

Date: February 29, 2024

To: Marcelia 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 approved legislative maps proposed by Governor Tony Evers amid ongoing litigation before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The maps passed largely along party lines and were sent to the Governor, who indicated he would sign them as long as no changes were made to them. This action came after the veto of maps passed by the legislature on January 30, 2024, which were based on those submitted by the Governor but included a handful of changes to prevent incumbent legislators from being drawn out of their current districts.

On February 19, the Governor enacted maps into law as [2023 Act 94](#). Per the enactment of 2023 Wisconsin Act 94, new legislative districts will be in place for the November 2024 elections and are expected to be for any special elections between now and November.

Overview

Under the current legislative maps and partisan makeup, Republicans hold 64 of 99 Assembly seats and 22 of 33 Senate seats, with Democrats holding 36 Assembly seats and 10 Senate seats (one vacant). Based on voting data from national and local elections from 2016 to 2022, the newly enacted maps, 45 districts are more Democratic than Republican, 46 districts are more Republican than Democratic, and 8 districts fall into a toss-up between Democrats and Republicans (within a 5 percent margin).

Under the new maps, 15 Assembly districts include a pairing of incumbent legislators who previously represented separate districts into one district together and leave 15 open seats, and 6 Senate districts include a pairing and leave 7 open seats. Milwaukee County-area seats that pair incumbent legislators include the following:

- 7th Assembly District (Bob Donovan, R-Greenfield, Daniel Riemer, D-Milwaukee)
- 13th Assembly District (Tom Michalski, R-Elm Grove, Robyn Vining, D-Wauwatosa)
- 8th Senate District (Dan Knodl, R-Germantown, Duey Stroebel, R-Saukville)
- 21st Senate District (Julian Bradley, R-Franklin, Van Wanggaard, R-Racine)

Assembly district-level interactive maps showing partisan makeup can be found [here](#), and a precinct-level map can be found [here](#).

State Senate district-level interactive maps showing partisan makeup can be found [here](#), and a precinct-level map and be found [here](#).

Legislative Session

The Wisconsin State Assembly wrapped up its work for the 2023-2024 legislative session on Thursday, February 22. The last remaining floor period for the Wisconsin State Senate is March 12-14, during which they will likely wrap up their work for this session as well and thus concluding any state legislative activity for the remainder of the year.