



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Wisconsin Counties Association

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Budget Passed and Signed: WI Act 15



9:15pm
July 2nd

State Senate

Bipartisan: 19-14



12:45 am
July 3rd

State Assembly

Bipartisan: 59-39



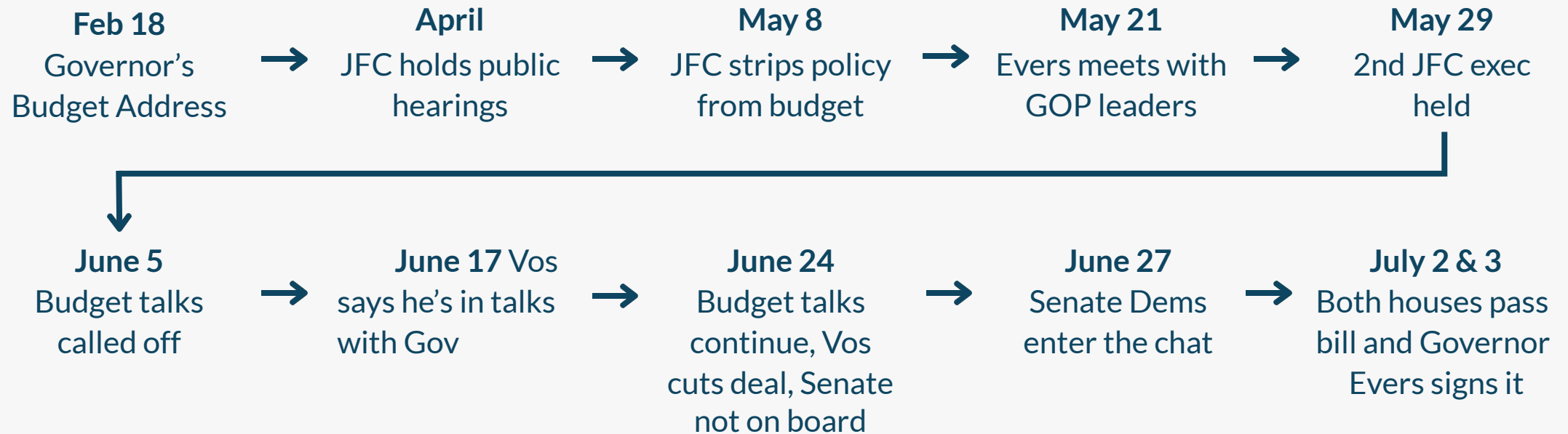
1:30 am
July 3rd

Governor

2025 Wisconsin Act 15
23 Partial Vetoes



How did we get here?



Senate Issues

Unwritten Rule of 17

- GOP Majority wants 17 GOP votes to pass a bill on the Senate floor
- Five Senate GOP holdouts
- Deal Made



What did the Governor Get?



More \$ for K-12 Education

\$1.4 billion total in spendable revenue
\$500 million boost to special education
37.5% (JFC) → 45% in 2nd year of budget
90% for high cost (\$30,000 or more)

Investment in UW System

\$87 million cut (JFC) → \$256 million
\$94 million in raises
\$840 million in capital projects



Relief for Child Care

\$331.6 million in new funding
\$110 million to child care providers
\$123 million subsidy for working poor
\$66 million for 4-year old programs
\$28.6 million for toddlers and infants



Other Provisions in the Deal



Child Care

- Family care centers can now serve up to 12 kids
- Lowered the minimum age for child care assistants to 16 (currently 17 or 18 depending on qualifications)



UW System

- Instructional staff must take on higher teaching loads, or buy off their time
- \$1 million for UW-Green Bay's Rising Phoenix Early College High School Program

Other

- Exempt residential energy and utility bills from sales tax
- \$5 million film tax credit
- \$1.3 billion income tax cut
- \$200 million in transportation revenue increases
- \$1 billion for hospitals via hospital bed assessment General wage adjustment 2%-3%

WCA Budget Priorities

Mental Health Crisis and CSP

- \$20 million annually to fund non-federal share of MA Community Support Program Services
- \$21 million annually to fully fund crisis services and eliminate the MOE for MA reimbursable services

Circuit Court Funding

- Provide \$70 million for the circuit court cost appropriation
- Increase the amount of revenue counties are allowed to retain with regards to fees and forfeitures

Conservation Staffing Grants

- Increase base funding for County Land and Water Conservation Staffing and Cost-Sharing Grants to \$20.2 million annually

RMA, GTA, and LRIP-S

- Increase State Trunk Highway Maintenance funding relative to demand and increase costs
- Another increase in General Transportation Aid
- \$200 million appropriated for LRIP-S



General Government

County Veteran Service Office Grants

- 5% increase for grants to county and tribal veteran service offices
- By Population:
 - Less than 20,000:
\$11,688⇒\$12,300
 - Between 20,000 & 45,499:
\$13,750⇒\$14,400
 - Between 45,500 & 74,999:
\$15,813⇒\$16,600
 - 75,000 or more:
\$17,875⇒\$18,800





Veteran Transportation Grants

- The budget provides \$100,000 annually to increase funding for grants to counties to provide transportation to medical facilities for veterans
- The increases the total amount of grants to counties from \$100,000 to \$200,000

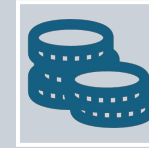
General Government Budget Removals



Collective bargaining



Reinstatement of
prevailing wage



Broadband
expansion grant
dollars



Reimbursement to
counties for special
election costs



Allowing the clerk to
canvas absentee
ballots on the day
prior to the election



The register of deeds
recording fee



Judicial and Public Safety

Circuit Court Cost Appropriation

- \$10 million per year over the biennium
- These dollars help support counties and their operations of the state circuit court system



Assistant District Attorneys

42 additional ADAs provided in the budget

<u>County</u>	<u>Additional ADA Positions</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Additional ADA Positions</u>
Brown	7.0	Oconto	0.5
Burnett	0.5	Oneida	0.5
Columbia	1.0	Outagamie	2.0
Crawford	0.5	Saint Croix	1.5
		Shawano/Men	
Dane	1.0	.	2.0
Eau Claire	2.0	Trempealeau	1.0
Fond du Lac	4.0	Vilas	0.5
Grant	1.5	Walworth	1.0
Kenosha	2.5	Waukseha	6.0
Manitowoc	2.0	Waupaca	1.0
Marinette	0.5	Wood	2.0
Monroe	1.5		
		Total	42.0



Interoperable Radio System

- \$79.7 million to construct the interoperable radio system to replace WISCOM
- \$10 million GPR for local governments to upgrade their radio equipment

Judicial and Public Safety Budget Removals

- Increased funding for crime victim services
- Two additional circuit court branches for Brown County
- Extension of judicial privacy for federal judges
- Our budget motion of \$6 million for one-time funds for victim witness program was not included by JFC
 - State still falls short on 90% reimbursement

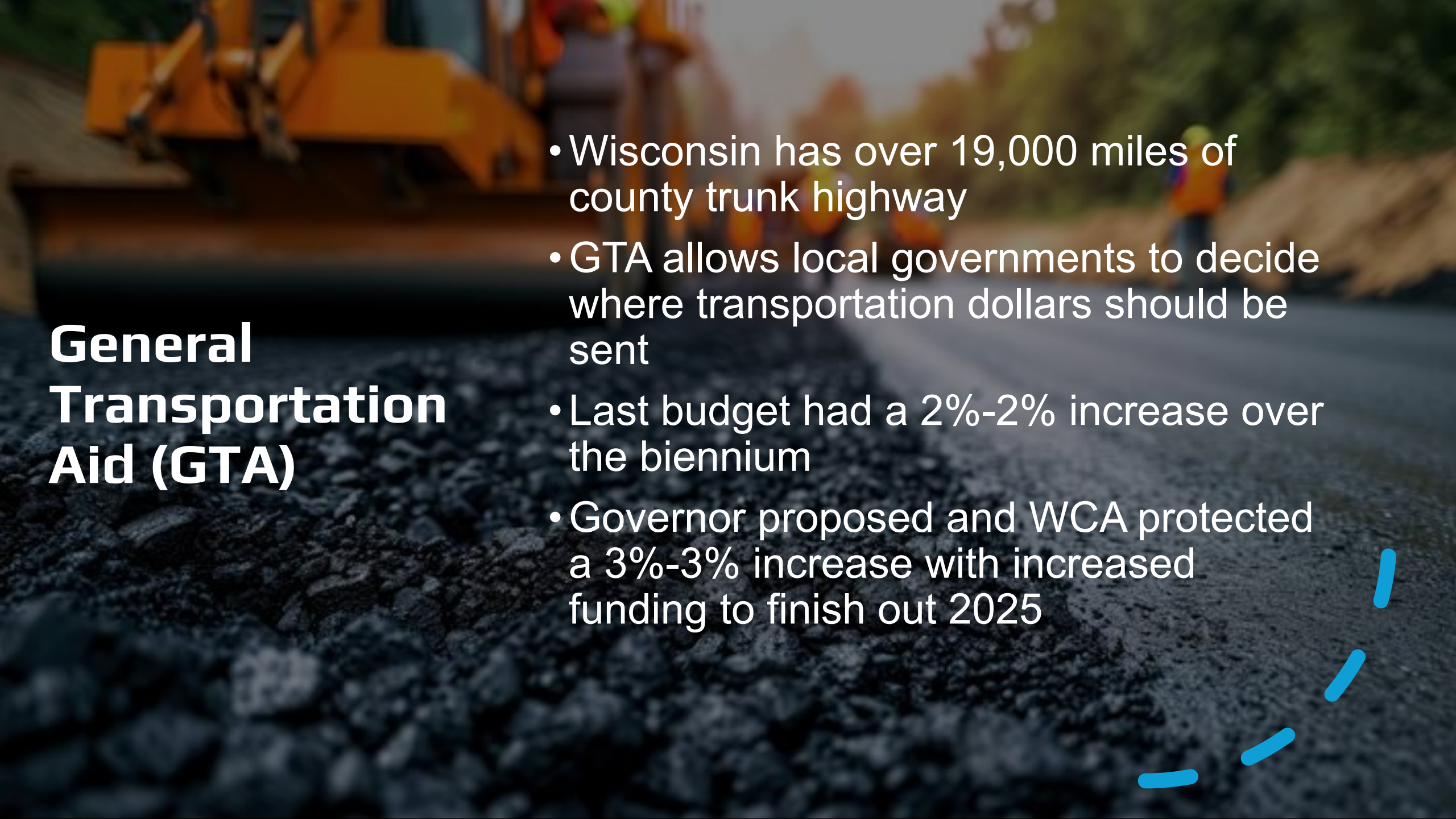
A long-exposure photograph of a city street at night. The image shows light trails from cars moving along a road that recedes into the distance. In the background, city buildings are lit up, and their lights are blurred into streaks. The overall color palette is dominated by warm yellows and oranges from the streetlights, contrasted with cooler blues and purples from the night sky and distant city lights.

Transportation and Public Works

Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA)

- Wisconsin Counties provide routine maintenance on the state highway system
 - Only state that does this
- This account is severely underfunded
 - Last major increase was \$52 million in 2014 (\$30 million to counties)
- Governor proposed \$20 million increase over the biennium
- WCA secured a \$30 million increase with assurance that it will all go to counties





General Transportation Aid (GTA)

- Wisconsin has over 19,000 miles of county trunk highway
 - GTA allows local governments to decide where transportation dollars should be sent
 - Last budget had a 2%-2% increase over the biennium
 - Governor proposed and WCA protected a 3%-3% increase with increased funding to finish out 2025
- 



Local Road Improvement Fund-Supplemental (LRIP-S)

- LRIP-S has been extremely successful with a high return on investment
- Reauthorizations since implementation:
 - 2019 (implementation): \$90 million
 - 2021: \$100 million
 - 2023: \$100 million
- Last budget counties turned \$35 million of funding into \$85 million worth of projects
- Governor reauthorized and WCA protected another \$100 million in one-time funding

Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP)

- Created in 2023-25 budget with \$150 million in one-time funding
- Helps local governments repair agricultural roads—many of which would never receive funding under LRIP programs
 - Counties began to see more funding in second round
- Governor proposed \$50 million of one-time funding
- WCA got the funding increased to \$150 million, with \$30 million specifically for 6-20ft bridges in poor or worse condition

Other Transportation Provisions

- 10% increase in Paratransit Aids
- Fully fund County Forest Road Aids at \$351 per mile
- \$20 million for Brown County to develop the Port of Green Bay
- Increase Expressway Policing Aids resulting in base funding hitting \$20 million in the second year of the budget (Milwaukee)



Transportation and Public Works Budget Removals

- Increase to Mass Transit Operating Aids
- Increase for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) in both years of the biennium

An aerial photograph of a large agricultural field. The field is filled with young green plants arranged in very straight, parallel rows. A green tractor is visible in the upper right quadrant, moving through the field and leaving a dark, tilled path behind it. The tractor is pulling a large, dark-colored implement, likely a moldboard plow or a similar tillage tool. The overall scene depicts a well-maintained and mechanized farming operation.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

County Conservation Staffing Grants

- Our request was to uphold the statutory goal
 - 100% of first position from base funding
 - 70% of second position from base funding
 - 50% of third and additional positions from base funding
- WCA agreed to a more realistic ask
 - 100% of first position from base funding
 - 70% of second position from base funding
 - 50% of third position from one-time GPR
- Governor's proposal provided funding for the first three positions in base funding
- WCA got the first three with one-time funding
- \$7.5 million increase over the biennium compared to 2025



A man in a white lab coat and glasses is examining a corn plant in a field. The image is partially obscured by a large white curved shape on the right side of the slide.

Conservation Cost-Sharing Grants

- Counties utilize these grants to assist private landowners with the installation of structural practices
- County staff does an incredible job of leveraging federal, state, and local dollars to help with projects
- Governor's proposal included \$10 million in bonding authority
- Budget includes one-time continued investment of \$7 million
 - Typical of past budgets



Wisconsin County Forest Initiatives

- County Sustainable Forestry Grants and County Forest Administrator Grants were merged into a single appropriation in 2023-25 budget
- Governor's budget proposal was \$1 million
- WCA and the Wisconsin County Forest Association got a \$250,000 increase for both grants
- WCA also secured \$130,000 increase for County Forest Wildlife Habitat Grants



Pre-Disaster Flood Mitigation Grants

- A new program funded with \$2 million one-time in 2023-25 budget
- A handful of counties received dollars for projects that help prevent flooding
- Governor Evers proposed and WCA protected another \$2 million in one-time funding

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use Budget Removals



\$100 million in PFAS testing and remediation



Increased fee assessed to CAFO operators



Continuation of the Wisconsin Fund



Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) replacement or rehabilitation fund continuation—also known as the Wisconsin Fund

A photograph of four hands of different skin tones cupping a small, glossy red heart. The hands are positioned in a circle, with fingers pointing outwards, creating a sense of unity and care. The background is a solid, muted teal color.

Health and Human Services

2017 Act 185 & Juvenile Corrections Rates

- Comprehensive reform of the youth corrections system
 - Replacing LH & CL facilities with smaller facilities better designed to serve youth
- The rate imposed on counties are intended to encourage counties to invest in community-based services

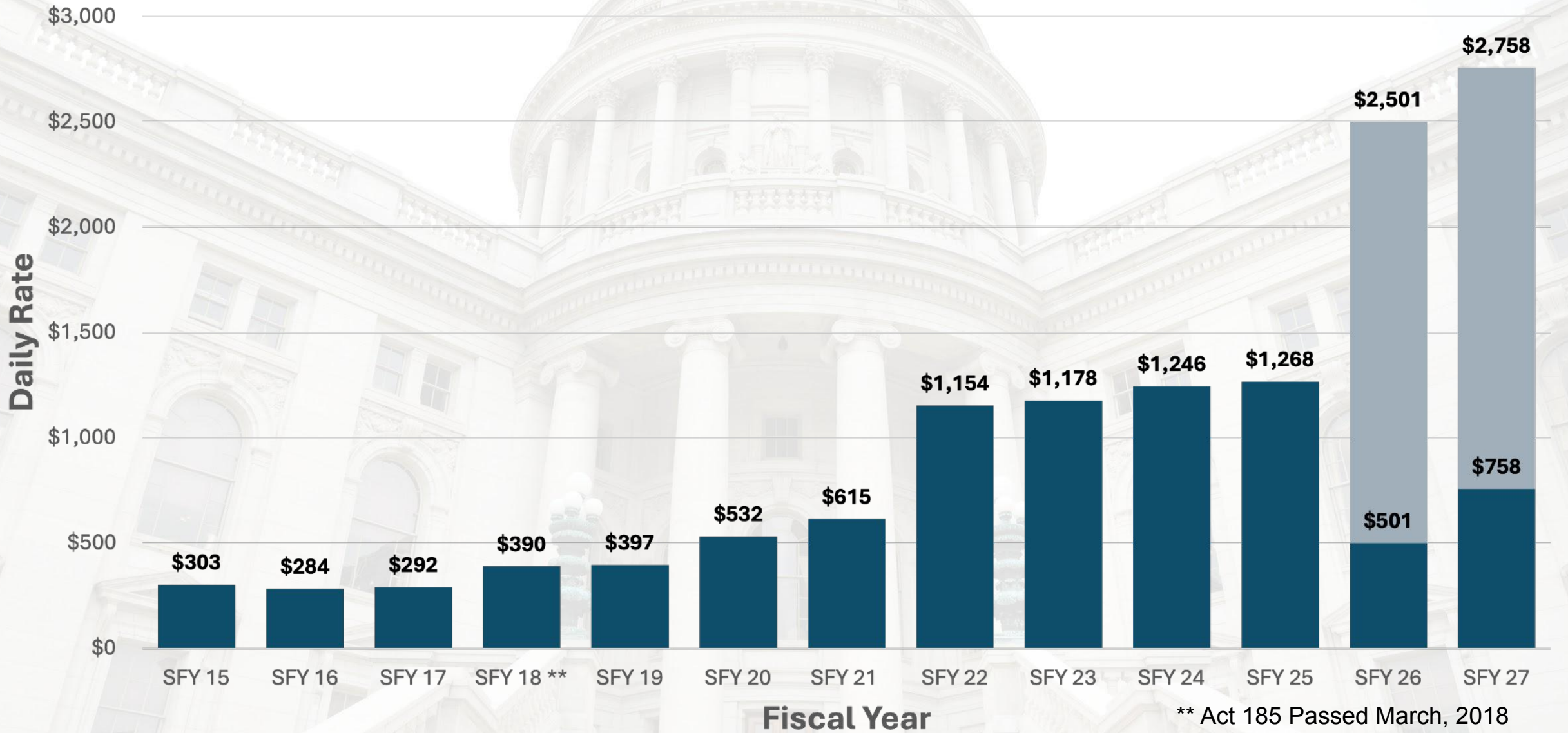
The charges take Youth Aids and local funds away from community services to divert youth from the corrections system



Youth Corrections Rate

JFC Proposal vs Final Rate

JFC Proposed Rate Final Rate



Child Support Modernization Project (THRIVE)

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KATMM1    XKE455    PRODUCTION    K I D S    V2P20066
07/31/24   16:30:15                                MAIN MENU

                KIDS INFORMATION DATA SYSTEM
                WISCONSIN BUREAU OF CHILD SUPPORT
-----
01 - CASE INITIATION                                07 - SUPERVISORY FUNCTIONS
02 - INQUIRY FUNCTIONS                               08 - INTERSTATE PROCESSING MENU
03 - CASE MANAGEMENT
04 - PARTICIPANT MAINTENANCE
05 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
06 - THIRD PARTY TABLE MAINTENANCE

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF KIDS IS PROHIBITED UNDER S. 49.83, WIS. STATS.
ACCESSING KIDS FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION OR ANY OTHER PURPOSE NOT DIRECTLY
RELATED TO ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAMS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

                ENTER NUMBER OF SELECTION  _____
-----

F1-HELP          F2-JUMP-SAVE          F3-SIGN OFF          F14-JUMP-ERASE

VRP20103                      20.53
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A photograph of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a grey hoodie, holding a baby on his back. The baby is looking over the man's shoulder and smiling. They are outdoors with trees and sunlight in the background.

THRIVE System

- The previous budget provided a much needed investment for the new system
- WCA requested one-time funds in coordination with WCSEA to ensure timely implementation

25-27 Budget:

- \$11.1 million GPR (\$26.1 million FED) to support the replacement of the KIDS system with the THRIVE system

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

- A facility that provides psychiatric services to individuals under 21 in an inpatient setting
 - Currently WI does not have any PRTFs
- 2025 Wisconsin Act 9 was part of a Study Committee on Emergency Detention of Minors
- \$1.8 million GPR was provided in the budget for grants to create these facilities



Health and Human Services Budget Removals

Youth Justice

- Youth Aids Allocation
- Serving 17-year-olds in the youth justice system

Child Welfare

- Children and Family Aids Allocation
- Assignment of child support for out-of-home placements
- Eligibility expansion for “like-kin” kinship care

Long Term Care

- Adult protective services
- Alzheimer’s Family and Caregiver Support Program
- Home delivered meals
- Home and Community Based Services

Behavioral Health

- Community Support Programs
- Community Aids basic county allocation

A wide-angle photograph of the United States Capitol building at night. The building is illuminated, with its iconic dome glowing. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered on the wide stone steps leading up to the entrance. The sky is dark blue with some light clouds. The text "The Federal Reconciliation Package" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

The Federal Reconciliation Package

Reconciliation Bill Overview

Items impacting county human services:



U.S. House passed the budget reconciliation bill on July 3



Signed into law on July 4 by President Trump

SNAP

- Benefit cost share
- Administrative cost shift
- Work requirements

Medicaid

- Eligibility & redetermination
- Work requirements



WCA

QUESTIONS?