LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES
316 W. Washington Ave., Suite 600
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-267-2380
Fax: 608-267-0645
Email: league@lwm-info.org
Website: lwm-info.org

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

Bills Introduced September 15th to September 26th

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 466: Project Labor Agreements** - Reps. Fitzgerald (D-Fort Atkinson) and Vining (D-Wauwatosa) and Sens. Smith (D-Brunswick) and Hesselbein (D-Middleton) - In 2017, state and local governments were prohibited from requiring bidders for public works contracts to enter into agreements with labor organizations or provide preference to bidders with those labor agreements. This legislation repeals those prohibitions, allowing but not requiring state and local governments to consider or require labor agreements in public works contracts.

- **AB 464: Prevailing Wage** - Reps. Sheehan (D-Sheboygan) and Anderson (D-Beloit) and Sens. Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and Wirch (D-Pleasant Prairie) - Prevailing wage is generally defined as the hourly rate, including contributions for fridge benefits, paid to the majority of workers in that particular field and in that county. In the 2017-2019 State Budget, Wisconsin's prevailing wage law was repealed, though the federal prevailing wage law applies to many projects. This legislation reinstates the prevailing wage law for most state and local projects of public works.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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. First, it requires a municipality to provide an opportunity for subdividers to meet informally with municipal officials. 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. 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.

- **AB 451: Workforce Housing TIDs** - Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Sen. Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) - This legislation provides a structure for 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 current 12% threshold.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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 range of allowable fees has not been raised for a decade. This legislation increases the maximum fees to $48.

- **AB 442: Nomination Paper Circulation for Spring Elections** - Rep. Ortiz-Velez (D-Milwaukee) and Sen. Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) - Currently, candidates for an office elected in the spring election may begin circulating nomination papers on December 1st. This legislation allows papers to begin circulating on November 16th.

- **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 worked with the Farm Bureau on this modification to the ARIP program to support more city and village roads that have processors or other entities integral to the agricultural supply chain.

- **AB 435: Stewardship Program Reauthorization** - Reps. Miresse (D-Stevens Point) and Stroud (D-Ashland) and Sens. Habush Sinykin (D-Whitefish Bay) and Roys (D-Madison) - 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 six more years through June 30, 2032. The legislation increases program funding to $72.0 million per year, including $30.0 million per year for the Local Unit of Government Subprogram and $7.8 million per year for the Recreational Boating Aids Subprogram. Finally, the legislation creates a Stewardship Board responsible for advising and reviewing certain Stewardship awards and expenditures.

- **AB 434: Local Traffic Calming Grants** - Reps. Moore Omokunde (D-Milwaukee), Arney (D-Wauwatosa), and Anderson (D-Beloit) and Sens. Johnson (D-Milwaukee), Roys (D-Madison), and Spreitzer (D-Beloit) - This legislation requires the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to develop and administer a local traffic calming grant program. Under the legislation, $60 million would be available to local governments that apply for projects to reduce the speed of vehicles.

- **AB 426: Election Observer Access** - Rep. Tittl (R-Manitowoc) and Sen. Quinn (R-Birchwood) - 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.

- **AB 397: WEDC Grant and Loan Reporting Requirements** - Rep. Armstrong (R-Rice Lake) and Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) - Under current law, recipients of grants or loans of at least $100,000 from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) 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.

Status of Bills with League Lobbying Positions

As of Monday, September 29th, the League has taken a position on 41 Senate Bills and 41 Assembly Bills

- **Senate Bill (SB) 382 / Assembly Bill (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 **(RECENT ACTION)**:* 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 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 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 **(RECENT ACTION)**:* 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 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 units of government 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 award cycles in each year and could be utilized for grants related to public works, utilities, transportation, public safety, and cybersecurity. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended the bill for passage as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on a 4-1 vote on Friday, September 26th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, September 10th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate Amendment 1 (not yet introduced in the Assembly) delays the effective date of the program from 2026 through 2029 to 2027 through 2030.
  - *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 **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Assembly Committee on Judiciary held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, September 25th.

- **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 held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, June 11th.

- **SB 310 / AB 306: 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, under current law, 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. *The League has registered as* ***neutral*** *on this legislation and appreciates the authors working with us to limit the impacts to local units of government.*

- *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 this bill on Wednesday, September 10th.

- **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* ***undisclosed*** *on this legislation and is working with the authors on amendments that may address our concerns.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government.

- **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* ***(RECENT ACTION)****:* The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue recommended the bill for passage on a 5-3 vote on Thursday, September 18th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Children and Families.

- **SB 286 / 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 Wisconsin Act 143, which the League supported, 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. This legislation corrects that legislation to clarify that the investments may be made to a third-party that will build, own, or operate the housing development or childcare service and removes the requirement that the investment is made only for employees. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* 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 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 delay the effective date of the legislation to the taxable years beginning on January 1, 2026.

- **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 bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on State Affairs.

- **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 this bill on Wednesday, May 21st.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means held a public hearing on this 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 **(RECENT ACTION)**:* 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 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 **(UPCOMING ACTION)**:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs has scheduled an executive session on the bill on Tuesday, October 7th.
  - *Assembly Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Assembly Committee on Environment held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, September 23rd.

- **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 this 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 legislation as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote 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 183 / AB 199: 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, this legislation increases the Medicaid reimbursement for non-transport emergency medical service (EMS) calls to the maximum allowable rate for basic life support emergency transportation calls beginning January 1, 2027. 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 has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Health recommended the bill for passage on a 5-0 vote on Monday, May 5th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on State Affairs recommended the bill for passage on a 10-0 vote on Wednesday, June 4th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1, both introduced following committee passage, lowers the non-transport Medicaid reimbursement rate from the initially proposed $371.51 to the maximum allowable rate of $175. The current rate is $69.

- **SB 182 / AB 198: 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 the structure for grants to technical colleges that 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 has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The full Senate passed the legislation as amended by Senate Amendment 1 on an 18-14 vote on Wednesday, June 18th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on State Affairs recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 10-0 vote on Wednesday, June 4th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 require technical college grants to have a condition that colleges with wait lists look to accommodate those students. The amendment also makes technical corrections to terminology.
  - *2025-2027 State Budget:* A total of $10.6 million was included in the budget for these programs and may be released by the Joint Finance Committee upon passage of the bill. This includes $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.

- **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 it's 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 **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Health held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, April 23rd.
  - *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on State Affairs held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, April 23rd.

- **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 Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate recommended the bill for passage as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a 13-0 vote on Thursday, May 15th.
  - *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.

- **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 **(UPCOMING ACTION)**:* The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate has scheduled a public hearing on the bill on Tuesday, September 30th.
- *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 this bill on Tuesday, May 6th.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, May 28th.

- **SB 159 / AB 179: Requirements for Police Vehicle Lighting** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Jacobson (R-Mosinee) - Current law allows 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 in law, a combination of blue and red lights may be mounted on the front, sides, or rear of a police vehicle. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended the bill for passage on a 5-0 vote on Thursday, May 8th.
  - *Assembly Status **(RECENT ACTION)**:* The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended the bill for passage on a 6-0 vote on Tuesday, September 16th.

- **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 **undisclosed** on this legislation and has noted that we are concerned with the upfront and ongoing costs and the availability and shelf life of the medication.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development held a public hearing on this bill on Thursday, April 24th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

- **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 this bill on Tuesday, May 27th.

- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate held a public hearing on this 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 **(RECENT ACTION)**:* 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 **(UPCOMING ACTION)**:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs has scheduled 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 **(UPCOMING ACTION)**:* The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs has scheduled 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 this 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 this 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 bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities.

- **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 this 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 this bill on Wednesday, March 19th.

- **SB 34 / 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. These deadlines to withdrawal are June 10th preceding the partisan primary and the 4th Tuesday in August preceding the general election, which align with the final deadlines for the state to certify and report candidates for these offices to local clerks. This bill only impacts the offices listed and does not make changes to the processes for other offices, including local elected offices. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and appreciates the authors introducing an amendment related to timing for clerks and printing ballots.*
  - *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs held a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, September 18th.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the legislation as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote on Tuesday, June 24th.
  - *Amendment Overview:* Senate and Assembly Amendment 1 require the withdrawal to be submitted seven business days earlier and establish requirements for the statement of withdrawal. The amendments also establish the fees paid by candidates for withdrawal.

- **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

- **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 has 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 has 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).

- **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 has 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.

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