

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 21, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Caroline Gómez-Tom, Chairwoman, Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

From: Katie Domina, Director, Office of Government Affairs

Subject: A report from the Office of Government Affairs regarding legislative updates

File Type: Informational Report

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**BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to File No. 26-9, this report is submitted as an informational report regarding legislative updates. The purpose of this report is to provide an update related to local, state, and federal policy developments, as well as an overview of the current state legislative session.

**OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

The Office of Government Affairs (OGA) represents the interests of Milwaukee County before local, state, and federal governments. The structure of OGA is a function of state law. There are two staff positions in OGA, representing a partnership between the Board and the Executive: one to represent the County Executive and one to represent the County Board of Supervisors (Board). The Board's Government Affairs Liaison position is vacant. The Board is currently represented through a professional service agreement with Foley & Lardner. There is frequent communication and coordination between OGA and the Board's representative.

**STATE UPDATES**

**2025-27 Legislative Session**

As of mid-May, all remaining legislative sessions, including the special session on redistricting, the special session on funding, and the veto review session, were adjourned.

*Special Session on Funding*

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Evers and legislative Republican leaders announced a proposal to spend a portion of the state's projected surplus. The proposal spent approximately \$1.8 billion on two property tax relief measures (general school aids and Wisconsin Technical College System aid), special education aid, direct payments to certain taxpayers, and two individual income tax exemptions (tipped income and overtime income).

The bill passed the Joint Finance Committee and was subsequently amended to also expand the veterans and surviving spouse property tax credit and create disaster assistance grant programs. The bill passed the Assembly 61-32 before being rejected in the Senate 15-18.

A collection of Legislative Fiscal Bureau memos on the bill can be found below:

- [May 2026 Special Session LRB-6706 and LRB-6710](#)
- [Estimated Distribution of Individual Income Tax Rebate under May 2026 Special Session LRB-6707 and LRB-6710](#)
- [Distributional Effects of School Finance Provisions of May 2026 Special Session LRB-6707 and LRB-6710](#)
- [Assembly Amendment 1 to May 2026 Special Session Assembly Bill 1](#)
- [Estimated 2027-29 Out-Year Commitment under May 2026 Special Session Assembly Bill 1](#)

## *Proposed Study Committees*

Legislative study committees traditionally convene in even-numbered years and are temporary, bipartisan groups intended to examine more complex policy issues and develop legislation for the upcoming biennial session. The recommended legislative study committees for the 2025-27 legislative session are:

- Study Committee on the District Attorney Funding Formula
- Study Committee on Laws to Restore Floodplains
- Study Committee on Cryptocurrency
- Study Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care
- Study Committee on the Definition of “Veteran”
- Study Committee on Cemeteries
- Study Committee on State-Tribal Relations

The proposed topics are subject to a final vote by the Joint Legislative Council Committee.

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

### *Congressionally Directed Spending*

Congressionally Directed Spending is annual federal funding requested by Members of Congress for projects and programs that are deemed critical to the nation, their constituents, and their states. Submissions through this process are the result of a partnership between departmental staff, Strategy, Budget and Performance, and the Office of Government Affairs.

The FFY27 congressionally directed spending process is underway. Congresswoman Moore advanced two Milwaukee County projects for consideration:

1. [Community Violence Initiative Project \(DHHS\) - \\$2.5 million](#)
  - a. The House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science [reduced the proposed amount](#) to \$772,000.
2. [Underground Fuel Tanks Project \(MCDOT\) - \\$2.5 million](#)
  - a. The House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development [reduced the proposed amount](#) to \$500,000.

Senator Tammy Baldwin advanced [\\$6 million for affordable housing financing and construction](#) (DHHS).

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

There are several upcoming Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) events:

- Southeast Regional Turnout for Transportation Roundtable – May 27<sup>th</sup>: A regional roundtable discussion on Wisconsin’s transportation future.
- [Southeast District Meeting](#) – June 22<sup>nd</sup>: Provides an opportunity for WCA to share information on a variety of topics with county officials, as well as hear from county officials on local issues, priorities and how the association can best meet county needs.

### **PREPARED BY**

Katie Domina, Director, Office of Government Affairs

### **APPROVED BY**

*Katie Domina*

Katie Domina, Director, Office of Government Affairs

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Director of Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk