

Date: February 19, 2024

To: Marcella Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sequanna Taylor, Chairwoman, Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

From: Fred Ludwig, Government Affairs Liaison

Subject: File No. 24-9 Report

Pursuant to File No. 24-9, 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 on the current state legislative session.

State of the State Address

On January 23, Governor Evers gave his sixth State of the State address. Key policy components of his speech included:

- Issuing an order allowing BadgerCare recipients to receive over-the-counter contraception at no cost
- Forming a Governor's Interagency Council on Mental Health for state agencies to work together to reduce barriers and address gaps in mental health services
- Creating a Healthcare Workforce Task Force to find long-term solutions to address our healthcare industry shortages
- Promoting child care services by directing \$170 million in federal funds to support the state's pandemic-area Child Care Counts program and calling to expand paid family leave

Wisconsin Counties Association

The 2024 Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Legislative Conference was held February 6-7, 2024 in Madison. The two-day meeting provided an overview on legislative proposals affecting counties and reports by WCA Government Affairs staff, state officials and thought leaders.

Key agenda items included discussions with Governor Evers and legislative leadership, a legislative update from the WCA Government Affairs team, and networking opportunities with county leaders and conference attendees.

In addition to regularly scheduled WCA Conference activities, the Milwaukee County Youth Commission visited Madison on February 7 in order to both attend WCA Conference programming and engage with leaders in the State Capitol. Their visit comes pursuant to a budget amendment authored by Chairwoman Nicholson that directs Government Affairs and the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance to coordinate with the Youth Commission and partner with WCA for additional stakeholder engagement.

During their visit to the Capitol, Commissioners were able to engage with Governor Evers in the Governor's Conference Room, hear from several Milwaukee-area legislators about their priorities and paths to elective office, visit the Secretary of State's office, and receive a tour of the Capitol.

The next engagement opportunity with WCA will be at their Annual Conference in La Crosse from September 22-24, 2024. We are working with WCA on logistics and will pass along more information once it becomes available.

Redistricting

On February 13, 2024, the State Legislature today approved legislative maps proposed by Governor Tony Evers amid ongoing litigation in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. They passed largely along party lines and have been sent to the Governor, who has indicated he would sign them as long as no changes were made to them.

This action comes after the Governor recently vetoed maps passed by the legislature on January 30, 2024, which were based the maps on those Evers submitted by the Governor but included a handful of changes to prevent incumbent legislators from being drawn out of their current districts.