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2025-2026 Legislative Session

League Summary of Legislation of Municipal Importance

Bills Introduced December 8th to December 19th

- **Senate Bill (SB) 777: Local Regulation of Disposable Containers** - Sens. Smith (D-Brunswick) and Dassler-Alfheim (D-Appleton) and Reps. Palmeri (D-Oshkosh), Snodgrass (D-Appleton), and Mayadev (D-Madison) - Under current law, local governments are prohibited from enacting or enforcing an ordinance regulating auxiliary containers, which are defined as bags, cups, bottles, cans, or other packaging that is designed to be used for transporting or protecting merchandise, food, or beverages from a food service or retail facility. This legislation eliminates that prohibition.

- **SB 766: Operation of Drones Over Critical Infrastructure** - Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Donovan (R-Greenfield) - This legislation prohibits the unauthorized operation of a drone at an altitude of less than 300 feet over or within 500 feet of a parcel on which certain critical infrastructure facilities are located. These facilities include water and wastewater treatment plants, gas or electric power plants, and telecommunications carrier plants. The prohibitions do not apply to a drone flown at the direction of a local government in its jurisdiction for official business. Persons violating this prohibition may have their drone seized and may be subject to a forfeiture of not more than $5,000.

- **SB 754: Regional Transit Authorities** - Sen. Roys (D-Madison) and Reps. Bare (D-Verona) and Palmeri (D-Oshkosh) - This legislation creates a regional transit authority in each metropolitan planning area (i.e., urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000) and allows for the creation of an authority in other metropolitan statistical areas where the local governments authorize its creation. The regional transit authority is a separate governing entity governed by a board of directors with the local governments serving as members of the authority. The regional transit authority's board will determine the services it provides within statutory guidelines and may establish a sales tax to fund its operations.

- **SB 738: Penalties for Voter Fraud via Drop Boxes** - Sen. Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Rep. O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) - Under current law, the maximum criminal penalties for committing election fraud is a Class I felony. Also under current law, mail fraud is a Class H felony, a more severe punishment with longer possible imprisonment terms. This legislation makes it a Class H felony to use an absentee ballot drop box or the U.S. mail system in the course of committing election fraud.

- **SB 735: Neighborhood Improvement Districts for Residential Developments** - Sen. Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) - Under current law, municipalities may create a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) upon a petition from landowners in the proposed territory to assess special assessments that are collected for the NID board to carry out the projects in their operating plan. This legislation allows for the establishment of a NID utilizing special charges to fund infrastructure related to residential developments within the NID, with the special charges being

collected with property tax bills and staying with the property after transfer of ownership.

- **SB 730: Decertification of Law Enforcement Officers** - Sen. Johnson (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Hong (D-Madison) - First, this legislation dictates that a law enforcement officer must utilize de-escalation tactics to minimize the likelihood that force will become necessary and that the lease amount of force necessary to address a threat must be utilized. Second, this legislation requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to decertify law enforcement officers that violate the laws governing the use of force or terminate employment while under investigation for committing an act of official misconduct.

- **SB 729: State Regulation and Oversight of Data Centers** - Sen. Habush-Sinykin (D-Whitefish Bay) and Rep. Stroud (D-Ashland) - This legislation establishes standards for the state's regulation and oversight of data centers. While the legislation is comprehensive, some of the key provisions include: 1) laborers constructing the data center are paid the prevailing wage rate; 2) at least 70% of the total annual electricity used by the data center is from renewable resources to qualify for state tax breaks; 3) the building utilizes sustainable design standards; 4) water utilities must notify the state if one customer utilizes 25% of the total water usage or more; and 5) the state must collect a fee from large energy customers to fund low-income energy assistance or renewable energy programs.

- **SB 707: Eliminating the Expenditure Restraint Program** - Sen. Spreitzer (D-Beloit) and Rep. Anderson (D-Beloit) - Under current law, the Expenditure Restraint Program (ERP) provides aid payments to municipalities that have a property tax rate of at least five mills and have budgetary growth of no more than an inflation plus a valuation factor. Annual ERP funding is set at $58.1 million. This legislation eliminates ERP and replaces it with a payment program beginning in 2027. Payments would be equal to a municipality's highest ERP payment in 2024, 2025, or 2026.

Summary of Bills with League Lobbying Positions

As of Monday, December 22nd, the League has taken a position on 71 Senate Bills and 71 Assembly Bills

- **Senate Bill (SB) 625 / Assembly Bill (AB) 616: Funding for Required Absentee Voting Hours** - Sen. Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Rep. Krug (R-Rome) - To accompany the requirements in AB 312, this legislation provides $10 million to reimburse municipalities for the hours a clerk is required to provide in-person absentee voting prior to an April or November election. Under an amendment to AB 312, reimbursement would be provided at $50 for each new required hour of in-person absentee voting. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on an 88-9 vote on Wednesday, November 19th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 reduces the amount of funding provided from $10 million to $1.5 million.

- **SB 685 / AB 612: Stewardship Program Reauthorization Funding** - Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Rep. Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) - To accompany the programmatic changes in AB 315, this legislation provides funding for a four-year reauthorization of the Stewardship Program. Overall funding would be cut, but the two programs most impactful to municipalities, the Local Unit of Government and Recreational Boating Aids subprograms, would see their funding levels remain consistent with the

current program. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation reported without recommendation the bill on a 6-6 vote on Wednesday, November 12th.

- **SB 599 / AB 605: Landfill Fee Retention for Leachate Treatment** - Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Jacobson (R-Mosinee) - Under current law, landfills are required to impose an Environmental Repair Fee on waste by the tonnage and remit that fee to the state. This legislation allows a landfill to retain their Environmental Repair Fee amounts to repay a Clean Water Fund Program loan received for a wastewater treatment facility installed to treat leachate until the loan is repaid. *The League is registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 19th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 12th.

- **SB 576 / AB 584: Property Tax Exemption for Campers** - Sen. Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Rep. Petersen (R-Waupaca) - Under current law, some campers are assessed as real property based on certain characteristics of the camper while others were previously assessed as personal property and are now exempt. This legislation exempts all prefabricated structures designed to be towed by a motor vehicle and used as seasonal recreational living quarters (i.e., campers) that are located at a licensed campground from being real property. Further, it allows that property to be submitted to the state to be compensated through Personal Property Aids for lost revenues. ***(RECENT ACTION)*** *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and notes that Personal Property Aid payments are already prorated and this will be another draw on an account that does not meet existing demand.*
  - *Senate Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, December 9th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 12th.

- **SB 562 / AB 397: WEDC Grant and Loan Reporting Requirements** - Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) - Under current law, recipients of Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) grants or loans of at least $100,000 must provide a schedule of expenditures within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year in which funds were expended. This legislation increases that threshold to $500,000, delays the submission until 120 days of the end of the fiscal year in which expenditures are completed, and exempts local governments from submitting their schedule if they instead submit a standard annual audit. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.
  - *Assembly Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Assembly Committee on Jobs and Economy held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 17th.

- **SB 558 / AB 580: State Emergency Relief Fund** - Sen. Hutton (R-Brookfield) and Reps. Knodl (R-Germantown), Melotik (R-Grafton), and Donovan (R-Greenfield) - This legislation creates a grant program for individuals and businesses adversely affected by a disaster declared by the Governor since the start of this year. Grants of up to $25,000 for individuals and $50,000 for businesses may be awarded

for costs related to the disaster, with any grant amounts offset by federal assistance paid back to the state. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs held a hearing on the bill on Tuesday, October 28th.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Commerce held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 5th.

- **SB 557 / AB 581: State Emergency Relief Fund** - Sen. Hutton (R-Brookfield) and Reps. Knodl (R-Germantown), Melotik (R-Grafton), and Donovan (R-Greenfield) - This legislation provides funding for the program established in SB 558 and AB 581. $10 million is provided for individuals and $20 million for businesses under the program structure above. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, October 28th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Commerce held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 5th.

- **SB 556 / AB 559: Local Aids for Energy Storage Facilities** - Sen. James (R-Thorp) and Reps. Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) and Dittrich (R-Oconomowoc) - Under current law, cities, villages, towns, and counties receive Utility Aid Payments for energy generation facilities located in that political subdivision. This legislation extends those aid payments to utility-owned energy storage facilities. Annually, cities and villages would receive two-thirds of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt storage capacity by $2,000 with the remaining one-third provided to counties. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Senate Committee on Utilities, Technology and Tourism held a public hearing on the bill on the bill on Thursday, December 18th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government recommended the bill for passage on a 9-0 vote on Wednesday, November 12th.

- **SB 554 / AB 560: Prohibiting Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Reps. Brill (R-Sheboygan Falls), Wichgers (R-Muskego), and Piwowarczyk (R-Hubertus) - A 2024 state Supreme Court case affirmed that current law allows the use of absentee ballot drop boxes in Wisconsin. This legislation prohibits municipalities from utilizing a drop box or other physical receptacle for the receipt of completed absentee ballots other than receipt by mail. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, November 4th.

- **SB 534 / AB 547: Legalizing and Regulating Medical Cannabis** - Sens. Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) and Rep. Snyder (R-Weston) - This legislation allows patients with certain medical conditions to possess and use medical cannabis, licenses and regulates growers, processors, and dispensaries, and requires medical cannabis to be tracked in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Local governments would be prohibited from regulating medical cannabis, including, but not limited to, zoning restrictions on the location of dispensaries. *The League has registered **against** this legislation and notes that the prohibitions on local government oversight and enforcement is bound to create unintended consequences.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Health held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday,

October 22nd.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

- **SB 497 / AB 502: Nonconforming Outdoor Advertising Signs** - Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) and Reps. Goeben (R-Hobart) and O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) - Under current law, if a highway project will impact a nonconforming outdoor advertising sign, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) must notify the local government with the regulating ordinance. If the local government petitions WisDOT to condemn the sign, the municipality must pay for the condemnation costs. Under this legislation, a sign impacted by a state or local project with federal or state funds may be repositioned within a local government's borders in a manner approved by the local government. The entity requiring repositioning of the sign must pay the sign owner for the costs to reposition the sign. Current law on condemnation process still applies. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 19th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended the bill for passage on a 4-2 vote on Wednesday, December 3rd.

- **SB 481 / AB 455: Condominium Conversion Grant Program** - Rep. Murphy (R-Greenville) and Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) - Utilizing $10 million from the Restore Main Street Loan Program, this legislation creates a condominium conversion grant program to provide grants up to $50,000 for the conversion of multifamily housing to condominiums. Eligible grant costs include attorney fees, permitting fees, and any other cost incurred for the project. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 15th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 7th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 removes "any other cost" from the list of eligible expenses for the grant program. The amendment also requires the recipient of a grant to provide occupants of the multifamily housing unit being converted into condominiums with the opportunity to purchase the unit they currently occupy.

- **SB 480 / AB 451: Workforce Housing TIDs** - Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) - This legislation allows municipalities to create residential tax incremental districts (TIDs). A residential TID would be developer-financed with eligible expenses limited to the infrastructure necessary for dense new single-family or duplex residential developments. These residential TIDs would be capped at 3% of the total equalized value of a municipality and are exempt from the 12% threshold. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 5 -0 vote on Thursday, October 23rd.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on an 88-7 vote on Tuesday, October 7th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Amendment 1 makes several changes to the legislation, including allowing certain towns to qualify to create these TIDs, establishing a maximum TID lifespan of 20 years before extension, expanding the lot width of a duplex, and delaying implementation of the proposed law to October 1, 2026. Assembly Amendment 2 and Senate

Amendment 1 include the same provisions as Assembly Amendment 1 but clarifies the process in which a town may qualify.

- **SB 476 / AB 454: Workforce Home Loan Program** - Reps. Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek), Snyder (R-Weston), Knodl (R-Germantown), and Rivera-Wagner (D-Green Bay) and Sens. James (R-Thorp) and Johnson (D-Milwaukee) - This legislation establishes a workforce home loan program at the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to provide gap financing that supplements a conventional mortgage for the purchase of a new or remodeled single-family residence. Applicants may not have owned a home in the past three years and must meet certain income thresholds to be eligible for a 15 year, 0% interest loan up to $60,000. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 5-0 vote on Thursday, October 23rd.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendments 1 and 3 on a 14 -0 vote on Thursday, October 2nd.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Amendments 1 and 3 and Senate Amendment 1 removes the ability for a remodeled home to qualify and makes various technical changes to the program, including aligning loan terms with loan amortization lengths, prohibiting WHEDA from collecting fees for loan issuance, and clarifying the underwriting guidelines.

- **SB 473 / AB 449: Local Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units** - Rep. Goeben (R-Hobart) and Sen. Bradley (R-New Berlin) - This legislation allows each single-family home to have an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) as a permitted use. While municipalities cannot prohibit ADUs under this legislation, municipalities may ensure the ADU complies with zoning requirements, limit the ADU size to no larger than the primary residence, and prohibit newly established ADUs from being used as a short-term rental. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors and stakeholders retaining local zoning authority, ensuring that ADUs are used for housing, and limiting the permitted use to existing structures only.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 15th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 13-1 vote on Thursday, October 2nd.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Amendment 1 clarifies that a permitted use ADU may only be created by converting an existing structure, not building a new structure.

- **SB 472 / AB 453: Densities in Comprehensive Planning, Rezoning Requests, and Affordable Housing TID Extensions** - Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Sen. Jagler (R-Watertown) - This legislation requires municipalities that have identified land for future residential development in its comprehensive plan to indicate the minimum and maximum densities of that land in five-year increments. If a developer submits a rezoning request for land identified for future residential development, the request shall be granted by a municipality if it falls within the density range for that increment and certain other conditions are met. This legislation also increases the affordable housing tax incremental district (TID) extension from one year to two years and redefines newly platted residential development to allow TIDs established for mixed-use redevelopment efforts to utilize the available TIF structure. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors and stakeholders working to alleviate some municipal concerns.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry

recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Substitute Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a 5 -0 vote on Tuesday, November 11th.

- *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendments 1, 2, 4, and 5 on a 55-39 vote on Tuesday, October 7th.
- *Amendment Overview:* The amendments make various changes to the bill, including:
  - *Assembly Amendment 1* - Replaces a condition for a required approval of a rezoning request to state the area must be adjacent to or in close proximity to existing development so it may be reasonably served by infrastructure and services.
  - *Assembly Amendment 2* - Removes a provision of the bill that limited the use of affordable housing TID extension funds to for-profit services and goods.
  - *Assembly Amendment 3* - Removes the ability for a rezoning requester to set their own setback, lot size and width, and building size requirements for their project.
  - *Assembly Amendment 5* - Removes towns and counties from most provisions of the legislation and requires rezoning requesters to certify the area is not subject to farmland preservation agreements or zoning or an agricultural enterprise area.

  Senate Substitute Amendment 1 incorporates Assembly Amendments 1, 2, 3, and 5 into a single amendment. Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 extends the timeline for approval from 60 days to 90 and allows a person requesting rezoning to grant an extension beyond those 90 days to a local government.

- **SB 470 / AB 443: Municipal Court Fee Increases** - Rep. Kaufert (R-Neenah) and Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) - Under current law, municipalities collect a fee of between $15 and $38 for municipal court actions. The fee range has not been raised for a decade. This legislation increases the maximum fees to $48. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government recommended the bill for passage on a 9-0 vote on Wednesday, October 29th.

- **SB 467 / AB 483: Creation of a Wheel Tax** - Sen. Hutton (R-Brookfield) and Reps. Maxey (R-New Berlin) and Behnke (R-Town of Chase) - This legislation requires local vehicle registration fees, commonly known as wheel taxes, to be approved by voters in a referendum. Also under the legislation, to remain in effect, all existing wheel taxes must be approved by voters in a referendum within 18 months of enactment. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 19th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 29th.

- **SB 443 / AB 439: Eligibility for the ARIP Program** - Rep. Tranel (R-Cuba City) and Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) - The Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP), created last session, was reauthorized in this budget with $120 million for grants to improve local roads with agricultural traffic. Eligibility requirements limit access to roads with posted weight limits. This legislation expands eligibility to roads where an engineering analysis determines the road is unable to accommodate heavy agricultural traffic. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation and worked with the Farm Bureau on this modification to support more city and village roads with processors or other entities integral to the agricultural supply chain.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the bill on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 14th.

- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended the bill for passage on a 5-0 vote on Wednesday, November 12th.

- **SB 441 / AB 426: Election Observer Access** - Sen. Quinn (R-Birchwood) and Rep. Tittl (R-Manitowoc) - This legislation requires municipal clerks, chief inspectors, and boards of canvassers to provide election observers with "uniform and nondiscriminatory access" to all stages of the election process, including recounts. If any election official violates this requirement or current law requirements for election observers, they may be subject to criminal penalties. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill on a voice vote on Wednesday, November 19th.

- **SB 410 / AB 410: Fall Prevention Grants** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Gundrum (R-Slinger) - This legislation provides $450,000 per year in each year of this biennium for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to award a grant to the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging for the purpose of statewide falls prevention awareness and initiatives. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Health held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 22nd.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

- **SB 382 / AB 375: Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Modifications** - Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) - Under state and federal law, a taxpayer may receive a credit for certain expenses to rehabilitate certified historic structures. This legislation makes modifications to the state program. First, it clarifies that so long as the claimant has expended $50,000 or more on the rehabilitation, they may receive the 20% credit, avoiding additional federal requirements on investment thresholds. Second, it removes the requirement that the State Historic Preservation Officer recommend improvements to the US Secretary of the Interior. Third, it allows the full state credit to be claimed in one year as opposed to five. Finally, it clarifies that the $3.5 million cap on credits only applies within a single ten-year period. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on an 8-0 vote on Thursday, September 18th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Wednesday, November 19th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 make several technical corrections on claiming a state-only credit and the cumulative calculation of a credit.

- **SB 376 / AB 369: Tax Credit for Employer's Childcare Expenses** - Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) - Under federal law, employers are eligible for a tax credit for employer-provided childcare expenses. These credits may be claimed for up to 25% of qualified expenses for acquiring or constructing a childcare facility and 10% of childcare resource and referral expenses with a maximum credit of $150,000. This legislation creates an identical nonrefundable income and franchise tax credit in Wisconsin. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 33-0 vote on Tuesday, November 18th.

- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 10-0 vote on Thursday, September 4th.
- *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 specify that any changes to the federal credit automatically apply to the state credit. The amendments also change the effective date of the credit to allow the credit to be claimed starting in tax year 2026.

- **SB 337 / AB 326: Grant Writing and Compliance Assistance** - Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Reps. Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and Swearingen (R-Rhinelander) - This legislation allows local governments with populations under 7,500 to receive grants of up to $5,000 to obtain grant writing and compliance assistance services. The program would be available from 2026 to 2029 with two annual award cycles for grants related to public works, utilities, transportation, public safety, and cybersecurity. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 25-8 vote on Tuesday, October 14th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Wednesday, November 19th. The bill now heads back to the Senate for concurrence.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate Amendment 1 delays the effective date of the program from 2026 through 2029 to 2027 through 2030. Assembly Amendment 1 imposes Maintenance of Effort requirements on county law enforcement agencies beginning on July 1, 2026.
  - *2025-2027 State Budget:* $3.0 million was included in the budget for this program and may be released by the Joint Finance Committee upon passage of the bill.

- **SB 333 / AB 320: Increasing and Indexing Local Court Fees** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Reps. Allen (R-Waukesha), O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac), Donovan (R-Greenfield), and Mursau (R-Crivitz) - This legislation adjusts court fees and surcharges collected by courts, including municipal courts, and increases fees paid to witnesses, interpreters, and others. Further, this legislation indexes all fees to inflation every five years beginning in 2030. For municipal courts, the fees would adjust from their present range of $15 to $38 to the new range of $42 to $51. Additionally, the interpreter fee per half day would be raised from a $10 minimum to $35. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Judiciary held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, September 25th.

- **SB 331 / AB 329: ATV, UTV, and Snowmobile Law Changes** - Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Rep. Mursau (R-Crivitz) - This legislation makes various updates to the laws surrounding ATV, UTV, and snowmobile routes. Among these changes include eliminating the 1,000-foot bridge maximum for designating ATV or UTV routes, instead allowing local governments to approve crossings on bridges of any length. Further, the legislation removes restrictions on designating short segments of state highways as ATV or UTV routes to connect routes and trails together or to nearby businesses. Finally, this legislation expands the definition of authorized emergency vehicles to include ATVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles for law enforcement and fire departments. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the bill as amended by Senate Substitute Amendment 2 on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 14th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate Substitute Amendment 2 makes various changes to the legislation,

including removing provisions regarding railroad crossings.

- **SB 318 / AB 360: Small Law Enforcement Pilot Grants** - Sens. James (R-Thorp) and Pfaff (D-Onalaska) and Reps. Donovan (R-Greenfield) and Anderson (D-Beloit) - This legislation creates an 18-month pilot program which would provide grants to law enforcement agencies with under 25 full-time, non-supervisory officers to pay the training costs of new officers. Police departments would be eligible if they received notice that an employed officer will be leaving within six months or if the department has a vacancy rate of at least 20%. To avoid the need for the officer to repay the grant, the officer must stay employed with the department for at least one year. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

- **SB 316 / AB 315: Reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program** - Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Rep. Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) - The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, which has funded Wisconsin conservation and outdoor recreation projects for three decades, is authorized through June 30, 2026. Without action, the program will terminate. This legislation extends that authorization for four more years through June 30, 2030. Exact funding levels would be determined in separate action whereas this legislation makes several statutory changes to the program. Among the changes is a requirement for grant recipients to pay at least 20% of the required 50% match from local funds, whereas presently the full match requirements may be met with other grants. However, the Local Unit of Government (LUG) and Recreational Boating Aids subprograms, the two most accessible Stewardship subprograms for municipalities, remain in-tact. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation reported without recommendation the bill as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 6-6 vote on Wednesday, November 12th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Amendment 1 makes numerous changes to the legislation, primarily involving land acquisitions by the state or non-profit conservation organizations. Changes impacting local governments in the amendment are only technical.

- **SB 304 / AB 312: Required In-Person Absentee Voting Hours** - Sens. Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Nass (R-Whitewater) and Rep. Krug (R-Rome) - Under current law, a voter may vote by absentee ballot in-person at the office of a municipal clerk or an alternative site up to two weeks before the election. Hours for in-person absentee voting are set and noticed locally. This legislation requires the office of the municipal clerk or the alternative site to be open for at least 20 hours in that two-week period for the in-person casting of absentee ballots without a scheduled appointment. *The League has registered as **neutral** on the Assembly bill and appreciates the authors' willingness to address our priority concerns in the amendments. The League remains **opposed** to the Senate bill which does not have an amendment introduced.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 3 on a voice vote on Wednesday, November 19th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Assembly Substitute Amendment 3 makes several important changes.

First, it limits the required hours only to April and November elections. Second, it provides reimbursement of $50 per hour for each hour required by the bill above the hours provided by the local government in the April 2024 election. Third, it delays the implementation of the requirements to the November 2026 election. Fourth, it reduces the number of hours required for smaller local governments. Specifically, those with fewer than 600 registered voters would be required to provide 10 hours of in-person absentee voting without an appointment, those with 600 to 799 registered voters would be required to provide 15 hours, and those with 800 or more registered voters would be required to provide 20 hours. Other smaller revisions are made in addition to those larger changes.

- **SB 301 / AB 376: Rehiring of WRS Annuitants** - Sen. Roys (R-Madison) and Rep. Mayadev (R-Madison) - Under current law, if a person is receiving an annuity from the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), they must suspend that annuity to be rehired by a WRS-participating employer at two-thirds time or greater. This legislation allows all WRS annuitants to be rehired by a WRS-participating employer without suspending their annuity if they separate from employment for at least 30 days and elect not to be a participating employee. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on State Affairs.

- **SB 299 / AB 300: Grants for Automated License Plate Readers** - Sen. James (R-Thorp) and Rep. Novak (R-Dodgeville) - This legislation establishes a grant program at the Wisconsin Department of Justice for law enforcement agencies to purchase automated license plate reader systems. The legislation requires that at least 50% of the grant funding provided is awarded to law enforcement agencies in rural areas, which is defined as municipalities with a population less than 20,000 and not within 15 miles of a municipality that has a population greater than 20,000. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

- **SB 291 / AB 283: Childcare Expenses in the Business Development Tax Credit** - Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Rep. Hurd (R-Withee) - 2023 Wisconsin Act 143, which the League supported, allows certain capital investments in childcare to be eligible for the Business Development Tax Credit. This legislation expands the tax credit to include an amount up to 15% of the business's costs to provide childcare services for employees, including establishing and operating a childcare program for employees, purchasing slots on behalf of employees, reimbursement to employees for childcare expenses, and other similar investments. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the bill on a 19-14 vote on Tuesday, November 18th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Children and Families held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, November 5th.

- **SB 290 / AB 282: Reconsideration of Failed Ordinances and Resolutions** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) - This legislation requires that local governments may not prohibit the governing body from taking up an ordinance or resolution that is identical or substantially similar to an earlier ordinance or resolution that was taken up and voted on but not enacted or adopted if the later proposal is taken up at least two years after the earlier. The League worked with the authors of

this proposal to limit its impact on municipal functions. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 29th.

- **SB 249 / AB 248: Vacancies in Appointive State Offices** - Sens. Bradley (R-New Berlin) and Quinn (R-Birchwood) and Reps. Allen (R-Waukesha) and Maxey (R-New Berlin) - Following a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision, the expiration of a term of an appointed official does not create a vacancy until a new appointment is confirmed for a fixed term, thus creating holdover appointments. This legislation ends the practice of holdover appointments in state positions, creating the vacancy once the term expires rather than once a new appointee is confirmed. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors working with us to remove impacts to local appointed offices.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on State Affairs recommended the bill for passage on a 7-3 vote on Thursday, November 20th.

- **SB 247 / AB 365: Prohibiting Local Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units** - Sen. Roys (D-Madison) and Rep. Hong (D-Madison) - This legislation requires local governments with zoning ordinances to allow by right development of at least one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on each single-family and multi-family residential parcel. Local governments also could not charge fees to approve an ADU other than standard building permit fees, provide design or location requirements on ADUs, provide standards for ADUs beyond those applicable to other residential buildings, or impose additional parking requirements for the ADU. *The League has registered **against** this legislation and notes its impact on local zoning ordinances and municipal services.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate.

- **SB 241 / AB 228: TIF Exemptions for Data Centers** - Sen. Jagler (R-Watertown) and Reps. Born (R-Beaver Dam) and Brooks (R-Saukville) - Last session, a tax credit was created for a qualified data center, which are data centers that meet certain investment thresholds based on the population of the county of the development. This legislation exempts properties being developed into a qualified data center from the 12% equalized value cap on tax incremental financing (TIF), allowing municipalities to create a tax incremental district (TID) for those data centers without the 12% limitation if all project costs are related to the data center. Additionally, the value increment of a data center TID is exempt from the 12% calculation for the creation of other TIDs. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, May 21st.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, April 30th.

- **SB 216 / AB 217: Local Government Competitive Bidding Thresholds** - Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Reps. O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) and Brooks (R-Saukville) - Under current law, local governments

must competitively bid all projects above $25,000 and award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder and must provide public notice for all projects between $5,000 and $25,000 prior to a contract being signed. This legislation increases the bidding threshold to $50,000 and the notice threshold to $10,000 for all public construction projects except road projects and indexes all bidding and notice thresholds to growth in the Consumer Price Index every five years. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a 5 -0 vote on Friday, September 26th.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a 10-0 vote on Wednesday, May 28th.
- *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 remove an exemption from bidding requirements for certain county projects and increases the bidding thresholds for a sewerage district serving a first-class city consistent with other increases.

- **SB 213 / AB 219: Tax Credit for Rail Infrastructure Modernization** - Sen. Quinn (R-Birchwood) and Reps. Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Tranel (R-Cuba City) - This legislation creates an income and franchise tax credit for Class II and Class III railroads in the state to modernize rail infrastructure. Specifically, 50% of the amounts expended by the railroad for maintenance may be claimed or, if the entity does not have tax liability, may be transferred. Additionally, 50% of the amounts expended on new rail infrastructure and improvements may also be claimed. The legislation sets qualification requirements and processes for claiming the credits. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation and appreciates the authors and stakeholders working to introduce an amendment that includes municipalities as eligible entities for transferring credits.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on an 8-0 vote on Thursday, November 6th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a 9-0 vote on Wednesday, November 5th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Substitute Amendment 1 clarifies that a local government is eligible to qualify for the credit and transfer the credit to a taxpaying entity if the local government owns the rail line and makes various other technical changes.

- **SB 208 / AB 213: Prohibiting Hedge Fund Ownership of Homes -** Sen. Keyeski (D-Lodi) and Rep. Haywood (D-Milwaukee) - This legislation prohibits hedge funds from acquiring or owning, in-whole or in-part, a single-family home in Wisconsin beginning on the effective date of the legislation were it to become law. Any home acquired or owned in violation of this legislation would be forfeited to the state. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate.

- **SB 207 / AB 209: Hazard Mitigation and Erosion Control Revolving Loan Programs** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Zimmerman (R-River Falls) - This legislation creates two new revolving loan programs. The first is the Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund and would allow the state to

accept federal funds from the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act. Funds would be appropriated in compliance with the STORM Act. The second is the Great Lakes Erosion Control Revolving Loan Program and would be funded by $5 million to assist municipalities and homeowners in shoring the structural integrity of buildings along Great Lakes shorelines. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 4 -1 vote on Tuesday, October 7th.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Environment held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, September 23rd.
- *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 remove rulemaking authority for administration of these programs and creates an account for loan repayments.

- **SB 192 / AB 192: Fatality Review Teams** - Sen. James (R-Thorp) and Rep. Moses (R-Menomonie) - While not addressed in current law, several areas of the state have established fatality review teams, which are a multidisciplinary and multiagency team reviewing one or more types of death among children and adults and developing recommendations to prevent future deaths of similar circumstances. These deaths may include an overdose, suicide, material death, unexpected death or a child, and more. This legislation creates a statutory framework for these teams, allowing but not requiring a team's creation, and governs its responsibilities, ability to access certain records, confidentiality requirements, and disclosure of the information. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, September 10th.

- **SB 186 / AB 187: Training Completion Awards for Volunteer Firefighters** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) - Currently, the state administers a Length of Service Award Program to provide awards to volunteer firefighters, EMRs, and EMTs. This legislation expands that program to provide grants to volunteer fire departments to make onetime training completion awards to volunteer firefighters. Any volunteer firefighter who completes the required 60 hours of training is awarded $500, with half from the state and half from the awarding local fire department. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 5 -0 vote on Wednesday, June 4th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, June 24th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 create definitions for relevant terms in the bill and requires an existing state report to include this new program.

- **SB 181 / AB 197: Levy Limit Exemption for Regional (County-Sized) EMS Districts** - Sens. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and James (R-Thorp) and Reps. Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and Gustafson (R-Fox Crossing) - This legislation creates a new levy limit exemption for regional EMS provided through intergovernmental agreements or a district that covers at least 232 square miles or includes at least eight cities, villages, and towns. If one entity is responsible for EMS across a qualifying service territory, the costs would be exempt from levy limits and allowed to grow at a rate equal to the growth in the Consumer Price Index plus 5% annually. This legislation, and its service territory parameters, are meant to mimic county-wide EMS which is exempt from the levy but allows for municipalities to determine their own service territories that cover a county-sized area (232 square miles being the smallest county

by land size and eight municipalities being the smallest number in any county). *The League has registered **against** this legislation **as amended**. While we appreciate the authors' intent, we are opposed to the substitute amendment which makes the process unworkable. Failure to pass a referenda every five years could result in EMS interruptions, EMT layoffs, contract disruptions, and debt defaults.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Health recommended the bill for passage on a 5-0 vote on Tuesday, November 11th.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on State Affairs recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a 10-0 vote on Wednesday, November 12th.
- *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 make dramatic changes to the legislation. First, as opposed to the levy limit exemption being adopted by resolution of the governing bodies, the exemption would have to be granted at referenda upon creation of a district and again every five years after it is established. Second, the district would have to create an operating agreement with a distinct governing board. Third, as opposed to CPI plus 5% annually for levy growth, the exemption would be limited to CPI plus 2% annually, similar to existing law exemptions for fire and EMS districts. Other technical changes are made to the bill in addition to those key changes.

- **SB 180 / AB 194: Modifications to the Housing Loan Programs** - Sens. Quinn (R-Birchwood), Feyen (R-Fond du Lac), and Jagler (R-Watertown) and Reps. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Brooks (R-Saukville) - Last session, with the League as one of a handful of groups at the table, the state made a historic investment of $525 million for the development of housing across Wisconsin through three low-interest loan programs at the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA). However, an 11th hour amendment added to those bills made implementation problematic for developers. Despite some early successes, the problems created by the amendment last session became increasingly evident. As a result, this subsequent legislation is needed to address the significant barriers to these programs and unlock additional housing opportunities throughout the state. This includes allowing loans to be stacked with active tax incremental districts and historic tax credits, increasing the maximum loan amounts, allowing a smaller number of units in municipalities at or under 10,000 residents and mixed-use developments to qualify for the Vacancy-to-Vitality Program, and ensuring statewide distribution of loan funds. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 4-1 vote on Friday, May 9th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 7th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 make several changes. First, they require interest rates to be set at 1% or lower. Second, it clarifies ongoing sale price controls on owner-occupied housing and specifies covenant language. Third and finally, Assembly Amendment 1, but not Senate Amendment 1, changes the date for municipalities to look-back at cost reduction changes for housing projects from 2023 to 2020. Assembly Amendment 2 removes projects on tribal reservations or trust lands as eligible for loans.

- **SB 178 / AB 182: Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program Changes** - Sen. Quinn (R-Birchwood) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) - This legislation makes several modifications to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program at WHEDA, including requiring that at least 35% of the tax credits allocated each year are for qualified projects in rural areas of Wisconsin if enough applications are available to satisfy the requirement. Other changes to the program remove a requirement that a project is financed with tax-exempt bonds and allows insurers that are shareholders of a tax-option corporation, a

partner of a partnership, or a member of a limited liability corporation to claim the credit. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 5 -0 vote on Friday, May 9th.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 14-0 vote on Thursday, October 2nd.
- *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 delay the implementation of the rural areas set aside to the implementation of the next Qualified Allocation Plan. The amendments also clarify that the rural areas set aside only applies to state tax credits.

- **SB 175 / AB 247: Building Permit Fee Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Snyder (R-Weston) - This legislation reduces building permit fees paid by disabled veterans to a local government if the improvements are necessary to accommodate their disability. To qualify, the improvements must be to their primary residence that is owned by the disabled veteran or their caretaker and the veteran must be classified as at least 50% disabled, and the local government may require proof of all the conditions above. If qualified, the local government must reduce its building permit fees by 75% or $500, whichever reduction is less. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors and veterans' groups work with us prior to bill introduction to address issues we identified in the original legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs recommended the bill for passage on a 4-1 vote on Thursday, May 8th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

- **SB 173 / AB 159: Rural Creative Economy Grant Program** - Sen. Quinn (R-Birchwood) and Rep. Novak (R-Dodgeville) - This legislation creates the Rural Creative Economy Development Grant Program at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). Funding may be awarded to local or tribal governments, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to develop or implement and plan and market, brand, and promote local creative enterprises, public arts performances or exhibitions, or public spaces to increase tourism, enhance visitor experiences, or bolster community development in rural areas of the state. Grants may not exceed $50,000 and must be matched. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Rural Development.

- **SB 170 / AB 196: Rehiring of WRS Annuitants** - Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Reps. Wittke (R-Caledonia), Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay), and Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) - Under current law, if a person is receiving an annuity from the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), they must suspend that annuity to be rehired by a WRS-participating employer. This legislation allows all WRS annuitants to be rehired by a WRS-participating employer without suspending their annuity for up to 60 months (5 years) if they retired on or after July 2, 2013, separate from employment for at least 75 days, did not have an agreement for employment upon retiring, and elect not to be a participating employee. The employer is required to make contributions for the employee as if they were a WRS participant. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, May 6th.

- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, May 28th.

- **SB 156 / AB 128: First Responder Training and Administration of Epinephrine Delivery Systems** - Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Rep. Krug (R-Rome) - This legislation requires that all first responders (which includes emergency medical responders, emergency medical services practitioners, firefighters, and law enforcement officers) are trained on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions and the procedures for administration of an epinephrine delivery system. The legislation also requires that each first responder always has an epinephrine delivery system available for use while on duty. Finally, the legislation allows the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to distribute epinephrine delivery systems to first responders that have completed the training requirements. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation, noting that we are concerned with the upfront and ongoing costs and the availability and shelf life of the medication and would request funding for this initiative.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, April 24th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care has scheduled a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 15th.

- **SB 155 / AB 175: Requiring Periodic Inspections of Parking Structures** - Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Maxey (R-New Berlin) - This legislation requires the owner of a parking structure to have a professional engineer inspect the structural integrity of the structure at least once every five years. A report containing the results of the inspection must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) or to the local government if the local government is authorized to perform commercial building plan examinations. An owner that fails to complete an inspection within six months of the report being due may be fined $200 per month, and within twelve months of the due date, DSPS must close the parking structure until an inspection is completed. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, May 27th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, May 8th.

- **SB 153 / AB 178: TAD Courts** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Tittl (R-Manitowoc) - Currently, counties are authorized to apply to the Wisconsin Department of Justice for grants to establish and operate Treatment and Diversion (TAD) Programs that offer alcohol and drug treatment services as alternatives to prosecution or incarceration in order to reduce recidivism, promote public safety, and reduce prison and jail populations. This legislation allows TAD Programs to provide treatment services for a person who has a mental illness along with substance abuse disorders. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety recommended the bill for passage on an 8-0 vote on Thursday, May 8th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Judiciary held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, September 25th.

- **SB 128 / AB 131: Programs and Policies to Address PFAS** - Sen. Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Reps. Mursau (R-Crivitz) and Swearingen (R-Rhinelander) - Similar to a bill supported by the League last session after working with the authors on an amendment to address municipal concerns, this legislation

would exempt municipalities and certain other parties from liability for PFAS remediation under certain circumstances and conditions. The legislation also establishes a Municipal PFAS Grant Program to assist with capital and operational costs related to PFAS, exempts certain emergency water utility actions to address PFAS from Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approvals, and establishes other programs and policies related to PFAS. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, October 7th.
- *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Environment.

- **SB 127 / AB 130: Liability Exemptions for PFAS Contamination** - Sen. Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Reps. Mursau (R-Crivitz) and Swearingen (R-Rhinelander) - This legislation mimics a portion of SB 128 relating to liability exemptions for PFAS remediation. This legislation would exempt farmers and other parties who spread PFAS-contaminated biosolids on a property, fire departments and airports that used PFAS-containing firefighting foam, landfills that accepted PFAS-laden waste, and those who own property where the PFAS contamination is present but didn't originate from liability. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, October 7th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Environment.

- **SB 113 / AB 118: Transition to Grazing Pilot Program** - Sens. James (R-Thorp) and Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Reps. Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Tranel (R-Cuba City) - This legislation establishes a Transition to Grazing Pilot Program at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to provide support and grants farmers who are implementing livestock forage-based managed grazing systems. Grants of up to $40,000 are available per project. The League is engaged in this legislation due to its potential to reduce nonpoint source water pollution in waterways throughout the state, including those running through Wisconsin cities and villages. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, April 3rd.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Agriculture recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on a 13-1 vote on Wednesday, June 4th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 require the distribution of 12.5% of grant funds to recipients in the second and third year of the grant cycle and removes the appropriation of $500,000 and allocation of 0.5 FTE positions in the bill.

- **SB 105 / AB 138: Rehiring of WRS Annuitants** - Sens. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Hutton (R-Brookfield) and Reps. Donovan (R-Greenfield) and Goeben (R-Hobart) - This legislation allows the annuitant to be rehired without suspending their annuity if they separate from employment for at least 75 days, did not have an employment agreement upon retirement, elect not to become a WRS participating employee, and were serving in a protective occupation (i.e., law enforcement officers and firefighters) or were a county jailer prior to retirement. This legislation would first apply on the effective date of the bill. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety held a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, April 1st.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on State Affairs recommended the bill for passage on a 9-0 vote on Tuesday, May 27th.

- **SB 96 / AB 106: Amending the EV Charging Stations Law** - Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Rep. VanderMeer (R-Tomah) - This legislation makes a technical correction to last session's electric vehicle (EV) charging stations law which the League supported. Specifically, an oversight in the bill passed last session exempted the EV charging station tax of 3 cents per kilowatt-hour for Level 3 fast chargers placed at a residence but allowed the tax for slower chargers. This legislation exempts the tax collection from all EV charging stations placed at a residence. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the bill on a 33-0 vote on Thursday, May 15th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities recommended the bill for passage on a 13-0 vote on Thursday, November 20th.

- **SB 44 / AB 42: Prohibiting Chicken and Quail Bans** - Sen. Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Rep. Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) - This legislation prohibits cities, villages, towns, counties, and sewerage districts from prohibiting an owner or certain lessees of residential property from keeping four or fewer chickens or quail. While municipal officials could not prohibit what's often referred to as 'backyard chickens,' the proposal would allow local governments to require permits, require notification of adjacent landowners, impose regulations on fowl housing, prohibit roosters, and impose cleanliness standards. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended the bill for passage on a 3-2 vote on Wednesday, June 4th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, March 19th.

- **SB 37 / AB 41: Prohibiting Local Regulation of Gardens** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) - This legislation prohibits cities, villages, towns, and counties from requiring a permit for or prohibiting the cultivation of vegetable or flower gardens on property not owned by the local government. Municipalities would retain the power to control the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended the bill for passage on a 4-1 vote on Wednesday, June 4th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, March 19th.

- **SB 26 / AB 21: Technical College Facility Lease to Childcare Centers** - Sen. Feyen (R-Fond Du Lac) and Rep. O'Connor (R-Fond Du Lac) - Under current law, technical colleges may rent unneeded space in their facilities to other entities. However, since 1999, they may not rent space to others for school purposes. This legislation creates an exemption to that prohibition for the lease of technical college facilities to childcare centers. With 52 campuses across the state, this legislation could be one tool in the toolbox that helps to address the shortage of childcare slots in Wisconsin. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families recommended the bill for passage on a 5-0 vote on Thursday, February 13th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, February 20th.

Session Legislation that has Become Law

- **Act 78 (AB 280): Business Development Tax Credit Corrections** - Sens. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) and Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) - 2023 Act 143, which was supported by the League, allows certain workforce housing and childcare capital investments to be eligible for the Business Development Tax Credit when the employer is making those investments for their employees. Beginning on January 1, 2026, this legislation clarifies that the investments may be made to a third-party that will build, own, or operate the housing development or childcare service and removes a requirement that the investment is made only for employees. *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Final Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 92-4 vote on Tuesday, October 7th, the full Senate passed the bill as amended on a 33-0 vote on Tuesday, November 18th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 78** on Tuesday, December 9th.

- **Act 68 (AB 452): Subdivision Plat Approvals** - Rep. Kreibich (R-New Richmond) and Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) - This legislation makes several changes to municipal requirements for subdivision plat approvals. Among the most notable changes, first, it requires a municipality to provide an opportunity for subdividers to meet informally with municipal officials to discuss a proposal. Second, it requires municipalities to accept preliminary plans and reports along with a preliminary plat and provide feedback on those reports. Third, it prohibits a municipality from requiring the installation of public improvements prior to the approval of a plat but retains the ability to require security for those improvements and conditionally approve plats on the basis of the installation of public improvements following plat approval. Fourth, it changes the purpose of plat approval to be focused on denser development served by pedestrian access and transit. Fifth and finally, it requires the certification of an approved plat within ten days of a subdivider's request. *The League registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the work to address several of concerns we raised during the process.*
  - *Final Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 (AA1) on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 7th, the full Senate passed the bill as amended by AA1 and Senate Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, November 18th, the full Assembly concurred with Senate Amendment 1 on Wednesday, November 19th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 68** on Tuesday, December 9th.

- **Act 61 (SB 310): Limitations on Local Emergency Power Proclamations** - Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Reps. Jacobson (R-Mosinee) and Ortiz-Velez (D-Milwaukee) - In the event of an emergency, previously, if the governing body of a local government is unable to promptly meet, the chief executive of that local government may exercise their emergency powers by proclamation until the governing body can meet. This legislation limits those proclamations to 60 days and defines who acts as the chief executive in different units of government, including allowing for persons to temporarily act as a chief executive in the event of incapacitation. *The League registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors working with us to limit the impacts to local units of government.*
  - *Final Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The full Senate passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, November 18th, the full Assembly passed the bill as amended on a voice vote on Wednesday, November 19th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 61** on Tuesday, December 9th.

- **Act 43 (AB 35): Allowing Candidates for Certain Offices to Withdrawal Candidacy** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Steffen (R-Howard) - This legislation allows candidates for federal and state office that are elected in the November general elections to withdrawal their candidacy. Deadlines to withdrawal are seven business days before the June 10th preceding the partisan primary and the fourth

Tuesday in August preceding the general election, which align with the dates for the state to certify and report candidates for these offices to local clerks. Documentation requirements for withdrawal are included. This only impacts the offices listed and does not make changes to the processes for other offices, including local elected offices. *The League registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors introducing an amendment related to timing for clerks and printing ballots.*

- *Final Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, June 24th, the full Senate passed the bill as amended on a 19-14 vote on Tuesday, October 14th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 43** on Friday, October 31st.

- **Act 39 (SB 159): Requirements for Police Vehicle Lighting** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Jacobson (R-Mosinee) - Prior law allowed marked police vehicles to be equipped with flashing, oscillating, or rotating blue and red lights, provided that the blue lights are mounted on the passenger side and the red lights are mounted on the driver side of the vehicle. This legislation specifies that marked police vehicles with an exterior light bar on the roof and lights mounted inside the vehicle match those requirements for blue lights on the passenger side and red lights on the driver side of the vehicle. If the roof and interior lights are installed as specified, a combination of blue and red lights may be mounted on the front, sides, or rear of a police vehicle. *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Final Status:* The full Senate passed this legislation on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 14th, the full Assembly passed this legislation on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 14th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 39** on Friday, October 31st.

- **Act 36 (SB 183): Non-Transport EMS Reimbursement, EMT Scope of Practice Report, and ERP Exemption** - Sens. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and James (R-Thorp) and Reps. Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), Zimmerman (R-River Falls), and Summerfield (R-Bloomer) - First, beginning on January 1, 2027, this legislation increases the Medicaid reimbursement for non-transport emergency medical service (EMS) calls to the maximum allowable rate from $69 to $175. Second, this legislation requires an annual report to the legislature on the scope of practice of emergency medical technicians (EMT) and responders (EMR) and how changes may impact training. Third, this legislation exempts the growth of charges from existing levy limit exemptions for fire and EMS districts from the calculations for eligibility in the Expenditure Restraint Program (EPR). *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Final Status:* The full Senate passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 14th, the full Assembly passed the bill as amended on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 14th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 36** on Tuesday, October 21st.

- **Act 35 (SB 182): EMS Education Access, Certification Cost Reimbursement, and Creating a Live 911 Pilot** - Sens. Marklein (R-Spring Green) and James (R-Thorp) and Reps. Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), Novak (R-Dodgeville), and Summerfield (R-Bloomer) - First, this legislation creates a grant structure for technical colleges to train individuals for initial certification or licensure as an EMT or EMR. Second, this legislation creates a reimbursement structure for employers or individuals to receive the costs of their education and materials to become an EMT or EMR. Third, this legislation creates a Live 911 Pilot Program to provide grants that enable real-time video communication between public safety answering points and those calling for emergency services. *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Final Status:* The full Senate passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on an 18-14 vote on Wednesday, June 18th, the full Assembly passed the bill as amended on a 90-6 vote on Tuesday, October 14th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 35** on Tuesday, October 21st.

NOTE: For the programs to take effect, funding set aside in the 2025-2027 State Budget will need to be released by the Joint Committee on Finance. A total of $10.6 million was allocated in the budget, including $3.5 million for reimbursements for initial training costs, $7.0 million for technical college courses, and $100,000 for the Live 911 Pilot Program. The technical college funding was released on Thursday, December 11th.

- **Act 28 (AB 61): Penalties for Harm to Police and Fire Dogs** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Nedweski (R-Pleasant Prairie) - This legislation increases the criminal penalties associated with injuring or killing any animal used by a law enforcement department or fire department to perform official duties. Penalties for actions taken resulting in injury to the animal are raised from a Class I to a Class H Felony, and actions taken resulting in the death of the animal are raised from a Class H to a Class G Felony. *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Final Status:* The full Assembly passed the bill on a voice vote on Thursday, March 13th, the full Senate passed the bill on a voice vote on Wednesday, June 18th, and the legislation was signed into law by Governor Evers as **2025 Wisconsin Act 28** on Friday, August 8th.

- **SB 285 / AB 279** *(Completed in **Act 15**, the Biennial Budget)*: **Talent Recruitment Grants** - Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) - This legislation creates a Talent Recruitment Grant Program to incentivize households outside of Wisconsin to relocate to municipalities in this state. Local governments and certain nonprofits will be eligible under this legislation to apply to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation by submitting a plan identifying estimated costs and economic impacts of their efforts to get households to relocate to their municipality. The applicant must match costs by 20% and may not receive more than $500,000 per year. Half of the award would be provided up front and half upon achieving 50% of its goal. *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *2025-2027 State Budget:* $5.0 million and all necessary programmatic language for Talent Recruitment Grant Program was included in the budget.

  NOTE: In effect, the budget action makes the standalone legislation moot as the policy and funding became law in full as a part of the 2025-2027 State Budget (2025 Wisconsin Act 15).

- **SB 231 / AB 231** *(Completed in **Act 15**, the Biennial Budget)*: **Creating a State Film Office and Film Production Tax Credits** - Sens. Bradley (R-New Berlin) and Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Reps. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake), Callahan (R-Tomahawk), and Hurd (R-Withee) - This legislation looks to promote film production in Wisconsin through two different initiatives. First, it creates a State Film Office attached to the Department of Tourism. The Office would administer the second initiative, income and franchise tax credits for film production companies. The tax credits would provide: 1) up to 30% of the salary or wages paid to employees who are Wisconsin residents for the production of film, video, broadcast advertisement, or television production; and 2) up to 30% of production expenses and amounts spent to purchase personal or real property. No more than $10 million in tax credits may be claimed in any year. *The League registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *2025-2027 State Budget:* Up to $5.0 million per year in credits, $160,200 over the biennium for the State Film Office, and all necessary programmatic language for Film Production Tax Credits and State Film Office was included in the budget.

  NOTE: In effect, the budget action makes the standalone legislation moot as the policy and funding became law in full as a part of the 2025-2027 State Budget (2025 Wisconsin Act 15).

- **Vetoed (AB 450): Delaying Implementation of the New Commercial Building Code** - Rep. Penterman (R-Hustisford) and Sen. Hutton (R-Brookfield) - New administrative rules by the Department of Safety and Professional Services implement the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) in

Wisconsin. This rule replaces the 2015 IBC standards as Wisconsin's Commercial Building Code. This legislation delays the implementation of the 2021 IBC to only apply to plans submitted after April 1, 2026. *The League registered as* ***neutral*** *on this legislation and requested that certainty is provided to municipal officials responsible for plan reviews.*

- *Final Status* ***(RECENT ACTION)****:* The full Assembly passed the bill on a voice vote on Tuesday, October 7th, the full Senate passed the bill on a 20-13 vote on Tuesday, November 18th, and the legislation was vetoed by the Governor on Friday, December 5th.

* *Review the League's testimony at lwm-info.org/1737/Legislative-Communications*