit, our plan targets relief to the middle class—collapsing two brackets into one lower bracket. It also takes steps towards making our state tax rates more competitive with our neighbors. By lowering the top bracket by 1.15%, it brings us closer—although still higher—to the top rates of our Midwest neighbors.

Property taxes:

Our plan will also reduce property taxes below what Governor Evers proposed in each year of the biennium. When Republicans decided to provide a historic investment in our K-12 schools, we didn't want it to be on the backs of local property taxpayers, which is why **we're spending over \$600 million for reducing the property tax burden** in our state.

Business taxes:

One of the most onerous taxes in Wisconsin is the personal property tax, paid by businesses in our state. This administratively burdensome tax harms our local businesses most and stifles their growth. Our budget, in combination with Act 12 (the shared revenue bill) will eliminate the personal property tax, while holding local governments harmless. This is a win for our Main Streets, small businesses throughout the state, and local governments.

In addition, **our budget provides targeted tax relief for businesses in our state through programs that benefit the entire community**. It invests in the Research and Development credit, which brings family supporting jobs to our state; a new program to help small businesses and agricultural producers receive more competitive loans through their local banks; and increases the discount for partner businesses that collect sales tax on behalf of the state.

Smaller, More Efficient Government

Governor Evers proposed a massive increase in state spending and over 800 new government positions. His budget would have spent over 22% more general purpose revenue on the backs of hardworking taxpayers through a **two billion dollar tax hike** on individuals and businesses. These new taxes would have gone to expanding welfare, creating countless new government programs and increasing regulation on our residents and businesses.

The contrast between Governor Evers' recommended budget and the Republican-crafted budget couldn't be clearer. Our budget **decreases government bureaucracy** by eliminating 793.75 positions compared to base—1,610.10 fewer than what Governor Evers recommended. Our budget increases spending by nearly seven billion dollars **less** than the executive budget and **right-sizes countless operations budgets** to constrain agency bloat.

In addition, we budgeted smarter through funding our priorities while bonding less. Our budget **bonds over \$165M dollars less than Governor Evers and pays off \$400 million in existing debt**—saving money for future generations.

When it comes to strong fiscal management, it couldn't be more evident that Legislative Republicans are more responsible stewards of taxpayer resources through reducing the financial burden on future generations and sending more money back to taxpayers, while making targeted investments in key priorities.



One of the key priorities of Legislative Republicans is making strong investments to support our kids. Our budget makes historic investments in K12 education, with over **one billion dollars going to classrooms throughout our state**. We've provided both flexible funding for school districts to use for their unique needs and **targeted aid for mental health and literacy initiatives**—key areas that we know students are struggling.

We also direct federal resources to support families in our state through child care initiatives and child welfare supports. Our budget takes a **multi-pronged approach to supporting child care** by providing financial assistance to those that need it most; funding initiatives to increase child care capacity and doubling existing funding for provider recruitment and retention. Meanwhile, we increase support for families that provide a loving home to children who can't safely stay in their own.

Republicans also know that we have reliable **community partners that provide important services to strengthen kids and families in our state**. This includes organizations like Children's Wisconsin, the Boys and Girls Club of Wisconsin and family resource centers, all of which we are bolstering our partnerships with through this budget.

Strengthening Our Workforce

Wisconsin's unemployment rate is back to historic lows, yet our labor force participation rate remains below pre-pandemic levels. Employers throughout the state have help wanted signs and, despite raising wages, are struggling to compete in a tight labor market. Republicans recognize these as serious challenges to our state's businesses and economic prosperity. Our budget reflects the need to address workforce challenges through **supporting talent attraction and retention initiatives; investing in workforce housing; and increasing funding for key partners in our state that train our current and future workforce**.

Republicans know that our workforce challenges won't be solved without bringing new talent into our state. That's why we directed the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to spend at least **four million dollars on talent attraction and recruitment initiatives**. These funds are intended to market our state as the great place to live, work and raise a family that all of us living here know it is.

But part of attracting people to live and work in Wisconsin is ensuring they have adequate housing. Our budget invests over half a billion dollars to support the development of next generation housing. The housing shortage in our state is particularly impacting young families, seniors or those looking for a first-time home. The programs we are supporting will help build new housing, convert existing commercial buildings into livable space, and improve the quality of existing housing stock, so that **regardless of whether an individual is looking to relocate here or stay in their existing home, our budget ensures there are options that are affordable**.



MADE FOR WISCONSIN:
REPUBLICAN BUDGET INVESTS
IN OUR STATE'S WORKFORCE

Funds workforce training in
high-need industries

Supports on-the-job training
for our youth

Increases aid for our
technical colleges

Our budget will also **invest in proven programs that develop our current and future workforce**, including supporting our technical college system, new funding for the youth apprenticeship program and increasing support for career and technical education grants. These programs are key drivers of workforce growth and investments in them support the expansion of our labor force.

Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

The agriculture industry contributes over \$100 billion to Wisconsin’s economy and provides nearly half a million jobs for our residents. Republicans made critical investments in our agriculture industry to fund proven programs that support our farmers and agricultural producers throughout the state.

Our budget increases funding for the meat and dairy processor grants to help these key industries increase capacity and improve operations. The funding provided in the Republican budget would double money available for the dairy processor grants and quadruple funds for the meat processor grant program.

We also approved two million dollars more for the agriculture exports program. Wisconsin is a top producer of numerous products, including cheese, cranberries, and ginseng, among others. This export program, started in the 2021-23 budget, aims to increase exports from our state to share more of the valuable products Wisconsin produces.

Republicans also recognize the challenges facing farmers related to mental health—a group that faces higher rates of suicide than the general population. That’s why Republicans are extending funding for the Farmer Wellness Program, which provides a variety of mental health services for farmers and their families.

Farmers are some of the best stewards of our natural resources. Our budget provides funding for several programs that partner with farmers to build on sustainable practices that benefit farmers, consumers and our natural resources, including county conservation staff, the nitrogen optimization pilot program and producer-led watershed protection grants.

Summary of agency action:

- \$1.8M for equipment and supplies for the DATCP Bureau of Laboratory Services
- \$150,000 for IT services departmentwide
- \$3M for the tribal food box program
- \$1.6M for meat processor grants
- \$600,000 for dairy processor grants
- \$2M for the agricultural export program
- \$200,000 for Farmer Mental Health Assistance
- \$387,200 for county fair aids
- \$100,00 for the Agriculture in the Classroom Grant
- \$4.25M for county conservation staff
- \$2M for the nitrogen optimization pilot program
- \$1.6M for cover crop rebates
- \$500,000 for producer-led watershed protection grants



SUPPORTING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Supporting the expansion and promotion of agricultural exports from Wisconsin

Doubling funding to expand meat and dairy processor capacity and production

Increasing funding to meet demand for producer-led conservation grants

- \$7M for soil and water resource management grants
- \$500,000 for clean sweep grants
- \$1M for meat inspection program
- \$140,000 for livestock premises registration

Budget Management and Compensation Reserves

To address inflationary pressures and rising private sector wages, our budget invests heavily in the state’s workforce so we can remain a competitive employer. Republicans are providing a 4% increase in July 2023 and another 2% in July 2024 for nearly all state employees. Those not included are addressed elsewhere in the budget, such as those on separate pay progression plans or elected officials who become eligible for raises at the start of a new term. These raises will help our state facilities, such as DMVs, state healthcare facilities, and correctional systems, remain staffed to provide the core services Wisconsinites expect.

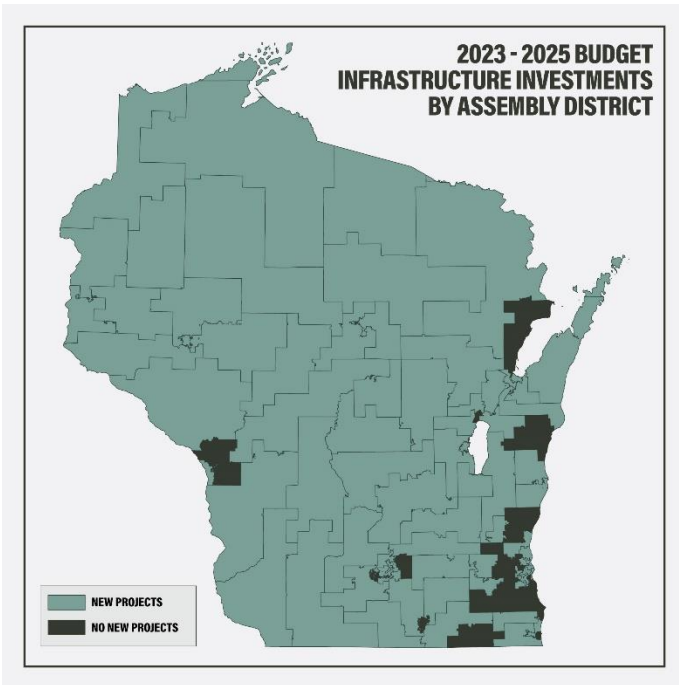
We also targeted raises in key areas that are facing significant shortages. Our budget invests massively in state correctional employees, which face abnormally high vacancy rates – over 30% vacancy statewide and over 50% in certain facilities. \$344M will go towards raising the base pay for correctional security positions and continuing add-ons for high-vacancy facilities and maximum security institutions, along with creating a medium security add-on. These funds demonstrate our appreciation for correctional employees and aim to reduce the staffing shortage straining these workers.

Our budget also provides funding for other key areas that have faced employee shortages, such as IT workers, DSPS credentialing staff, and respiratory therapists employed by the Department of Health Services. These areas have demonstrated severe staffing shortages and Republicans are investing to help recruit and retain workers and keep state pay competitive.

Summary of agency action:

- \$221.1M for a general wage adjustment of 4% in FY24 and 2% in FY25 for state employees
- \$291.6M to increase starting wages for correctional security staff at DOC and DHS facilities from \$20.29 per hour to \$33 per hour
- \$52.3M to continue and expand pay add-ons at DOC facilities
- \$545,200 to extend the retention incentive program for long term DOC and DHS correctional security employees by one year
- \$5.8M to fund pay progression for probation and parole employees of DOC
- \$255,600 to modify pay progression for DNR Wardens and State Capitol Police
- \$4M for market wage and parity adjustments
- \$1.2M annually for market adjustments for state IT employees
- \$16.9M to continue pay add-on pilots to address recruitment and retention issues

Capital Budget



Republicans are making responsible use of one-time funds through our historic capital budget, which invests in new building projects throughout the state and provides for key maintenance on state buildings and properties, to help extend the life of these facilities. Our capital budget approved \$2.4 billion (all funds) that, in combination with investments in other areas of the budget, fund specific infrastructure projects in over 75% of counties in our state.

A full list of projects can be found in [Motion #87](#).

Children and Families

The Republican budget invests in kids and families in our state, providing targeted financial assistance to help strengthen families and support our most vulnerable kids. Our budget makes careful use of federal resources available to support key initiatives for our families.

Our budget spends a total of \$93 million on child care—taking a multi-pronged, targeted approach to helping families afford child care, build provider capacity and support recruitment of child care professionals. We increased eligibility for the WI Shares program to 200% of the federal poverty limit (\$49,720 for a family of three) and smoothed the benefit cliff by reducing copays over 200% to \$1 for every \$5 earned, rather than the current structure of \$1 to every \$3 earned. This helps working parents scale up in the workforce, making it easier for them to accept more work without entirely losing a benefit.

We also provided \$15 million for a revolving loan fund to help providers become licensed and/or expand capacity. This fund is intended to break down barriers for providers to comply with licensing requirements or do improvements to their facility to accept more kids. Meanwhile, our plan seeks to address the workforce challenges facing the industry by investing in the long-standing REWARD program which funds stipends based on education and longevity in the field.

The Republican budget also invests in our most vulnerable kids. We increased funding for kinship caregivers by 25% and increased funding for basic and treatment foster care rates by 5%, to help offset rising costs for families that provide care to children who can't safely stay in their own home. Our budget will also fund key training initiatives for qualified residential treatment program staff—a new residential care type for children in the children in the child welfare system with high needs that is required under recent federal legislation.

TARGETED SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE

Supporting families with the highest need

Increasing capacity of licensed child care

Doubling funding for provider retention

And to help strengthen families and children, we funded community programming designed to support parents and kids. This includes parent training and resources through the Positive Parenting Program; academic and employment training through the Boys and Girls Club of Wisconsin and Jobs for America's Graduates; and the Imagination Library, which provides books to kids regardless of income.

Summary of agency action:

- \$1.94M for continuing WI Shares at a max reimbursement rate equal to 85% of all child care slots in any given county
- \$27M for increasing eligibility for Wisconsin Shares up to 200% of the federal poverty limit and smoothing the benefit cliff, so that copays go up by one dollar for every five dollars earned, instead of one dollar for every three dollars earned
- \$875,000 for increasing tribal child care contracts to administer child care certification activities
- \$30M for support the resumption of YoungStar bonus payments
- \$2.5M for the Wisconsin Shared Services Network
- \$1.7M for provider education in managing challenging behaviors
- \$1.4M annually for child care resource and referral centers
- \$5M annually for REWARD stipends
- \$15M for a revolving loan fund for child care provider capacity expansion
- \$5M for the Boys and Girls Club of Wisconsin
- \$1M for Jobs for America's Graduates Program
- \$1M for the Skills Enhancement Program
- \$500K annually for partnering with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Raise caretaker supplement payments by \$25 for the first dependent and \$15 for each thereafter
- \$4.5M to increase kinship caregiver payments
- \$1.7M to increase basic and treatment foster care rates
- \$1M for Menominee Indian Tribe for child welfare expenditures
- \$831,800 in tribal gaming revenue to reimburse tribes for the costs of subsidized guardianships
- \$6M for Milwaukee child welfare services
- \$200,000 annually for training costs for qualified residential treatment program staff
- \$750,000 for bonus payments to Racine County for operation of the secure residential care center
- \$20M for local child support enforcement activities
- \$32M for IT projects, software and cybersecurity
- \$1M for Family Resource Centers (under Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board)
- \$3M for Triple – Positive Parenting Program (part under DCF, part under CANPB)

Corrections

Correctional facilities throughout our state are facing a dire shortage of workers, while the inmate population continues to rise. One in three security positions is vacant, with higher vacancies at certain facilities. This has created, at times, difficult or dangerous situations for both correctional staff and inmates. Our budget seeks to address these concerns by investing in our correctional facilities and staff, which occurs in budget management and compensation reserves, capital budget and the Department of Corrections.

Our budget recognizes the complex challenges of our growing inmate population. Often, those in our state's correctional facilities have substance use disorders (SUDs) and/or lack employment skills that are important for reintegration in

society. The Republican budget provides nearly five million dollars in new funding for medication assisted treatment (MAT) for inmates pre- and post- release to help their recovery from SUDs. It also allocates nearly one million dollars for technical mobile labs to help inmates gain employment skills to reduce re-conviction.

Summary of agency action:

- \$30.6M for overtime costs
- \$34.3M for costs associated with higher inmate populations and inflationary costs
- \$15M for contract beds
- Realign 110 position to the Department of Health Services to better reflect their role
- \$4.68M for medication assisted treatment
- \$975,800 for technical mobile labs, funded from Fast Forward
- Allow DOC to reimburse local jurisdictions for investigative services provided at correctional facilities
- \$902,600 for repair costs associated with services and materials at adult institutions
- 4 FTE for supervising officer positions at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center
- Convert 5 LTE pharmacy technician positions into 5 FTE
- \$85,300 for non-personnel costs related to the health services unit at Wisconsin Secure Program Facility
- \$2.27M for the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success program
- \$889,800 for services relating to GPS tracking of sex offenders
- Establishing a daily rate of \$1,246 in FY24 and \$1,268 in FY25 for incarcerated juvenile offenders
- \$7.6M for juvenile correction costs associated with serious juvenile offenders
- \$222,500 for population-related funding needs, like health costs, food costs, etc.
- \$4M for re-entry centers

District Attorneys, State Public Defenders and Courts

Republicans recognize the severe staffing challenges facing our criminal justice system and the negative impact it has on public safety and the constitutional rights of victims and defendants. Our budget invests in raising wages for assistant district attorneys (ADAs), deputy district attorneys (DDAs), assistant state public defenders (ASPDs) and elected district attorneys (DAs) to keep these positions competitive with pay for private attorneys.

We provided \$36.7 million to increase wages for all ADAs, DDAs, and ASPDs, along with raising the starting wage, by \$8.76 per hour. These funds will help district attorney and public defender offices throughout Wisconsin to recruit and retain attorneys in our state. We also provided funding above the maximum salary cap, so that valued senior attorneys receive the same increase as others working in these offices.

Republicans also recognize wage disparities between certain ADA/DDA positions and elected DAs, which may have been exacerbated without an increase to elected DA pay. Our budget addresses this, by increasing wages for elected DAs throughout the state by an amount equal to the increase for ADAs/DDAs (\$8.76 per hour) at the start of their next term.

These wage increases are expected to help staffing throughout our state, but the committee recognized there will still be a need for private bar attorneys to fill gaps when state public defenders are unavailable due to conflicts of interest or high caseloads. Our budget will better compensate private bar attorneys by increasing the rate for these cases to \$100 per hour and travel to \$50 per hour.

Our budget also meets our obligations under 2019 Act 184, which created 12 new circuit court branches over a three-year period. With the creation and funding of resources for courts in Clark, Manitowoc, Sawyer and Wood Counties, we have fulfilled our promises under Act 184.

Altogether, these investments will help our criminal justice system operate more efficiently, reduce the backlog of cases that exists and better protect the rights of people in our state.

Summary of agency action:

- \$36.75M for increasing wages for DDAs, ADAs and ASPDs
- \$926,200 for increasing wages of elected DAs
- \$487,300 and 4.4 FTEs for new prosecutor positions in certain counties
- \$1.4M for supporting supplies and service costs of DA offices
- \$17.6M for increasing the private bar rate to \$100 per hour and \$50 per hour for travel
- Extending the CHIPS Pilot Program for two years
- 8 FTEs and \$3.3M for fully funding the positions and resources required for the circuit court branches
- \$3.9M for cybersecurity initiatives of the Wisconsin Supreme Court

Health Services

Our budget continues the years-long commitment Republicans have to making health care more accessible and affordable in our state by providing over three billion dollars to support our healthcare industry.

Republicans are making significant investments in our healthcare industry through raising Medicaid (MA) reimbursement rates across several health services including hospital base payments, primary care rates, emergency department physicians, chiropractors, and behavioral health in general medical hospitals. These rate increases, combined with supplemental aids for disproportionate share hospitals and rural critical care hospitals, will help keep costs down for providers and patients.

We also invested heavily in the long-term care industry. Last budget, we funded a \$440M increase for this industry and this budget we've invested even more with a total spend of \$492M. Our budget provides key support like continuing the 5% home and community based services rate increase; needed funds for direct care services and personal care workers; and higher reimbursement and incentives for our nursing homes.

As we've done in the past, we are also providing increases for several of our community partners that supplement the health care system, such as Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support program and free and charitable clinics. These key organizations have a critical supporting role in making sure our residents, regardless of condition or income, are well-served in their health care needs.

Our budget will also provide targeted support for mental health care access through the Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) psychiatry residency program. 55 of 72 counties in our state have a significant shortage of psychiatrists and nearly a third of counties have none. With adults and youth reporting higher levels of mental illness, these investments will help ensure the growing mental health needs of our state are met through supporting ten new residents, located in central and northeastern Wisconsin.

Summary of agency action:

- \$7M for supporting the psychiatry and behavioral health residency program at MCW
- \$68M to increase base MA rates for hospitals

- \$132M for increasing primary care provider rates
- \$15.4M to raise emergency department physician rates
- \$1.8M for rate parity for chiropractors
- \$30.5M for increasing rates for hospital services provided in behavioral health units for general medical and surgical hospitals
- Add a deadline of Oct. 1, 2023 for DHS to implement the dental services reimbursement rate increase included in the 2017 budget for dental services provided to patients with cognitive and physical disabilities
- \$1.8M for establishing or expanding residency programs at hospitals
- \$124M for disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments
- \$11.6M for rural critical care access hospital payments
- \$225M for continuing the 5% home and community based services rate increase
- \$38.4M for raising the direct care and services rate for those enrolled in Family Care
- \$38.4M to increase the personal care reimbursement rate
- \$146.4M for increasing the nursing home support services portion of MA reimbursement
- \$2M for offsetting an increase in the personal needs allowance
- \$31.2M for nursing home incentive payments
- \$10M for increasing the reimbursement rate under MA for ventilator-dependent residents
- Add a reporting requirement on managed care organizations (MCOs)
- \$7.5M for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
- \$500,000 for the Alzheimer’s Family and Caregiver Support program
- \$450,000 for home-delivered meals programming
- \$22M for Seniorcare
- \$2M for adult protective services
- \$1.5M for free and charitable clinics
- \$5M for a general dentistry residency program
- \$300,000 for the Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin
- \$5M for expanding allied health professional education and training grants
- \$10M for regional crisis urgent care and observation facilities
- \$2M for a telemedicine crisis response program
- \$2M for the WisCaregiver Careers program
- \$5M for a complex patient pilot
- \$13.9M for overtime costs at state health facilities
- \$8.8M for forensic and civil mental health contracts
- 2 project positions at the Office of Caregiver Quality
- \$1M for fraud prevention and investigation
- \$12.4M for FSET program
- Prohibits use of MA for gender reassignment surgery and puberty blocking medication
- Delete 33.48 vacant positions

Justice

Supporting our law enforcement officers is a long-standing priority for Republicans. Our budget invests in programs that help our law enforcement keep our communities safe, like the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, Elder Abuse Hotline and Elder Justice Program, treatment and diversion programs, and critical incident mapping. We also supported the continued operations of the State’s Crime Lab by increasing toxicologist positions, which processes

evidence on behalf of law enforcement agencies throughout the state. These key investments will support the work of our law enforcement statewide, by making sure they have additional support and resources to protect our residents.

Summary of agency action:

- \$251,100 to fund 1.5 positions for the ICAC task force
- \$250,000 for ICAC local assistance
- 1 FTE designated for providing training and resources to prosecutors on sexual assault cases
- \$135,000 for continuing the Elder Abuse Hotline and grants for protection of elders
- \$1M for Treatment and Diversion programs
- \$123,600 and 3 FTE for toxicology positions at the State Crime Lab
- \$3.4M to increase reimbursement to county victim witness offices to fund 60% of county costs
- Extend the COP Houses program and associated funding through the 2023-25 biennium
- \$2.5M for critical incident mapping
- Remove 1.2 positions that have been vacant for 18 months or more

***Note: Our budget continued funding for the Office of School Safety with the same level of state funding and positions that has supported the office since its creation (\$1.3M and 3.8FTE). We did not approve the increase of funding and positions requested by the Attorney General to continue positions created by federal funds.*

Military Affairs

Preparing for and responding to major natural and manmade disasters is one of the core functions of state government. Republicans have made significant investments in our local first responders in shared revenue and elsewhere, but the Department of Military Affairs also plays an essential role in emergency response throughout the state. Our budget invests in the department and its partners to improve safety statewide. The largest component of that is investing in the replacement of the statewide interoperable radio network, also known as WISCOM. Funding this in the budget will guarantee first responders statewide are able to communicate with each other in the event of a major event and ensure localities that utilize WISCOM for daily use have a viable system into the future.

The Department of Military Affairs also is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Wisconsin National Guard when not activated for federal duty. Our budget recognizes and supports that important duty. Building on the success of bringing the F-35 to Madison, we are investing in securing the next generation of Air Force refueling aircraft for the state. Additionally, our budget will streamline the process Wisconsin National Guard members use when applying for tuition grants.

Summary of agency action:

- \$45M to begin the replacement of the statewide interoperable radio network
- \$2M for grants to users of the WISCOM network for communications system upgrades
- \$1M for training, administration and equipment for the state's urban search and rescue task force
- \$1M for the replacement of equipment used in hazardous material responses
- \$2M set aside for pre-disaster floor mitigation grants to help local governments prepare for and mitigate flood damage
- \$223,000 to fund the state matching share of the federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program
- \$1M set aside to assist the Town of Silver Cliff in rebuilding their public safety building

- Creation of 2.0 heavy equipment operator positions at Truax Field for infrastructure projects associated with the F-35 aircraft
- \$100,000 for a consultant to help secure Wisconsin as the home of the Air Force’s next generation of refueling aircraft
- \$225,000 for upgrading the application system for Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grants
- \$94,600 to support a secured connection for wireless networks at National Guard armories
- \$69,000 for the conservation of monuments related to Wisconsin at Vicksburg National Military Park

Natural Resources

Wisconsin has abundant natural resources that are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Our budget provides important investments to protect these natural resources—an investment for generations to come.



Our state is home to over 100 state parks, trails and forests, which see over 20 million visits each year. From scenic waterfalls and lakes to trails for hiking and biking, there’s no shortage of activities within our state park system. The Republican budget will invest in critical infrastructure projects at our state parks to make sure the grounds are well-maintained. It also invests so more campsites can become electrified, to meet rising demand for this amenity.

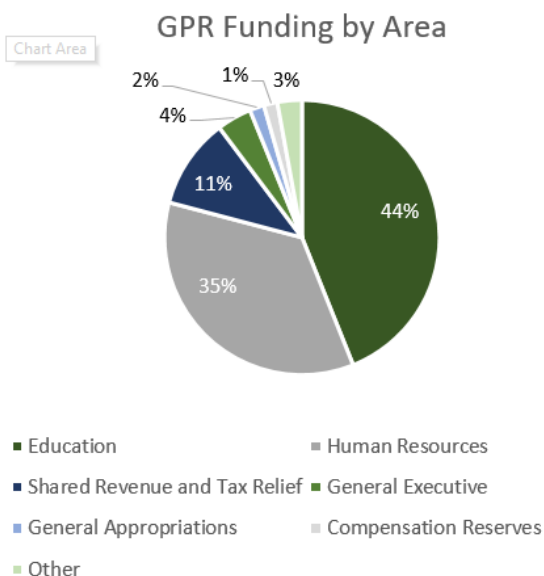
Republicans also recognize the significant challenge presented by PFAS contamination in our state. We set aside \$125M in the newly-created PFAS Trust Fund for managing the prevention and mitigation of PFAS contamination in Wisconsin. Legislation to plan for the use of these funds will go through the legislative process, engaging stakeholders and experts on the topic, to ensure the funds make the most meaningful impact for our state.

Summary of agency action:

- \$200,000 annually for snowmobile county enforcement aids
- \$550,000 and 3 FTE for ATV/UTV enforcement
- Doubled ATV/UTV project aids from \$200 per mile to \$400 per mile
- \$17M for park upgrades and road maintenance at state parks
- Eliminated the statutory cap on statewide campsite electrification
- \$1.5M for electrifying campsites
- \$700,000 for park maintenance equipment
- Purchase of an entrance sign at Lizard Mound State Park
- \$93,400 annually for operations at Lizard Mound State Park, the Ice Age Trail, Mazomanie Bottoms and Brule River State Natural Area
- Allows small transaction fee for online purchase of state park stickers
- \$211,300 for credit card readers and associated security software
- Increase nonresident overnight camping fees from \$35 to \$45
- \$449,200 for dredging at Mirror Lake State Park
- \$2.16M for maintenance and development at Amnicon Falls and Pattison State Parks

- \$250,000 for building a ski lodge at Lapham Peak
- \$175,000 annually for urban forestry grants
- \$250,000 for the county forest administrator and county sustainable forestry grants
- \$1M for acquiring and upgrading fire suppression equipment
- Increase nonresident deer hunting fees by \$40, nonresident conservation patron licenses by \$20 and all other nonresident hunting licenses by \$5
- \$196,000 for refurbishing the Great Lakes research vessels
- \$2.5M for facility upgrades and development at the Les Voight and Brule State Fish Hatcheries
- \$390,900 annually for emergency equipment for DNR law enforcement
- \$207,600 for overtime costs for DNR wardens
- \$125M for the PFAS Trust Fund
- \$7.5M for removal of contaminated sediment affecting the Great Lakes and its tributaries
- Re-authorize \$2M for electronic waste cleanup
- \$500,000 for acquisition of sediment collector for dredging in Lake Altoona
- \$1M for replacement, reconstruction and treatment of contaminated wells
- \$4M for the dam safety grant program
- \$4M for urban nonpoint and municipal flood control programs
- \$6.5M for nonpoint source water pollution abatement grants
- \$500,000 for removal and reconstruction of Sheboygan Marsh Dam
- \$1M for the restoration of the Echo Lake Dam
- \$750,000 for repairs to the Steve Creek Dam
- \$1M for removal and restoration of the Mill Pond Dam in Plymouth
- \$2M for dredging on Lake Mallalieu
- \$100,000 for permitting and study requirements at the Buffalo Lake dam
- Extended the authorization of the Arcadia municipal flood control allocation from Stewardship funds
- Eliminated the seedling surcharge on all seedlings sold at state nurseries
- Deleted 43.71 vacant positions and right-sized general operations funds with a \$1.8M reduction

Public Instruction



Wisconsin Republicans strongly believe all children deserve access to high quality education. Our budget reflects this priority with strong investments in our public schools, along with funding for choice and charter schools. Already the largest GPR spend in the state budget, we are investing another one billion dollars for K12 schools.

Our budget includes a per pupil increase of \$325 in each year of the biennium, to ensure schools have real, spendable increases in this budget. This funding goes through the formula, so two-thirds is state funded and the rest could be levied by the local district. We are also making targeted investments in areas that we know students need it most. Our budget will increase funding by nearly \$100 million for special education aids, which will support one-third of district costs

related to special education. It will also reimburse high-cost special education aid at half of costs by the end of the biennium.

Another critical investment of our K12 budget is in reading initiatives. Testing shows our students are lagging behind in reading proficiency—made noticeably worse as a result of school closures from the COVID-19 pandemic. We set aside \$50M to address this problematic trend and get our students back on track.

Student and youth wellbeing has also declined in recent years and our budget invests in supporting the mental health of our kids. We increased funding for the school-based mental health grants by \$30M over the biennium and changed the funding to be per pupil based, rather than competitive grants. These funds allow school districts to partner with community organizations to provide mental health services to students right in their schools—reducing barriers to important services.

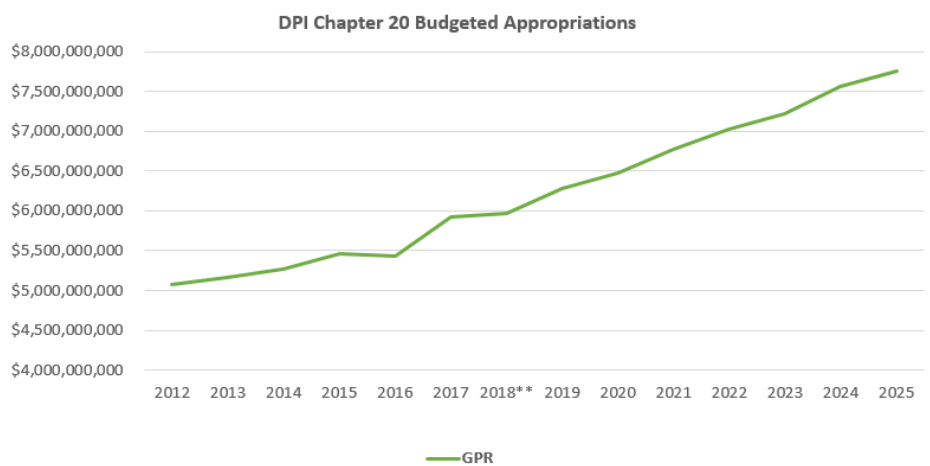
And, to help support school districts that make thoughtful economic decisions on sharing services, our budget sets aside five million dollars for legislative recommendations created by the Study Committee on Shared School District Services. These bills, which are still working through the legislative process, aim to incentivize and assist districts that decide to consolidate or share services.

As a result of our budget and the actions taken under 2023 Wisconsin Act 11, choice and charter schools will receive a significant bump in state funding—ensuring that parents and families get to choose the best educational environment for them. This core priority of Wisconsin

Republicans empowers parents to champion their child’s education, rather than being told by the government where their kid must attend school.

Summary of agency action:

- \$534.3M increase in general school aids
- Increase the per pupil revenue limit of \$325 in each year of the biennium
- Eliminate high poverty aid appropriation, reducing spending by \$16,830,000 annually
- \$97M increase for special education categorical aid
- \$4.6M increase for high cost special education
- \$3M in new funding for bilingual-bicultural aid
- \$50M for literacy programs
- \$5.9M for high cost transportation aid
 - Eliminate \$200,000 cap for payments that qualified in previous year but not the current
- Increased transportation aid from \$375 to \$400 per pupil for students who are bused over 12 miles to and from school
- Increased sparsity aid by \$1.26M, fully funding the program
- \$14M increase in school library aids to be paid from the segregated common school funds
- \$30M increase for school-based mental health services grants
- \$5M set aside for incentivizing shared school district services
- \$1M for grants to recovery high schools
- \$500,000 increase to grants for student robotics leagues



- \$750,000 for Lakeland STAR Academy
- Under the statutory indexing formula for choice and charter payments, payments are set to increase by \$412 per pupil in 2023-23 and \$348 in 2024-25. Increases to each program are as follows:
 - \$33.5M for the Milwaukee Private School Choice Program
 - \$28.8M for the Racine and Statewide Private School Choice Program
 - \$3.3M for the Special Needs Scholarship Program Funding
 - \$11.4M for Independent Charter School Program
 - \$2.98M for independent charter schools authorized by the Office of Educational Opportunity
- \$2M funding reduction for pupil assessment
- \$200,000 increase for Special Olympics
- \$1M to DHS for Reach Out and Read
- \$6M increase for public library systems
- \$450,000 to Recollection Wisconsin
- \$307,000 increase for BadgerLink and Newslin for the Blind
- Extended the Online Early Learning Program until July of 2027
- Deleted 6.18 GPR, 4.85 FED, and 0.70 PR positions that have been vacant for 18 months or more

Safety and Professional Services

Over the past year and half, legislators throughout the state have been hearing about challenges that those working in our state—or those wanting to work in our state—have been facing when applying for professional licensure. Significant backlogs at the Department of Safety and Professional Services have prevented individuals from obtaining their state-mandated credentials—hurting their livelihood and hindering their professional growth.

Republicans recognize that these delays were the result of several issues facing the Department—first being the inept leadership of the Secretary at the time, as shown by the turnaround in recent months under new leadership. As part of this new leadership, the agency has prioritized and communicated their needs. Our budget reflects the indication that new leadership has improved the situation, the pending audit of the Department, and the real need for more, targeted positions to help the agency accomplish the work it is required to do.

Taking these factors into consideration, our budget provides six new project positions each for credentialing and call center staff. These areas were identified to have the highest need in the department and to have shown the most improvement with the use of federal funding. The committee made these project positions, so we can evaluate the results of the pending audit by the Legislative Audit Bureau and re-determine the needs going forward.

Our budget will also provide new staff for building plan review. We have heard from the industry that delays at the department are hurting their ability to plan and construct in a timely manner—hurting their and consumers’ cost. These new permanent positions will help alleviate the backlog in this division and support the work of the department to provide timely reviews of building plans.

Summary of agency action:

- 6 new four-year project positions for processing professional license applications
- 6 new two-year project positions for customer service call center staffing
- 3 new building plan review positions for reducing construction timelines
- Permanently extended 2 temporary positions for private septic system plan review
- \$6.3M for software improvements and other equipment upgrades

- \$1.7M to extend the Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System program
- \$1.1M for improvements to the electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- \$150,000 to extend the Youth Volunteer Firefighter Training program
- \$100,000 to support continuing education for real estate agents
- \$100,000 to continue the Military Pathways Grant Program
- \$40,000 for rehabilitation and recycling of manufactured homes
- \$1M for erosion remediation at De Pere Greenwood Cemetery

Shared Revenue

Republicans have been working for months on a plan to support our local governments with new state funding. The plan, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 12, provides a minimum increase of 20% for communities, along with tying state aid to the sales tax, meaning it will grow over time. And while there is a floor of a 20% increase, many municipalities will see a much larger percentage increase, as we worked to close the gap between those who have historically done well under the shared revenue formula and those that have done poorly.

In addition to this historic increase in shared revenue, our plan creates an Innovation Fund for local governments to use for consolidation of services. This fund, along with reforms required under Act 12, ensure that state taxpayers are receiving better, more efficient service and not funding the same broken system.

The extensive framework for this shared revenue plan was created under Act 12, but the funding must still be included in the budget. Our budget fulfills our promises and obligations under the Act, to ensure communities receive this funding that is critical to their ability to continue providing key services to their residents.

[Here](#) is a copy of the aid distribution for counties and municipalities.

Transportation

Republicans are making critical investments in our state's transportation infrastructure to make sure residents and visitors in our state can get to school, work, the grocery store, and travel destinations. Our budget will increase funding by 1.5 billion for transportation, including local roads and bridges, state highways, rail, airports, etc.

We are investing in the state highway rehabilitation program by \$10 million more and local road aids by \$130 million more than Governor Evers proposed, while bonding \$88 million less – saving taxpayer dollars and reducing the burden on future generations. We also matched the Governor in the state's major highway and megaprojects programs.

We've heard from our local governments about the need for additional support to maintain local roads. Our budget increases funding for local roads by \$285 million, through general transportation aids, the local road improvement program (LRIP), the LRIP – supplemental program, and a new agricultural road improvement program (ARIP). This new program will target funding to agricultural roads, so these roads can be repaired to continue serving our agriculture industry.

The Republican motion also invests in transportation infrastructure such as bridges, harbors, airports, rail, and transit. We know these modes of transportation are critically important to moving goods and people throughout our state, and our investments will help bolster this important infrastructure.

INVESTING IN TRANSPORTATION

	GOVERNOR EVERS	LEGISLATIVE REPUBLICANS
LOCAL ROAD AIDS	\$155M	\$285M
STATE HIGHWAY REHAB	\$115M	\$125M
ROAD BORROWING	\$441M	\$353M

Summary of agency action:

- Transfer funding generated from sales tax of electric vehicles to the transportation fund (estimated \$94.4M over the biennium)
- Transfer \$555.5M one-time from the general fund to support transportation projects and minimize bonding
- Increase the EV registration surcharge from \$100 to \$175
- \$31.4M to increase general transportation aid payments by 2% in each year of the biennium
- Increase mass transit operating assistance by 2% in 2024 and shift transit funding to GPR
- \$7.5M to increase connecting highway aids by 25%
- \$111,500 to increase aids by 11.6% for the Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Specialized Assistance program
- \$386,700 to increase paratransit aid by 4% in year of the biennium
- \$100M in one-time funding for the LRIP supplemental grant program
- \$150M in one-time funding for ARIP
- \$4M to increase funding for the LRIP formula and discretionary components by 4% in each year
- \$50M for the Southern Bridge Project in Brown County
- \$4.2M for County Road O in Richland County
- \$13M for the freight rail preservation program
- \$20M for the harbor assistance program
- \$10M to assist in the construction of a pipeline between General Mitchell Airport in Milwaukee and the Port of Milwaukee
- \$45M for the local bridge improvement assistance program
- \$2M for the Highway 19 bridge reconstruction in Watertown
- \$1.2M for repairs to the Ray Nitschke Bridge in Green Bay
- \$971,200 for passenger rail assistance
- \$39M for the airport improvement program
- \$7M for the terminal expansion project at Appleton International Airport
- \$12.5M for a statewide inventory and assessment of all bridges of 20 feet or under in length
- \$125M increase to the state highway rehabilitation program
- \$169.6M increase for the major highway development program
- \$192.3M for the Southeast Wisconsin Freeway Megaprojects
- \$7M for sound barriers in Greenfield

- \$400M for the Blatnik Bridge reconstruction between Superior, WI and Duluth, MN
- \$13.5M for state highway maintenance
- \$6.5M to comply with the requirements of 2021 Acts 163 and 178 that require the replacement of license plates of a certain age and the creation of a fleet plate
- \$3M for DMV software upgrades
- \$16,000 for issuing EV and hybrid identification stickers
- \$6M for driver education grants
- \$11M to provide a \$5 per hour raise to State Troopers and Motor Carrier Inspectors
- 3.0 FTE new Motor Carrier Inspector positions
- \$2.2M to replace in vehicle cameras
- \$170,700 for new tactical helmets
- \$1.3M for communication tower maintenance
- Specify the Wisconsin Supreme Court has access to State Patrol's Dignitary Protection Unit
- \$18.5M for administrative facilities capital costs, including the construction of a new building in Spooner
- 0.6 FTE for the Mississippi River Parkway Commission
- \$10.8M to provide a 10% pay increase to DOT engineers
- \$829,700 and 4.0 FTE resolve utility relocation delay claims

Tourism

Tourism is a major economic driver in the State of Wisconsin, contributing over \$23 billion in economic impact. From hotels and restaurants, to entertainment venues and outdoor recreation, this industry provides numerous jobs and brings countless visitors to see why our state is such a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Republicans made major investments in the tourism industry through our state budget. We provided \$20 million in one-time funding to help the Department of Tourism build out their marketing, allowing us to market more in existing advertising markets and expand to new markets. In addition, our investments will increase base funding for the Tourism marketing appropriation by 7.5%. These funds will build on our past successful marketing strategies and reach even more people with information about why our state is one worth visiting.

Our budget will also support key industry partners through the continuation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation. Wisconsin has abundant natural areas that are enjoyed by tourists, like the endless kayaking opportunities on our state's lakes and rivers; snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing trails across Wisconsin; and countless miles of hiking and biking trails. With the investment of Republicans, this office will continue connecting businesses within the outdoor recreation industry and connecting visitors to the many outdoor opportunities our state has to offer.

Summary of agency action:

- \$20M one-time in a continuing appropriation for tourism marketing
- \$1M annually for tourism marketing, built into base
- \$10M one-time in the JFC Supplemental for the Opportunity Attraction and Promotion Fund
- \$2M for Discover Green Bay
- \$10M for Visit Milwaukee
- Realign one position from PR to GPR to better reflect the position utilization
- \$527,200 and 3 LTE for continuing the Office of Outdoor Recreation for two years
- \$666,300 over the biennium for matching federal grant funding available through the Arts Board

The Republican budget pushes the UW System to refocus their priorities on developing and supporting our workforce, rather than perpetuating divisive ideology. Our budget cuts diversity, equity and inclusion positions system-wide, along with associated funding. At the same time, we set aside the same amount of funding, \$32M over the biennium, in the JFC supplemental account for the UW System to come back with a plan for utilizing these taxpayer resources for workforce initiatives. The UW System should already be prioritizing training our workforce, the action taken in this budget simply redirects the funds being used on DEI for these purposes.

Summary of agency action:

- Cut 188 DEI positions and \$32M
- Set aside \$32M for workforce initiatives
- Provide \$3.35M for transitioning UW-Washington County to Moraine Park Technical College
- Cut 142 vacant positions system wide

Veterans Affairs

Wisconsin is a great place for veterans to retire from their military service, with numerous benefits and resources available in our state for veterans. Our motion provided a 25% increase in state funding for county and tribal veteran service offices, which help connect service members with resources that are available to them, such as housing, health care, employment services, etc.

Our budget also recognizes the seriousness of the challenges facing our state-owned veterans homes that care for veterans and surviving spouses. These facilities have experienced challenges in recent years with declining enrollment, staffing shortages and mismanagement by the Evers administration.

Republicans value our service members and are taking steps to better identify and fix these challenges. Our budget requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study of King Veterans Home, which has faced the steepest decline in enrollment, resulting in major financial challenges. We also set aside \$5M for addressing the financial challenges facing our veterans home, while encouraging the department to improve operations to ensure solvency of these facilities.

Our motion further supports veterans homes by ensuring the local fire and EMS districts that serve them have the resources needed to serve both the facility and the surrounding community. Our motion doubles grant funding for fire and EMS departments serving veterans homes in the state.

Summary of agency action:

- \$5M set aside for DVA to request, as needed, for operation of state veterans homes
- Require DVA to conduct a study of King Veterans Home
- \$660,400 for grants to tribal and county veterans service offices
- \$2.6M for contract costs of Chippewa Falls Veterans Home
- \$420,000 for supplies and services at Union Grove Veterans Home
- \$780,000 for equipment replacement and acquisition for upkeep at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery
- \$300,000 for grants to local government to provide fire and EMS to veterans homes

- \$16,540 grant to promote and support recognition of the Columbia-class submarine U.S.S. Wisconsin

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

Wisconsin is facing a shortage of housing stock, which particularly impacts groups like seniors and first-time homebuyers. The Republican budget invests in workforce housing to increase the supply of housing, restore existing housing stock to make it more desirable and convert commercial and Main Street infrastructure to livable space. Our budget funds the initiatives that were signed into law through Acts 14-18.

Summary of agency action:

- \$275M for the new residential housing infrastructure revolving loan fund
- \$100M for the new Main Street housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund
- \$100M for the new commercial-to-housing conversion revolving loan fund
- \$50M for the workforce housing rehabilitation loan program
- Increased the capital reserve fund limit from \$800 million to \$1 billion

WORKFORCE HOUSING

Building Wisconsin's Future

Next Generation
Workforce Housing

Expediting Residential
Housing Development

Rehabilitating Main Street

Upgrading Aging Housing

Transitioning Underutilized
Property to Residential

Wisconsin Technical College System

Wisconsin Technical Colleges are important partners in developing our state's workforce. 93% of tech school graduates are employed within six months of graduation and many of them remain in Wisconsin to work in their field. Our budget recognizes the value of these educational partners by providing new funding for the WTCS in general aids, workforce training grants to help existing employees increase their skills and funds for educational resources.

Summary of agency action:

- \$9.4M for general aids to technical colleges
- \$2M for workforce advancement training grants
- \$3M for open educational resources
- \$20M for oral healthcare workforce initiatives

Workforce Development

Strengthening our workforce is an important priority for Republicans. While our unemployment rate remains at historic lows, the workforce participation rate has persistently lagged. Meanwhile, employers throughout Wisconsin are

searching for qualified individuals to join their teams. Our budget makes investments to support our current and future workforce.

We invest in proven programs that are aimed at getting people into key fields with high-demand, such as youth apprenticeship and the career and technical education program. Our budget also recognizes the strain that has been put on our economy recently due to restricted production and movement of goods, such as lower access to goods and increased costs, which is why we're creating a program to support a CDL training, to encourage more individuals to join the field.

In combination with investments in other agencies, our workforce development budget will strengthen our workforce to help grow our economy, increase family-supporting jobs and fuel the prosperity of our business community.

Summary of agency action:

- \$7M for youth apprenticeship, transferring \$1M from Fast Forward to support these costs
- \$3M for career and technical education incentive grants
- \$500,000 for commercial driver license training grants
- 1 FTE for administration and enforcement of a substance abuse prevention program
- Delete 29.2 vacant positions that have been vacant for 18 months or more

What's Not Included

Almost as important as what Republicans did include in our budget, is what's not included. Our budget didn't include many items proposed by Governor Evers, including the countless new government programs he introduced; a massive expansion of welfare and elimination of key safety net program safeguards; huge increases in government positions; new regulations on individuals and businesses; and massive tax hikes on hardworking taxpayers. Here are a few highlights of proposals Governor Evers introduced that Republicans **did not** include in our budget:

- Over 800 new government employees
- Two billion dollars in tax hikes
- Repealing Act 10, prevailing wage and other conservative reforms of the past decade
- New benefits for undocumented immigrants, like in-state tuition benefits and driver licenses
- Expanding Medicaid and other welfare benefits, while eliminating drug testing and work requirements
- Loosening voting requirements
- New gun control laws
- Legalizing marijuana
- Creation of a new agency dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion
- New regulatory schemes on businesses
- Creation of new taxing authorities

BUDGET PROCESS
FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE 2023-25 BIENNIAL BUDGET

- ✓ AGENCIES GIVE GOVERNOR THEIR BUDGET REQUESTS
- ✓ GOVERNOR PREPARES IDEAS FOR THE LEGISLATURE
- ✓ GOVERNOR ADDRESSES HIS IDEAS TO THE LEGISLATURE
- ✓ JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE (JFC) HOLDS AGENCY BRIEFINGS
- ✓ JFC HOLDS LISTENING SESSIONS AROUND THE STATE & LEGISLATORS HOLD LISTENING SESSIONS IN THEIR DISTRICTS
- ✓ JFC VOTES ON BUDGET PROVISIONS
- WE ARE HERE** LEGISLATURE VOTES ON FINAL BUDGET BILL
- GOVERNOR SIGNS BUDGET BILL INTO LAW