2025-2027 Budget Talking Points
Regional and Local Issues

No two municipalities are exactly alike, and therefore no two municipalities have the same needs. Wisconsin city and village leaders have a strategic vision for their municipality, with the impacts of those short- and long-term plans having the potential to assist in the overall growth and prosperity of Wisconsin. State government has been a great partner to assist communities in addressing local needs. Investments outlined below can continue to build on this partnership over the next two years.

Grants for Local Projects

League's 2025-2027 Budget Request - Provide $100.0 million One-Time for Local Projects

2025-27 Executive Budget - $165.1 million *2023-25 State Budget - $50.0 million*

Major capital projects can have widespread impacts not only for the community initiating the project, but for residents throughout the state. The Grants for Local Projects initiative had over $126.5 million in demand that far exceeded the $50 million in available funding. The public projects that resulted, including the expansion of the Appleton International Concourse and Baraboo Emergency Response Center, will have long-term impacts felt by residents and visitors for decades to come. In Appleton, the 47,000 square-feet expansion will better serve the more than one-million passengers that use the airport annually. By investing in local construction projects that serve a public purpose, this fledgling program stimulates economic activity, creates jobs, and attracts additional investments, contributing to the state's overall economic health

Payments for Municipal Services

League's 2025-2027 Budget Request - Increase Payments for Municipal Services by $12.4 million

2025-27 Executive Budget - $35.4 million *2023-25 State Budget - Base Funding*

In 2003, the Payments for Municipal Services program, which covers the local cost to provide essential services to state facilities located in that municipality, covered 87.9% of the costs incurred by local governments. The funding for these payments has not increased since 2003, leaving the $18.6 million in annual funding to cover just 37.6% of local costs requiring local residents to make up the difference.

An increase of $6.2 million per year would bring the percentage of costs covered to approximately 50.0% and would represent the first increase in 22 years. The impact to the state's general fund budget or the Local Government Fund would be minimal as the costs of these payments are typically charged back to the agencies, such as the UW-System, with the facilities in those municipalities.

Other Local and Regional Concerns

While the League does not engage in lobbying for hyper-local concerns given our limited capacity with a wide array of issues impacting all municipalities across the state, we do encourage local officials to engage in advocating for their municipality and for their broader community. Depending on geographic

locations, a few examples of projects the Governor included in his 2025-2027 Executive Budget that may be of interest to your city or village and its residents include:

- Closure of the Green Bay Correctional Institution and various investments at the Department of Corrections for the modernization and transformation of other correctional institutions.
- $25.0 million for updates to the Milwaukee County Courthouse as part of the Capital Budget
- $15.0 million at the Department of Health Services to provide grants to support hospital services in Western Wisconsin following the closure of hospital and healthcare facilities in the area.

Find other local projects in the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's 2025-2027 Executive Budget Analysis.

When speaking to legislators at budget public hearings, in-district listening sessions, or at a Capitol meeting during the League's Capitol Connections event, please feel free to advocate for specific projects and resources for your municipality.