# 2025-2026 Legislative Session
# League Summary of Municipal Legislation of Importance

## Bills Introduced February 17th through February 28th

- **Senate Bill (SB) 65: Impoundment of Vehicles Used in Reckless Driving Offenses** – Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Donovan (R-Greenfield) – 2023 Wisconsin Act 1 allowed local governments, by ordinance, to impound vehicles used in certain reckless driving offenses if the vehicle is owned by the driver who committed the offense and if that driver has previously committed similar offenses and did not pay in full any fines associated with that offense. This legislation allows the impounding of any vehicle, regardless of ownership, until all fines are paid. Law enforcement must attempt to determine if a vehicle was stolen, and if it was, must release the vehicle to its owner without any impoundment fees or charges.

- **SB 64: 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.

- **SB 58: Requiring Certain Information to be Included on Referendum Questions** – Sen. Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Rep. Allen (R-Waukesha) – This legislation requires that local government and school district referendum questions include the following information: 1) a good faith estimate of the annual dollar amount difference in property taxes on a median-valued, single-family residence located in the political subdivision or district that would result from passage of the referendum; 2) the estimated interest rate and amount of the interest accruing on the bonds; and 3) any fees that will be incurred if the bonds are defeased - voided on a balance sheet by setting aside cash or other low-risk bonds sufficient enough to service the debt.

- **SB 54: Cooperation with Immigration Officials** – Sen. Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Ortiz-Velez (D-Milwaukee) – This legislation prohibits local and state officials, including law enforcement officers, from aiding in the detention of an individual without a judicial warrant if the individual is being detained on the sole basis that the individual is or is alleged to be not lawfully present in the United States. While a separate immigration-related proposal, SB 57, from the majority party in the Legislature only applies to counties, SB 54 would also apply to municipalities.

- **SB 53: Displaying the National Motto** – Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Goeben (R-Hobart) – This legislation requires that each public building in the state, including those of local governments, must display the national motto of "In God We Trust" in a location visible to the visiting public. If the building is not open to the public, the motto must be displayed in a location where notices are typically provided to employees.

- **SB 51: Restricting the Types of Flags Flown at State and Local Buildings** – Sen. Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Rep. Steffen (R-Howard) – This legislation restricts the types of flags that may be flown at government buildings or facilities, including those owned or occupied by local governments, to the U.S. flag, state flag, and certain other flags listed in the bill. This bill is similar to SB 40 mentioned in the last Bulletin, with the notable difference that other flags may be flown at local government buildings or facilities under SB 51 with a three-fourths majority vote of the governing body.