

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 24, 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****State Medicaid Updates**

[2025 Wisconsin Act 102](#) required the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to seek approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to one year. For several years, Wisconsin was one of two states that had not extended postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months. According to DHS, this coverage is now live and currently available for Wisconsin residents.

[2025 Wisconsin Act 233](#) requires DHS to submit a request to the federal Department of Health and Human Services for a waiver to conduct a demonstration project to provide pre-release healthcare coverage to incarcerated individuals for up to 90 days before release if the individual is otherwise eligible for coverage under the Medicaid program. Specifically, case management services, medication-assisted treatment for all types of substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of prescription medication would be covered under the Medicaid program. Recently, DHS submitted an [implementation plan](#) for developing the federal demonstration waiver to the Joint Finance Committee. DHS intends to submit the waiver request no later than January 1, 2027. Milwaukee County supported this legislation through [File No. 26-227](#).

**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 legislative study committees for the 2025-27 legislative session are:

Study Committee on District Attorney Funding Formula: The study committee is directed to review the weighted caseload formula currently used to determine how the state funds district attorneys' offices. The committee shall review how caseloads are measured to determine whether district attorneys' offices are

adequately staffed and how positions are allocated based on the weighted caseload formula. The committee shall consider other issues relating to the weighted caseload formula, including whether the formula accurately reflects the offices' workloads and whether the formula has unintended consequences that do not serve the interests of justice. After these reviews, the committee shall recommend legislation relating to the weighted caseload formula that provides efficient and accurate methods to appropriately fund district attorneys' offices.

Study Committee on Floodplain Restoration: The study committee is directed to review state and federal laws and policies impacting floodplain restoration projects in Wisconsin. The committee shall identify barriers that these laws and policies may pose to floodplain restoration projects and make recommendations for changes to Wisconsin law that reduce these barriers and that encourage best practices in floodplain restoration projects. In making its recommendations, the committee shall consider floodplain management approaches adopted in other jurisdictions. The committee may also recommend changes to state law that may be enabled by changes to federal law under the Floodplain Enhancement and Recovery Act, legislation currently pending before Congress.

Study Committee on Cryptocurrency: The study committee shall review the service of cryptocurrency staking, which involves the use of a third-party to commit a person's cryptocurrency in order to support the security and operations of certain blockchain protocols. In the course of this review, the study committee shall evaluate whether the state's securities laws should apply to such services or whether other requirements may be more appropriate and recommend legislation necessary to effectuate that determination. The study committee may also review other current and potential uses of cryptocurrency and recommend legislation regarding the use and development of cryptocurrency that encourages innovation and adequately protects the public from any risks associated with such technology.

Study Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: The study committee is directed to study current and emerging uses of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in health care. As part of its review, the study committee shall consider the use of AI technology in the patient-provider relationship, including use in clinical care and communication facilitation. The study committee shall also consider the use of AI in interactions between insurers or medical assistance programs and patients. Finally, the study committee shall consider the use of AI between insurers or medical assistance programs and providers, including in health care coverage decision making. After these reviews, the study committee shall consider recommending legislation that addresses standards for the use of AI in health care services and insurance.

Study Committee on State Veterans' Benefits: The study committee is directed to review the benefits state law currently provides to veterans and determine whether the term "veteran" should be redefined to provide a more uniform use of the term throughout the statutes, expanded to include individuals who have served in the military but do not meet current applicable definitions of "veteran," or both. In conducting this review, the committee shall examine the definition of "veteran" under s. 45.01 (12), Stats., as well as other statutory definitions or eligibility criteria that define the scope of who is entitled to particular benefits provided to former members of the military. The study committee shall also consider the purposes for which individuals who formerly served in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or the National Guard but do not meet current definitions of "veteran" should be included within this term.

Study Committee on Cemeteries: The study committee is directed to conduct a recodification of subch. II, ch. 157, Stats., relating to cemeteries, and subchs. VII and IX, ch. 440, Stats., relating to crematory authorities and cemetery authorities, salespersons, and preneed sellers, to include reorganizing the sections in a logical manner, renumbering and retitling sections, consolidating related provisions, modernizing language, resolving ambiguities in language, making other necessary organizational changes, and making minor substantive changes. The study committee may recommend mechanisms for providing guidance on these subchapters, written concisely and in language clearly understood by those required to comply with them, as well as legislation addressing the abandonment of cemeteries and the burial of human remains on noncemetery property.

Study Committee on State-Tribal Relations: The special committee is directed to study issues relating to American Indians and the American Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific

recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues. [s. 13.83 (3), Stats.]

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century ROAD to Housing Act**

At the end of June, Congress passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ROAD to Housing Act. Among other provisions, the bill:

- Authorizes the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program for three years, providing faster access to funding for housing recovery, infrastructure restoration and economic revitalization following disasters.
- Ties a portion of Community Development Block funding to local housing production for certain communities.
- Addresses large institutional investor activity in the housing market by precluding these entities from owning or exercising financial or fiduciary control over more than 350 single-family homes.
- Raises banks' public welfare investment cap (PWI) from 15 percent to 20 percent of their total capital.

Additional information from the National Association of Counties (NACo) can be found [HERE](#).

### **2 CFR Part 200**

At the end of May, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a proposed rule that rewrites regulations related to federal grants. In general, the proposed rule implements several 2025 executive orders, expands authority for federal agencies to terminate certain awards, and places new requirements on subrecipients. NACo estimates more than 3,000 counties and \$1.1 trillion in federal grants would be governed by this rule annually. Several Milwaukee County departments are currently reviewing the potential impacts of the proposed rule. Comments on docket [OMB-2026-0034](#) are due July 13<sup>th</sup>. Additional information from NACo can be found [HERE](#).

### **2027 Appropriations Process**

The annual appropriations process for the FFY27 is underway. The U.S. House and Senate Appropriation Committees are working their way through the 12 spending bills. The new federal fiscal year starts on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional information from NACo, including an appropriations tracker tool, can be found [HERE](#).

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

The 2026 Wisconsin Counties Association Annual Conference will be held September 20<sup>th</sup>-**22<sup>nd</sup>**. Additional information regarding registration can be found [HERE](#).

### **PREPARED BY**

Katie Domina, Director, Office of Government Affairs

### **APPROVED BY**



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