

# Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing

June 6 to June 13, 2026

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<b>BUDGETS AND FINANCE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
CITY TO PRESENT AUDIT FINDINGS AT JUNE 17 COUNCIL MEETING .....	3
ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEM AT APPLETON LIBRARY WILL BE INCREASED .....	3
SURPLUS FUNDS COVER \$3M IN DOUGLAS COUNTY PROJECTS .....	3
<b>WORKFORCE AND LABOR</b> .....	<b>4</b>
DOOR COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION FILES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST SHERIFF .....	4
CHIPPEWA COUNTY LOOKS TO APPOINT NEW TREASURER.....	4
CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SOLBERG CONTRACT.....	4
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
PUBLIC-SECTOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TRAINING SET FOR AUGUST 17-18 AT WCTC.....	5
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
MARINETTE COUNTY WEIGHS \$6 MILLION ROAD PLAN .....	5
CITY OKS REGENT STREET REDESIGN WITHOUT BIKE LANES; FUSION RESEARCH FUNDS .....	5
COUNTY PUTS NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE ON HOLD .....	6
LAKE GENEVA TO WORK WITH BUS COMPANY DURING ROAD PROJECT .....	6
WITTMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT MAY LEASE 47 ACRES OF LAND FOR HANGAR SPACE .....	6
SUPERIOR PANEL RECOMMENDS AGREEMENT WITH ENBRIDGE ENERGY.....	7
SOLAR BIDS SAVE MONEY ON NORTH END FIRE STATION.....	7
NEIGHBORS ENJOY FIRST DAY OF MEQUON'S POOL SEASON AS LARGE 2027 RENOVATION PLANS COME INTO FOCUS .....	7
NEW ROUNDABOUTS ARE IN THE WORKS FOR DOWNTOWN WISCONSIN RAPIDS .....	7
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
FIRE INSPECTION SCHEDULES CHANGING .....	8
BODY CAMERAS, JAIL BACKLOGS DOMINATE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE .....	8
REDUCING 911 DISPATCHER TRAUMA A KEY GOAL FOR NEW \$30M FACILITY.....	9
WAUSAU POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE OVER CITY'S SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM .....	9
D.A. SEEKS COUNTY'S HELP TO FUND VICTIM WITNESS POSITION .....	9
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE ADDRESSES E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER ISSUES.....	9
MEXICAN RESTAURANT, GAS STATION LOSE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING VIOLATIONS .....	10
MID-LEVEL EXPANSION LIKELY CHOICE FOR PD REFERENDUM .....	10
<b>LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
53-UNIT AFFORDABLE HOUSING FACILITY FOR SENIORS TO BE BUILT IN MENASHA .....	10
RHINELANDER CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ZONING CHANGE FOR POTENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT .....	11
WAUSAU CITY COUNCIL INSTRUCTS STAFF TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH WANGARD PARTNERS FOR NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX.....	11
CITY TO HIRE MARKETING FIRM TO ATTRACT NEW RESIDENTS .....	11
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT MAKER WILL EXPAND IN MILWAUKEE'S NORTH SIDE .....	12
TOWN BUYS MILL, BUTTON FACTORY PROPERTIES .....	12
VANTAGE GETS DNR PERMIT TO USE PRIVATE WELLS .....	12

COMMON COUNCIL APPROVES SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION FOR NORTH SIDE LIBRARY SITE..... 13

COMMON COUNCIL APPROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT APPEAL OF EMERSON HISTORIC DESIGNATION ..... 13

COPPER ROCKS PROJECT GETS APPROVAL FOR NEXT PHASE OF REZONING ..... 13

CHANGE OF ZONING TO RESIDENTIAL SOUGHT FOR VILLAGE SQUARE IN PABST FARMS..... 14

MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD SET FOR EXPANSION ..... 14

TOWN OF TURTLE BOARD DELAYS DECISION ON DATA CENTER AGREEMENT..... 14

**GOVERNANCE AND ELECTIONS ..... 15**

MARATHON COUNTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS REMOVING SUPERVISOR FROM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ..... 15

CLERK DISMISSES CHALLENGE TO KRAUSE'S SHERIFF CANDIDACY ..... 15

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS ..... 15**

11 CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED, NO ONE SEATED ..... 15

MADISON SCHOOLS BUY \$278K DIGITAL PLATFORM TO TRACK STUDENTS' FEELINGS ..... 16

SLOWEY NAMED MENASHA JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ..... 16

KUSD 'CUTTING BONE' TO ADDRESS DEFICIT, SUPERINTENDENT SAYS..... 16

SCHOOL CLOSINGS WILL BE ON THE TABLE IN BELOIT SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS ..... 16

UNION GROVE HIGH SCHOOL CLEARED TO ACQUIRE LAND THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN ..... 17

**STATE-LOCAL INTERFACE ..... 17**

JEFF LAMONT ON WISCONSIN'S PFAS SETTLEMENT WITH TYCO FIRE..... 17

SOH20 MEMBER DISSATISFIED WITH PFAS SETTLEMENT..... 17

SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATE APPEARS TO HAVE ILLEGALLY USED MAN SERVING FELONY SENTENCE TO GATHER SIGNATURES..... 18

WISEYE MORNING MINUTE: SUPREME COURT RECUSAL RULES ..... 18

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT ACCEPTS ANOTHER APPEAL AIMED AT REDRAWING CONGRESSIONAL MAP..... 18

LAWSUIT ALLEGES WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION VIOLATED OPEN MEETINGS LAW..... 19

## Budgets and Finance

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### City to present audit findings at June 17 council meeting

Amery Clerk-Treasurer Taylor Larson reported that preparation for the municipal audit is complete, with staff processing 63 auditor-requested journal entries, the lowest such count in the city's recent history, a figure that incorporates corrections to wastewater treatment plant project accounts. Larson, who holds authority over account reconciliations, finalized May reconciliations, including voiding and reissuing stale-dated checks. The assessment roll was finalized after Board of Review sessions in May at which no property owners appeared, and has been transmitted to Polk County for processing, with submission to the State of Wisconsin pending. Formal audit findings are scheduled for presentation to the full Amery City Council at its June 17, 2026 meeting.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | [https://theameryfreepress.com/news/city-to-present-audit-findings-at-june-17-council-meeting/article\\_ffe4b99d-0f48-40ea-bce7-bb5756cdf9d2.html](https://theameryfreepress.com/news/city-to-present-audit-findings-at-june-17-council-meeting/article_ffe4b99d-0f48-40ea-bce7-bb5756cdf9d2.html)

### Rooftop solar system at Appleton library will be increased

The Appleton Finance Committee voted unanimously on June 8, 2026, to recommend transferring an additional \$350,000 to the Appleton Public Library rooftop solar project, doubling the total allocation to \$700,000. Both the original \$350,000 appropriated in the 2026 budget and the additional \$350,000 would be drawn from a \$2.5 million federal Inflation Reduction Act elective-pay reimbursement the city received for the library's geothermal system installation. The \$700,000 would fund a 280-kilowatt solar array estimated at \$675,000 and energy-efficiency upgrades estimated at \$25,000; a \$200,000 anticipated rebate would reduce the net cost to \$475,000. Parks and Recreation Director Tom Flick and Project and Resiliency Manager Steven Schrage presented the proposal. The Appleton Common Council is scheduled to consider the transfer on June 17, 2026, after which installation could begin later in 2026 depending on panel lead times.

Source: The Daily Reporter (Northeastern) | <https://dailyreporter.com/2026/06/12/appleton-library-rooftop-solar-system-double-size/>

### Surplus funds cover \$3M in Douglas County projects

The Douglas County Administrative and Executive committees, meeting jointly on June 4, 2026, approved recommendations to allocate approximately \$3 million in 2025 budget surplus across county departments, funding \$3 million of \$4.29 million in capital requests. County Administrator Dave Sletten presented the plan, which includes \$843,500 for administration and human resources (with \$750,000 directed to the county's self-insured health insurance fund), \$690,000 for buildings and grounds, \$420,000 for the highway department, \$390,000 for forestry (including \$325,000 for Gordon Dam repairs), and \$268,500 for the Sheriff's patrol division covering body and squad cameras and nonlethal equipment. Board Chairman Mark Liebaert amended the sheriff's request to remove fixed-position license plate readers while keeping the \$200,000 funding level. The Veterans Service Office's \$45,000 request for a case manager's office was not funded. The full County Board will consider the recommendations on June 18, 2026.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/surplus-funds-cover-3m-in-douglas-county-projects>

## Workforce and Labor

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### Door County Deputy Sheriff's Association files no-confidence vote against sheriff

The Door County Deputy Sheriff's Association filed a formal five-page no-confidence letter with Door County government against Sheriff Tammy Sternard, citing deficiencies in leadership, communication, presence, and trust. The association, which represents deputies in the Door County Sheriff's Office, alleged that concerns including a feral pig shooting incident and deteriorating jail staff morale have overshadowed Sternard's positive actions. Sternard, an elected constitutional officer, characterized the allegations as baseless and inconsistent with her record. The letter does not constitute a binding removal action; Sternard retains her elected position absent a separate legal process. The Door County Board is scheduled to review the letter at a meeting on Tuesday, at which the body may determine any subsequent formal response or procedural action.

Source: WLUK FOX11 Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://fox11online.com/news/local/door-county-deputy-sheriffs-association-files-no-confidence-vote-against-sheriff-tammy-sternard-leadership-communication-presence-trust-morale-pig>

### Chippewa County looks to appoint new treasurer

Chippewa County Administrator Andy Albarado has recommended that the County Board appoint a replacement for County Treasurer Patricia Schimmel, who announced her retirement effective October 9, 2026, after 42 years of county employment, rather than hold a special election. Schimmel has held the elected treasurer position since 2008; her current term runs through November 2028, and the board-set salary is \$83,713 in 2026, \$85,387 in 2027, and \$87,095 in 2028. Albarado outlined a timeline under which the County Board would vote on the appointment in September, with the selected individual starting as a limited-term employee before October 9 for overlap training, then assuming the full treasurer role on October 10. Board Chairman Jason Bergeron endorsed the appointment path. The Executive Committee is scheduled to discuss the vacancy at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Chippewa Falls.

Source: Leader-Telegram (Western) | [https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily-updates/chippewa-county-looks-to-appoint-new-treasurer/article\\_2a27ee78-3ab8-46eb-8f12-b9a5fdf394bf.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily-updates/chippewa-county-looks-to-appoint-new-treasurer/article_2a27ee78-3ab8-46eb-8f12-b9a5fdf394bf.html)

### City Council approves Solberg contract

The Eau Claire City Council unanimously approved a contract on June 9, 2026, appointing Dave Solberg as the city's next city manager. The vote formalized Solberg's role following his service as acting city manager beginning April 28 and his designation as interim city manager on May 12. Council member Clara Serrano acknowledged the community input received during the selection process. Solberg, who holds an engineering background, began his duties at 8 a.m. on June 10, 2026. The council also postponed action on two Eau Claire Redevelopment Authority district plans, the Riverbend Redevelopment District Plan and the Core Reinvestment Redevelopment District Plan, to its July 28 meeting, with public hearings scheduled at both Monday council meetings in July before that vote.

Source: Leader-Telegram (Western) | [https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/city-council-approves-solberg-contract/article\\_5b48c563-36a8-4cd1-b5ff-854ed32bd46d.html](https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/city-council-approves-solberg-contract/article_5b48c563-36a8-4cd1-b5ff-854ed32bd46d.html)

## Announcement

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### Public-sector collective bargaining training set for August 17-18 at WCTC

A note from the editor: I will be co-teaching Wisconsin Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining for the Public-Sector Supervisor with Attorney Kyle Gulya of von Briesen and Roper on August 17-18, 2026, at Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee. The 12-hour program runs 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Day 1 and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Day 2, with registration at \$385 per participant. The curriculum covers Wisconsin collective bargaining law, negotiation preparation through interest arbitration, contract administration, grievance processing, past practices and prohibited practices, and leverage dynamics, delivered through instruction, scenarios, and hands-on grievance and bargaining exercises. The session is designed for administrators, human resources, finance, public safety supervisors, transit supervisors, and school district administrators. Registration is at [www.wctc.edu/cjtraining](http://www.wctc.edu/cjtraining) under Specialized Training.

## Infrastructure and Utilities

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### Marinette County weighs \$6 million road plan

The Marinette County Infrastructure Committee voted on June 10, 2026, to recommend a \$6 million borrowing package and accompanying capital plan to the county's administrative committee, which meets the following week. The proposal, presented by County Administrator Kevin Solway and Highway Commissioner Eric Burmeister, would finance road improvements across fiscal years 2027 through 2029, covering approximately 103 miles of wedging and chip sealing and roughly 27 miles of full reconditioning with new base aggregate and four inches of asphalt. The \$6 million figure is a scaled-back version of an earlier \$9.6 million concept. Solway told supervisors the plan would hold the county's debt levy approximately flat at 27 cents per \$1,000 of equalized value. If the county declines to borrow, \$477,000 in state highway aid dedicated to county road work would be returned to the state. No committee vote count was reported.

Source: EagleHerald (Northeastern) | [https://www.ehextra.com/news/marinette-county-weighs-6-million-road-plan/article\\_a97714cc-1085-4126-962d-4746d125ba23.html](https://www.ehextra.com/news/marinette-county-weighs-6-million-road-plan/article_a97714cc-1085-4126-962d-4746d125ba23.html)

### City OKs Regent Street redesign without bike lanes; fusion research funds

The Madison City Council voted on June 9, 2026, to approve a redesign of Regent Street near Camp Randall Stadium, adopting a layout with one travel lane in each direction, parking and loading zones on both sides, and sidewalks widened from 6 to 9 feet, without on-street bike lanes. The vote followed roughly two hours of public comment and a prior narrow approval by the city's Transportation Commission. The council also approved \$2.8 million in tax increment financing for Realta Fusion to redevelop more than 200,000 square feet of the former Oscar Mayer facility on the north side for office, research, and manufacturing use. The financing is structured as post-performance, disbursed in six intervals contingent on Realta Fusion meeting specified job-creation and property-value thresholds, with approximately 200 jobs projected. Bike improvements along perpendicular streets, including a dedicated lane on Mills Street, are part of the Regent Street project.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | [https://captimes.com/news/government/city-oks-regent-street-redesign-without-bike-lanes-fusion-research-funds/article\\_09890661-aef2-4ab3-987f-a1c5dc34f362.html](https://captimes.com/news/government/city-oks-regent-street-redesign-without-bike-lanes-fusion-research-funds/article_09890661-aef2-4ab3-987f-a1c5dc34f362.html)

### **County puts new highway garage on hold**

The Green County Board voted at its June 9, 2026 meeting to pause pursuit of a new highway department garage estimated at \$42 million to \$48 million, with planning figures reaching \$49 million. The project, developed with planning assistance from Kraemer Brothers Construction, had been narrowed to a 160,000-square-foot facility at the Pleasant View County complex. A bond issuance vote on the June 9 agenda was withdrawn before action. County Administrator Nic Owen cited insufficient board consensus and public concern over concurrent major capital projects, including the already-approved \$86 million jail and sheriff's office for which bonds have been issued. Highway Commissioner Chris Narveson noted that aging infrastructure and incoming vehicles that no longer fit existing buildings create operational pressure. The estimated tax impact of the highway facility was approximately \$180 annually for a \$300,000 property. No timeline for resuming study was reported.

Source: Monroe Times (South Central) | <https://themonroetimes.com/local-news/county-puts-new-highway-garage-on-hold/>

### **Lake Geneva to work with bus company during road project**

The Lake Geneva City Council voted 7-1 on June 8, 2026, to hire Dousman Transport Company Inc. to provide bus transportation to the downtown area during the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Highway 50/Main Street reconstruction, scheduled for 2027 and 2028, with Alder Linda Frame casting the dissenting vote. Dousman Transport has proposed operating the program for approximately \$473,900, using ADA-compliant, air-conditioned school buses with wheelchair lifts and water coolers, with two to four buses operating daily on four-and-a-half-hour driver shifts. A prior motion by Frame to hire Lake Geneva Transit for a trolley program failed 2-6. City officials plan to use parking revenue to help offset costs and are considering additional paid parking near Central-Denison Elementary School, the Cove of Lake Geneva, and Town Bank. A contract must still be negotiated and funding determined before the program is established.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | [https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/government-politics/article\\_65e16088-151c-4f13-b354-968cc52415f0.html](https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/government-politics/article_65e16088-151c-4f13-b354-968cc52415f0.html)

### **Wittman Regional Airport may lease 47 acres of land for hangar space**

The Winnebago County Board is scheduled to vote Tuesday on a proposal to lease approximately 47 acres at Wittman Regional Airport's Aviation Business Park to Volare Hangars, an Arizona-based company, for development of 100 hangars and related facilities. The parcel represents nearly the entire county portion of the Aviation Business Park, established jointly by Winnebago County and the City of Oshkosh approximately 12 years ago at the southeast corner of Wittman Field. County Executive Gordon Hintz indicated that lease terms remain under negotiation. If the board approves the proposal, Hintz said development plans could be presented as soon as the week of EAA AirVenture in July. Hintz characterized projected lease revenue as a way to reduce reliance on property tax funding for county operations. No dollar figures for the lease have been publicly disclosed.

Source: WTAQ 1360 AM / 97.5 FM Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://wtaq.com/2026/06/12/wittman-regional-airport-may-lease-47-acres-of-land-for-hangar-space/>

## Superior panel recommends agreement with Enbridge Energy

Superior's Public Works Committee voted on June 4, 2026, to recommend that the City Council approve an agreement with Enbridge Energy under which Enbridge would contribute \$1.1 million toward \$6.1 million in improvements at the South Superior sewer and stormwater treatment plant to accommodate 100 to 200 additional gallons per minute of wastewater from Enbridge's pipeline cooling system. The agreement also positions the city to install a UV disinfection system estimated at \$1.1 million. The committee separately recommended awarding engineering services agreements to Short Elliott Hendrickson for design work at two combined sewage treatment plants: \$450,000 for the South Superior plant and approximately \$419,000 for the Billings Park plant. Mayor Jim Paine noted the arrangement is projected to generate \$750,000 to \$1 million annually in new wastewater fees. The City Council will consider all three recommendations on June 16, 2026.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/superior-panel-recommends-agreement-with-enbridge-energy>

## Solar bids save money on North End fire station

The Superior Public Safety Committee voted on June 4, 2026, to recommend awarding a rooftop solar array contract for the North End fire station to Hunt Electrical Services, the low bidder at just under \$77,000 among six bids ranging from \$98,000 to \$145,000, against a budgeted \$200,000. Fire Chief Camron Vollbrecht attributed the competitive pricing partly to Hunt Electrical's role as the station's primary electrical contractor, which reduced staging costs. The committee also recommended a separate contract of nearly \$170,000 with DSC Communications for the station's technology and alerting system. Vollbrecht noted the city must execute the Hunt Electrical contract and pay 5 percent upfront by the end of June to qualify for a 30 percent federal Inflation Reduction Act payback, projected to reduce solar costs by approximately \$23,000. The City Council will consider both contract awards on June 16, 2026.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/solar-bids-save-money-on-north-end-fire-station>

## Neighbors enjoy first day of Mequon's pool season as large 2027 renovation plans come into focus

The City of Mequon approved a design contract for an estimated \$10 million renovation of the Mequon Community Pool, a procurement action by the city's governing body. The contract initiates design work for the nearly century-old facility, with renovation expected to begin after the 2027 pool season. Planned improvements include lap lanes, a water slide, updated concessions, and a new bathhouse. The renovation is the first phase of the broader Mequon Commons master plan, a civic center revitalization effort the city approved in April 2026. No vote count or design-phase contract figure was reported. Pool manager Maria Ziegelbauer oversees current operations. The next procedural step is release of final renovation plans after the design contract work is complete.

Source: WTMJ 4 NBC Milwaukee (Southeastern) | <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/in-your-community/ozaukee-county/neighbors-enjoy-first-day-of-mequons-pool-season-as-large-2027-renovation-plans-come-into-focus>

## New roundabouts are in the works for downtown Wisconsin Rapids

The Wisconsin Rapids Common Council and Planning Commission adopted a downtown master plan authorizing construction of two roundabouts on East Jackson Street as part of a multi-phase streetscape project. Community Development Director Kyle Kearns presented the plan at the June 1, 2026 Planning Commission meeting, noting it implements a master plan adopted by both bodies after roughly one year of public engagement. The project includes vacating a portion of Market Street, with a segment retained to preserve the Wood County Courthouse address and jail staff parking access, and extending 2nd Street North through a currently active parking lot. The first roundabout will sit at East Jackson Street, 3rd Street North, and the remainder of Market Street; the second at 2nd Street North and East Jackson Street. Phase 2 of the East Jackson Street project is anticipated to begin July 13, 2026, covering the stretch from the Jackson Street Bridge to Market Street.

Source: WFHR 1320 AM Wisconsin Rapids (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wfhr.com/news/2026/06/10/roundabouts-in-downtown-wisconsin-rapids>

## Public Safety

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### Fire inspection schedules changing

The Amery City Council unanimously approved Ordinance 07-2026, amending the city's fire inspection code to eliminate a semiannual inspection requirement for downtown properties with shared or zero lot lines. Under the ordinance, all commercial buildings in Amery will be inspected annually, consistent with the state minimum under Wis. Stat. 101.14. Fire Chief Frohn cited a state periodic audit that flagged the twice-yearly downtown inspections as unnecessary; the prior requirement had persisted after the city's fire district designation lapsed when residential use above commercial buildings was permitted. Mayor Van Blaricom said the ordinance corrects a longstanding oversight. Frohn retains discretionary authority to order more frequent inspections where conditions warrant. Schools, hospitals, and elderly care facilities remain subject to semiannual inspections under state law. The change is projected to save the city approximately \$500 annually.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | [https://theameryfreepress.com/news/fire-inspection-schedules-changing/article\\_4cbc5a96-ac36-416f-83c6-57517f8fa093.html](https://theameryfreepress.com/news/fire-inspection-schedules-changing/article_4cbc5a96-ac36-416f-83c6-57517f8fa093.html)

### Body cameras, jail backlogs dominate public services committee

The Marinette County Public Services Committee met on June 9, 2026, and received Sheriff Randy Miller's budget request for body-worn cameras and upgraded in-car video systems, estimated at approximately \$110,000 per year over five years for roughly \$560,000 total, covering about 45 units across patrol, jail, recreation, and court assignments. No formal vote was taken. Finance Director Hollie Viestenz noted the county's total levy increase for the coming year is just under \$200,000, making the \$110,000 annual camera cost a significant pressure. Committee Chair Tom Buelteman expressed support but acknowledged funding challenges. The committee also reviewed jail population data from Jail Administrator Joe Moser showing 120 inmates in custody, 80 of them pre-sentencing, and referenced a placeholder \$15 million jail expansion proposal. The body camera request will advance to the full county budget process for further consideration.

Source: EagleHerald (Northeastern) | [https://www.ehextra.com/news/body-cameras-jail-backlogs-dominate-public-services-committee/article\\_e7d4a786-1243-45b9-9706-4288b61c0a3c.html](https://www.ehextra.com/news/body-cameras-jail-backlogs-dominate-public-services-committee/article_e7d4a786-1243-45b9-9706-4288b61c0a3c.html)

## **Reducing 911 dispatcher trauma a key goal for new \$30M facility**

Dane County's Department of Public Safety Communications is constructing a \$30 million, 34,000-square-foot emergency communications facility near McFarland, adjacent to the county Medical Examiner's Office, with completion expected in August and operations beginning in early 2027. The project, approved under county governance, expands dispatch capacity from 21 to 42 stations and increases operational space from approximately 2,000 to 34,000 square feet. Agency Director Luis Bixler, appointed in 2020 by then-County Executive Joe Parisi, oversees the department and its 77 staff members. The facility will include a gym, natural lighting, covered parking, quiet rooms, and a dedicated observation area for public tours, and its design incorporates trauma-informed architectural principles intended to support dispatcher mental health. The facility is expected to accommodate future staffing expansion as call volumes increase in rural Dane County.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | [https://captimes.com/news/government/reducing-911-dispatcher-trauma-a-key-goal-for-new-30m-facility/article\\_228efb8b-2600-47f3-aeb1-1d9a93fdf474.html](https://captimes.com/news/government/reducing-911-dispatcher-trauma-a-key-goal-for-new-30m-facility/article_228efb8b-2600-47f3-aeb1-1d9a93fdf474.html)

## **Wausau Police Department will take over city's school crossing guard program**

The Wausau Common Council voted 11-0 to transfer administration of the city's school crossing guard program from All City Management Services back to the Wausau Police Department, effective for the 2026-27 academic year. The private firm had operated the program since 2020 under a subcontracting arrangement. The transition is projected to save the city just over \$45,000 annually and the Wausau School District approximately \$19,500. Captain Nathan Cihlar submitted the supporting memo, noting that rising expenses had diminished the financial benefit of the private partnership. Mayor Doug Diny, citing the Police Department's operational capacity, characterized the move as returning the service to public operation. Crossing guards will remain posted at 15 locations for two hours daily, and current guards are encouraged to apply for city positions. The change also raises crossing guard wages from \$20 to \$22 per hour. The transition is expected to be operationally seamless when the next school year begins.

Source: WDLB 1450 AM Marshfield (Central/Northern) | <https://wdlbam.com/2026/06/11/21446/>

## **D.A. seeks county's help to fund victim witness position**

Ozaukee County District Attorney Ben Lindsay appeared before the county Public Safety Committee to request converting a two-thirds-time Victim Witness Program assistant position to full-time with benefits, at an estimated additional county cost of approximately \$50,000 annually. The program's current annual budget is \$162,843, with the state reimbursing the county 55 percent of coordinator Lisa Haasch's salary and benefits and 55 percent of the 26-hour assistant position. The request follows the departure of former assistant Jill Nitschke to the state Department of Corrections, leaving Haasch as the sole program employee serving three courts and five prosecutors. County Administrator Jason Dzwiniel provided the cost estimate. The committee took no formal vote but expressed support and directed Lindsay and Dzwiniel to develop a detailed proposal for a future committee meeting.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeeexpress.com/content/da-seeks-county%E2%80%99s-help-fund-victim-witness-position>

## **Friday Night Live addresses e-bike and e-scooter issues**

The Waukesha Ordinance and License Committee voted unanimously to recommend forwarding a proposed ordinance regulating powered scooters, e-bikes, and other powered mobility devices on city sidewalks to the Common Council for further discussion. The proposal responds to resident complaints about pedestrian safety involving children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities on city sidewalks, walking paths, and roadways. No specific ordinance identifier or effective date was reported. The committee's action advances the measure to the Common Council, where additional discussion will take place before any final vote. The city is acting separately from Friday Night Live organizers, who are independently implementing voluntary walking requirements for bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and similar devices within the event footprint.

Source: Waukesha Freeman (Southeastern) | [https://www.gmtoday.com/the\\_freeman/news/friday-night-live-waukesha-scooter-ebike/article\\_143b9f40-8b34-4f59-a4af-ddda20bbdf29.html](https://www.gmtoday.com/the_freeman/news/friday-night-live-waukesha-scooter-ebike/article_143b9f40-8b34-4f59-a4af-ddda20bbdf29.html)

### **Mexican restaurant, gas station lose liquor licenses for underage drinking violations**

The La Crosse City Council voted unanimously at a special meeting on June 12, 2026, to deny license renewals for two businesses: Tequila's restaurant, near the UW-La Crosse campus, lost its liquor license, and the Citgo gas station on State Road lost both its tobacco and liquor licenses. The denials followed committee hearings on June 9 and were based on police and inspection reports presented to the council. Tequila's had accumulated four convictions for serving underage customers since 2023 and at least 12 related citations since 2021; the Citgo station received one citation for underage alcohol sales in September 2024 and was twice found to have illegal generic Viagra pills behind the counter, resulting in the arrest of co-owner Inderyas Chiragdin on criminal charges. Both businesses are prohibited from selling alcohol, beer, and tobacco from July 2026 through June 2027 but may reapply the following year.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Western) | [https://chippewa.com/news/local/government-politics/article\\_74bb0fab-bc27-5d44-b139-74e130d1c9f9.html](https://chippewa.com/news/local/government-politics/article_74bb0fab-bc27-5d44-b139-74e130d1c9f9.html)

### **Mid-level expansion likely choice for PD referendum**

The Plymouth City Council, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, indicated consensus support for placing a police department staffing expansion referendum before voters at a November election. If approved, the measure would permanently increase the city property tax levy by \$600,000 annually to fund three additional officers, with the tax impact reported at approximately \$140 per property. No formal recorded vote on the referendum question was taken at this session. The Committee of the Whole's indication of support is a preliminary step toward a formal council vote to place the measure on the November ballot, which would be the next required action before the question is submitted to Plymouth voters.

Source: Plymouth Review (Southeastern) | <https://www.plymouth-review.com/articles/mid-level-expansion-likely-choice-for-pd-referendum/>

## **Land Use and Development**

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### **53-unit affordable housing facility for seniors to be built in Menasha**

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority awarded a \$1.2 million tax credit to developer MF Housing Partners for construction of a 53-unit affordable senior housing facility in

Menasha, off Oneida Street south of Midway Road. The project is privately financed, with WHEDA's tax credit allocation constituting the formal governance action. Eligibility requires applicants to be age 55 or older with annual income at or below 60 percent of Winnebago County's median, currently about \$45,000 per year. Mayor Austin Hammond and Principal Planner Matt Larsen cited the project's alignment with the city's housing production goals; Menasha has issued permits for 189 housing units in 2026. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027, with the facility expected to open in 2028. Additional project information and renderings are to be released as development progresses.

Source: WLUK FOX11 Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://fox11online.com/news/local/new-affordable-senior-housing-facility-to-be-built-in-menasha>

### **Rhineland City Council approves zoning change for potential housing development**

The Rhineland City Council voted unanimously at its June 9, 2026 meeting to reclassify a parcel between West Wind Drive and Highway 47 from light industrial to mixed residential. The rezoning is intended to enable a prospective development of more than 30 units, ranging from single-family homes to duplexes. Mayor Kris Hanus characterized the action as the first step in a multi-phase process, noting the zoning change does not constitute final approval of the development. Several West Wind Drive residents spoke during public comment, raising concerns about wetland impacts and increased traffic. The developer must now complete additional studies, including wetland and traffic analyses, and further municipal review before any construction may proceed. No timeline for subsequent approvals was reported.

Source: WXPR 91.7 FM Rhineland (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wxpr.org/business-economics/2026-06-10/rhineland-city-council-approves-zoning-change-for-potential-housing-development>

### **Wausau City Council instructs staff to continue negotiations with Wangard Partners for new apartment complex**

The Wausau City Council directed staff to continue negotiations with Milwaukee-based Wangard Partners on a proposed 143-unit, two-building apartment complex along the Wisconsin River. Development Director Randy Ffirick said the project would generate tax revenue to offset municipal debt from prior riverfront property acquisitions. Wangard has committed to performing environmental cleanup on the site, a former Hammerblow Corporation location, and will install pilings and foundations to address unstable soil and maintain ongoing soil management standards. The city has agreed to assist Wangard in applying for grant funding. The Economic Development and Finance Committee reviewed a term sheet in closed session, and a final vote of the full City Council is scheduled for July, with construction anticipated to begin later in the summer.

Source: WDLB 1450 AM Marshfield (Central/Northern) | <https://wdlbam.com/2026/06/11/ausau-city-council-instructs-staff-to-continue-negotiations-with-wangard-partners-for-new-apartment-complex/>

### **City to hire marketing firm to attract new residents**

The Medford city government approved hiring a marketing firm to attract new out-of-state residents, funded by a \$100,000 grant awarded to the city in partnership with The Chamber. The initiative targets recruitment of 10 new households from outside Wisconsin, with outreach aimed at prospective residents who could fill workforce positions in the Medford area. The governing body authorized the procurement, with The Chamber serving as a collaborative partner. Specific

vendor selection, vote counts, and effective dates were not reported. The grant award is the financial mechanism enabling the marketing contract. No further procedural steps or contract award details were reported.

Source: Medford Star News (Central/Northern) | <https://www.centralwinews.com/news/2026/06/10/city-to-hire-marketing-firm-to-attract-new-residents/?destination=star-news>

### **Construction equipment maker will expand in Milwaukee's north side**

The Milwaukee Common Council approved a resolution in early June 2026 authorizing the sale of 1.6 acres at 6600 N. Teutonia Ave. to Maxon Industries, Inc. for \$125,000, following prior approval by the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee in late May. The land sale supports a \$2.8 million facility expansion by the Milwaukee-based construction equipment manufacturer at its existing 21,000-square-foot facility at 3204 West Mill Rd. The city acquired 6600 N. Teutonia Ave. through property tax foreclosure in 2011. The expansion, planned in two phases totaling approximately 17,000 square feet, will add manufacturing space, parking, and storage. Maxon projects hiring 25 additional employees, more than doubling its current workforce of 22. Mayor Cavalier Johnson was scheduled on June 12, 2026, to meet with city and company leadership to sign the resolution.

Source: The Daily Reporter (Southeastern) | <https://dailyreporter.com/2026/06/11/maxon-industries-expand-milwaukee-north-side-facility/>

### **Town buys mill, Button Factory properties**

The Town of Fredonia completed a \$40,000 purchase of the Waubeka Mill and Button Factory properties from Charles Sheridan and his son, with the transaction closing June 3 as confirmed by Town Chairman Chris Janik. Town electors authorized the acquisition on May 27 by a 23-10 vote. The purchase enables Ozaukee County to access the blighted parcels to support a \$142,800 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation brownfield assessment grant with a June 15 deadline. The town board was expected to approve a county access letter at its June 10 meeting. The properties, which include structures with asbestos, a cracked foundation, rotted support beams, and underground fuel contamination, are intended to eventually become a county park. The town plans to transfer the land to Ozaukee County, but an intergovernmental agreement governing the transfer and any county contribution toward the \$40,000 price has not been finalized and requires approval by both governing bodies.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/town-buys-mill-button-factory-properties>

### **Vantage gets DNR permit to use private wells**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approved a high-capacity well permit for Vantage Data Centers' Lighthouse Campus in Port Washington, authorizing four wells with pumping capped at 20 gallons per minute for three wells and 30 gallons per minute for the fourth, below the 60 gpm Vantage had sought. The permit covers an 18-to-24-month construction period, after which the wells must be filled and sealed. A corresponding city permit, which requires action by the Port Washington Board of Public Works, was removed from that body's agenda by City Engineer Roger Strohm pending additional information from Vantage. City code permits continued use of wells existing before May 1, 2023, allowing Vantage to operate the wells in the interim. The

maximum daily draw is approximately 12,000 gallons feeding two 6,000-gallon holding tanks. The Board of Public Works is expected to take up the city permit at 5:30 p.m. on July 14, 2026.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/vantage-gets-dnr-permit-use-private-wells>

### **Common Council approves surplus property declaration for North Side Library site**

The La Crosse Common Council voted 8-3 on June 11, 2026, to declare the North Side Library site surplus property, initiating the formal disposition process for the city-owned parcel. The North Side Library will close on June 18, 2026. The surplus declaration authorizes the Department of Planning and Development to draft a Request for Proposals for the property, to be presented at the June 24 Economic and Community Development Commission meeting. If the commission approves the RFP, it will be released publicly for proposals, which the commission will evaluate to determine the option best serving current and future residents. Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey commented on the action. The Common Council retains final approval authority over any ultimate sale of the property.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Western) | [https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/common-council-approves-surplus-property-declaration-for-north-side-library-site/article\\_d1eaf21a-9da8-4f64-be99-967defb70270.html](https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/common-council-approves-surplus-property-declaration-for-north-side-library-site/article_d1eaf21a-9da8-4f64-be99-967defb70270.html)

### **Common Council approves school district appeal of Emerson historic designation**

The La Crosse Common Council voted 7-4 on June 11, 2026, to approve the School District of La Crosse's appeal of the Heritage Preservation Committee's April 23 designation of the Emerson Elementary property at 2001/2101 Campbell Road as a historic structure. The council's action overturns the committee's earlier designation. District Superintendent Aaron Engel attended the meeting and supported the appeal, which was filed on the grounds that the designation process and timeline were flawed and unfair to property owners and that the designation threatens the city's economic strength. With the designation overturned, the School District of La Crosse plans to engage a private company to evaluate and determine the future use or disposition of the Emerson Elementary building.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Western) | [https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/common-council-approves-school-district-appeal-of-emerson-historic-designation/article\\_a57e624e-d3e4-40cc-97d7-9cb89ea47f2f.html](https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/common-council-approves-school-district-appeal-of-emerson-historic-designation/article_a57e624e-d3e4-40cc-97d7-9cb89ea47f2f.html)

### **Copper Rocks project gets approval for next phase of rezoning**

The La Crosse Common Council approved the next phase of rezoning for the Copper Rocks mixed-use residential development at the former Kmart site on State Road, advancing the project toward demolition and construction. The action clears the way for demolition of the vacant Kmart building, which could begin later in summer 2026. The approved plan calls for townhouses along Farnam Street and a five-story apartment building along Losey Boulevard. No vote count, ordinance identifier, or specific dollar figures were reported. The rezoning approval represents one phase in an ongoing process, with city officials and the project's developers coordinating to authorize the land-use change. Demolition of the existing structure is the next operational step, with construction of the residential units expected to follow, though specific timelines had not been announced as of the report date.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Western) | [https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/copper-rocks-project-gets-approval-for-next-phase-of-rezoning/article\\_bf8e7c56-050b-4ef6-a4b2-62a2bc5d733d.html](https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/copper-rocks-project-gets-approval-for-next-phase-of-rezoning/article_bf8e7c56-050b-4ef6-a4b2-62a2bc5d733d.html)

### **Change of zoning to residential sought for Village Square in Pabst Farms**

The City of Oconomowoc Plan Commission reviewed a rezoning request from Pabst Farms Development, represented by Brian Bell, to convert 21.3 acres of the Village Square Planned Development's commercially designated west side to a residential district. The affected parcel is part of a 27.3-acre area originally designated under a 2006 Planned Development agreement for office, retail, and professional services use. The remaining 6 acres would retain commercial zoning or be dedicated as public right-of-way. The proposed residential development would include 152 senior housing units, comprising cottages, independent living, commons, and a memory care facility, and 80 single-family twin home units across 40 owner-occupied buildings. Three new commercial lots would be created on the retained commercial land. The Plan Commission has completed its review, and the request will next proceed to the Oconomowoc Common Council for formal approval.

Source: Oconomowoc Enterprise (Southeastern) | [https://oconomowocenterprise.com/oconomowoc\\_enterprise/news/oconomowoc-pabst-farms-rezoning/article\\_551345b6-cd5e-42b0-b88b-227d8b02ae44.html](https://oconomowocenterprise.com/oconomowoc_enterprise/news/oconomowoc-pabst-farms-rezoning/article_551345b6-cd5e-42b0-b88b-227d8b02ae44.html)

### **Menomonee Falls neighborhood set for expansion**

The Menomonee Falls Village Board approved a development agreement on June 1, 2026, authorizing a fifth phase of the Fox River Falls subdivision, developed by Neumann Developments, northwest of the intersection of Silver Spring Drive and Lannon Road. The Plan Commission separately approved a preliminary plat on June 2, 2026. Phase five calls for 44 single-family lots and installation of public infrastructure, including roads, sanitary and storm sewers, and an extension of a 12-inch water main from Pebble Beach Way westward along Lannon Road. The four preceding phases produced 127 single-family homes; phase five would bring the total to 171 of a planned 385 dwellings across 10 phases. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has approved the planned sewer and water main extensions. According to Director of Economic Development and Tourism Matt Carran, a final plat for phase five has not yet been submitted to the village.

Source: Waukesha Freeman (Southeastern) | [https://www.gmtoday.com/the\\_freeman/news/menomonee-falls-expansion-fox-river/article\\_3d8f5b2a-ef38-582e-97c4-267485fbf0a5.html](https://www.gmtoday.com/the_freeman/news/menomonee-falls-expansion-fox-river/article_3d8f5b2a-ef38-582e-97c4-267485fbf0a5.html)

### **Town of Turtle board delays decision on data center agreement**

The Town of Turtle Board of Supervisors voted to delay action for approximately one month on a proposed cost-reimbursement agreement with Panattoni Development Inc. concerning a potential data center project within the township. The decision followed nearly one hour of public comment and about 30 minutes of board discussion. No vote count or specific dollar figures for the reimbursement agreement were reported. The board, composed of town supervisors exercising statutory authority over land use and financial agreements, neither approved nor rejected the agreement at this session. The next procedural step is a subsequent board meeting, expected within approximately 30 days, at which supervisors are anticipated to take formal action on the agreement with Panattoni Development Inc.

Source: Beloit Daily News (South Central) | <https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/local-news/>

## Governance and Elections

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### Marathon County committee recommends removing supervisor from Health and Human Services Committee

The Marathon County Executive Committee voted to recommend removing Board Supervisor Nicholas Endres from the Health and Human Services Committee following the presentation of a third-party administrative investigation into his conduct during a closed session on June 12, 2026. The Executive Committee had authorized the investigation the previous month under a board rule providing a formal process for reviewing supervisor conduct in connection with criminal matters. The investigation's scope was limited to Endres' criminal case file, which involves a disorderly conduct charge under an 18-month diversion order set to expire in mid-October 2027. The recommendation now advances to the full County Board for a final vote on Endres' removal from the committee assignment. Endres, who represents District 24 and was reelected in April 2026, stated his opposition to the proceeding. No date for the full board vote was reported.

Source: WSAW CBS7 Wausau (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wsaw.com/2026/06/12/marathon-county-committee-recommends-removing-supervisor-health-human-services-committee/>

### Clerk dismisses challenge to Krause's sheriff candidacy

Monroe County Clerk Shelly Bohl dismissed a formal challenge to the sheriff candidacy of Michael Krause, ruling that his declaration of candidacy is sufficient and valid. Bohl, acting in her official capacity as county clerk, exercised her administrative authority to adjudicate the challenge and determined it did not meet the threshold required to disqualify Krause from the ballot. The identity of the challenger, the specific grounds of the challenge, and any next procedural step were not reported in the available portion of the article. The dismissal allows Krause's candidacy to proceed absent a separate successful challenge or appeal.

Source: Monroe County Herald (Western) | <https://monroecountyherald.com/stories/clerk-dismisses-challenge-to-krauses-sheriff-candidacy.170368>

## School Districts

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### 11 candidates interviewed, no one seated

The Antigo School Board convened a special meeting on June 9, 2026, at Antigo Middle School to fill the vacancy created by Dave Bardo's resignation. Eleven of twelve applicants were interviewed over approximately four hours; Gloria Pagel withdrew before interviews. The board conducted one round of individual votes: Mike Parizek and Abby Mattek each voted for Donna Smith; Adams voted for George Shinnors; Angi Schreiber for Melissa Cornelius; Daniel Nicholson for Beverly Krejci; Danny Pyeatt for Jeremy Henke Sr.; and Jill Mattek Nelson for Rebecca Rank. No candidate received a majority of the seven-member board, and voting ceased after one ballot per direction from District Attorney Davis Rundi, who cited precedent and the district's vacancy policy. The seat remains unfilled; board members indicated a new application and interview process, including new questions, would be required before another appointment vote.

Source: Antigo Daily Journal (Central/Northern) | [https://www.antigojournal.com/news/11-candidates-interviewed-no-one-seated/article\\_d350ad4c-1656-4c43-a558-ab3f47e712b3.html](https://www.antigojournal.com/news/11-candidates-interviewed-no-one-seated/article_d350ad4c-1656-4c43-a558-ab3f47e712b3.html)

## **Madison schools buy \$278K digital platform to track students' feelings**

The Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education approved a \$278,000 three-year contract with Sown to Grow, a California-based social-emotional learning platform, after an initial postponement following board members' doubts at a January meeting. The board reversed course approximately one month later, approving the contract with limited public discussion. The platform will deploy across all 32 MMSD elementary schools beginning next school year, using weekly digital surveys to gauge students' emotional well-being. Administrators opened a request for proposals, received 14 bids, and an 18-member selection team of district and school representatives chose Sown to Grow, which ranked eighth in cost among quotes that ranged up to \$1.6 million. Deputy Superintendent TJ McCray oversees district technology policy compliance. Following the initial three-year term, the platform's estimated annual cost would be approximately \$133,000.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | [https://captimes.com/news/education/madison-schools-buy-278k-digital-platform-to-track-students-feelings/article\\_c7c45dba-777c-41c3-9dc5-512298cafcbf.html](https://captimes.com/news/education/madison-schools-buy-278k-digital-platform-to-track-students-feelings/article_c7c45dba-777c-41c3-9dc5-512298cafcbf.html)

## **Slowey named Menasha Joint School District superintendent**

The Menasha Joint School District Board of Education selected Dan Slowey as superintendent, effective July 1, 2026. Slowey succeeds outgoing superintendent Matt Zimmerman. Board President Rob Konitzer, exercising the board's hiring authority, cited Slowey's experience, knowledge, and personality as qualifications. Slowey currently serves as director of secondary education for the Green Bay Area Public School District and previously held positions in the Pulaski and Kimberly districts. No vote count or contract terms were reported in the district's news release. Slowey's assumption of the role on July 1 is the next and final reported step in the transition.

Source: WHBY 1150 AM Appleton (Northeastern) | <https://www.whby.com/2026/06/11/slowey-named-menasha-joint-school-district-superintendent/>

## **KUSD 'cutting bone' to address deficit, superintendent says**

The Kenosha Unified School Board met June 1, 2026, to begin formal discussions on budget reductions to address a projected structural deficit of at least \$10.6 million for the 2026-27 school year, which could grow to \$17.5 million depending on salary-increase approvals. Superintendent Jeff Weiss presented potential cuts including elimination of approximately 40 teaching positions, 25 secondary and 15 elementary, which would save roughly \$4 million but increase class sizes. Chief Financial Officer Tarik Hamdan confirmed the \$17.5 million figure as the board's remediation target. The board has not voted on any specific reductions. Administration is developing detailed cost-savings estimates ahead of a June 11 budget committee meeting. A November operational referendum is also under consideration as a parallel path to avoid implementing the full scope of cuts for the 2027-28 school year.

Source: Kenosha News (Southeastern) | [https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/education/article\\_c4f1b56a-8161-4685-a446-42958da8842e.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/education/article_c4f1b56a-8161-4685-a446-42958da8842e.html)

## **School closings will be on the table in Beloit school budget process**

The Beloit School Board has failed to pass a 2026-27 budget after two special meetings at which Interim Superintendent Wayne Anderson presented four budget options, none of which secured

the four affirmative votes required from the seven-member board. Anderson must identify \$5.7 million in expense reductions to reach a balanced budget. Four board members, Carol Fox, Bill Johnson, Tom Hankins, and Board President Tia Johnson, have pressed for deeper cuts including potential closure of Cunningham School at 910 Townline Ave., which houses the Beloit Learning Academy's 123 students. Anderson confirmed building closures will appear among options at the next board meeting on June 16, 2026. Separately, the board was scheduled to consider hiring Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates of Schaumburg for \$25,000 to conduct a permanent superintendent search following Anderson's announced retirement effective June 30.

Source: Beloit Daily News (South Central) | [https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/education/school-closings-will-be-on-the-table-in-beloit-school-budget-process/article\\_6f6cc803-7052-4e32-806f-b771b42d067b.html](https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/education/school-closings-will-be-on-the-table-in-beloit-school-budget-process/article_6f6cc803-7052-4e32-806f-b771b42d067b.html)

### **Union Grove High School cleared to acquire land through eminent domain**

A judge ruled that Union Grove High School may take possession of 80 acres owned by Daniel Riedel through eminent domain, contingent on the district first depositing \$2.4 million with the Racine County Clerk of Circuit Court and obtaining a subsequent court order before acquisition. In a related prior ruling, Racine County Circuit Court Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz determined that Riedel is entitled to have the district cover his attorney and expert costs associated with the condemnation; that obligation was subsequently quantified at more than \$106,000. Union Grove High School, with approximately 1,000 students, is seeking the parcel to expand its campus and facilities in connection with a voter-approved referendum. The district cannot take physical possession until the \$2.4 million payment is confirmed and a court order is issued.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | [https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/collection\\_fe0cc8aa-8a43-49a2-a728-9a8e61060e08.html](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/collection_fe0cc8aa-8a43-49a2-a728-9a8e61060e08.html)

## **State-Local Interface**

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### **Jeff Lamont on Wisconsin's PFAS settlement with Tyco Fire**

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul's office reached a \$10 million settlement with Tyco Fire Products requiring the company to contribute to the state's PFAS Trust Fund, provide deep drinking water wells in a prescribed area of Marinette and Peshtigo for 20 years, and monitor water quality across 35 square miles in Marinette County. The settlement also mandates environmental remediation of soil, groundwater, and surface water within the initial investigation area. The state separately secured \$125 million in funding directed toward PFAS remediation. The settlement limits Tyco's liability to the initial investigation area, excluding the expanded investigation area and approximately 3,000 acres of contaminated biosolids spread across Marinette County. A separate lawsuit against Tyco and other defendants remains ongoing. Tyco had previously established an internal reserve of \$180 million for the Marinette site. The next procedural step is continuation of the parallel litigation.

Source: PBS Wisconsin WHA21 (Statewide) | <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/jeff-lamont-on-wisconsins-pfas-settlement-with-tyco-fire/>

### **SOH20 member dissatisfied with PFAS settlement**

A Brown County judge approved the \$10 million settlement between Attorney General Josh Kaul and Tyco Fire Products resolving the state's PFAS contamination lawsuit tied to Tyco's Fire

Technology Center in Marinette. The settlement directs Tyco's full \$10 million payment into the state's PFAS trust fund rather than allocating funds specifically to Marinette and the Town of Peshtigo. The agreement limits Tyco's remediation obligations within the Expanded Site Investigation Area, where the Department of Natural Resources had argued Tyco bore responsibility for PFAS in private wells, and restricts eligibility for replacement wells and bottled water. The settlement does not include a medical monitoring component. With judicial approval granted, the advocacy group Save Our Water will shift its focus to pressing the DNR to reserve the full \$10 million for the Marinette and Peshtigo area, as Kaul indicated residents would need to advocate for localized allocation of the disbursement.

Source: EagleHerald (Statewide) | [https://www.ehextra.com/news/soh20-member-dissatisfied-with-pfas-settlement/article\\_5b353cab-1350-430b-9605-83f62776a249.html](https://www.ehextra.com/news/soh20-member-dissatisfied-with-pfas-settlement/article_5b353cab-1350-430b-9605-83f62776a249.html)

### **Secretary of State candidate appears to have illegally used man serving felony sentence to gather signatures**

The Wisconsin Elections Commission voted to advance Republican Secretary of State candidate Cindy Werner's nomination to the August 11 primary ballot despite findings of irregularities in her nomination papers. At a June 9 hearing, the commission reviewed a challenge alleging that hundreds of signatures, many collected by a Milwaukee-area circulator and by Werner herself, appeared similar. Commission Chair Ann Jacobs stated on the record that signatures beginning around page 219 had significant problems, but the commission found insufficient proof of forgery to void them. State law requires nomination circulators to be eligible voters; the circulator in question was released from prison in December 2025 but remains on community supervision under a felony sentence extendable through 2031, rendering him ineligible. The circulator collected more than 300 of the required 2,000 statewide signatures. Werner's next step is appearing on the Republican primary ballot on August 11.

Source: The Badger Project (Statewide) | <https://thebadgerproject.org/2026/06/12/secretary-of-state-candidate-appears-to-have-illegally-used-man-on-probation-to-gather-signatures/>

### **WisEye Morning Minute: Supreme Court Recusal Rules**

The Wisconsin Supreme Court voted 5-2 to assign a committee to study whether judges should recuse themselves from cases involving past campaign donors. The vote followed a public hearing and an Open Administrative Conference on a rule petition addressing judicial recusal standards related to prior donations. The court, acting in its administrative capacity over judicial conduct rules, did not adopt a final recusal rule at this session but delegated further study to a designated committee. No timeline for the committee's report or subsequent rulemaking was specified. The proceedings, held June 4, 2026, were recorded by WisconsinEye, which provided public access to the public hearing and the administrative conference.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Statewide) | [https://chippewa.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/video\\_fc2bc785-b00a-5688-b366-0ae60b6c2430.html](https://chippewa.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/video_fc2bc785-b00a-5688-b366-0ae60b6c2430.html)

### **Wisconsin Supreme Court accepts another appeal aimed at redrawing congressional map**

The Wisconsin Supreme Court, in an unsigned order, accepted an appeal filed by the national Democratic firm Elias Law Group challenging the dismissal of its congressional redistricting

lawsuit by a three-judge panel. The case contests the congressional map the court itself enacted in 2022, which allocates six of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts to Republicans and two to Democrats. Conservative Justices Annette Ziegler and Rebecca Bradley issued dissents opposing acceptance of the appeal; the order did not disclose individual vote tallies. The conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty has filed a motion to dismiss, arguing the court is not obligated to accept the appeal under a 2011 redistricting statute. Briefing timelines conclude in August and early September 2026, which, according to University of Wisconsin-Madison attorney Bryna Godar, forecloses any map redraw before the 2026 election cycle. The court may remand for further fact-finding if it finds partisan gerrymandering claims cognizable under the Wisconsin Constitution.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-supreme-court-accepts-another-appeal-aimed-at-redrawing-congressional-map>

### **Lawsuit alleges Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction violated open meetings law**

The Institute for Reforming Government filed suit in Adams County Circuit Court alleging that the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction violated the state's Open Meetings Law during a four-day conference held in 2024 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The conference, which cost \$368,885, brought together DPI's Standard Setting Committee and subcommittees, 88 educators, and Data Recognition Corporation, the vendor for the Forward Exam, to establish testing standards and recommend cut scores dividing students into four performance levels. The lawsuit alleges the meeting was not publicly noticed, was closed to the public, and required participants to sign non-disclosure agreements. DPI Assistant State Superintendent Rich Judge testified before a legislative committee in April that the conference did not constitute a meeting subject to open meetings requirements. The complaint asks the court to declare DPI in violation and to void any actions resulting from the conference. The case remains pending.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/lawsuit-alleges-wisconsin-dpi-violated-open-meetings-law>

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