

Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing

May 31 to June 6, 2026

The Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing is a weekly governance intelligence product curated by BoldPath Consulting from Wisconsin local journalism, public-sector think tanks, and credible regional media. Source collection is automated; editorial selection, summarization, and topic assignment are overseen by Patrick Glynn. Source links accompany every item so readers can verify the underlying reporting. The briefing is offered as an informational service and does not constitute legal, financial, or policy advice.

ANNOUNCEMENT	3
PUBLIC-SECTOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TRAINING SET FOR AUGUST 17-18 AT WCTC	3
BUDGETS AND FINANCE	3
COUNTY CONSIDERS SELLING PARCEL IN OAK GROVE	3
WORKFORCE AND LABOR	3
DAVE SOLBERG POISED FOR EAU CLAIRE CITY MANAGER ROLE, DEPUTY POSITION TO GO UNFILLED	3
DOOR COUNTY RECRUITING HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR	4
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES	4
LAKE GENEVA WILL ASK STATE TO HELP PAY FOR COSTS RELATED TO HIGHWAY 50/MAIN STREET PROJECT	4
PANEL ACCEPTS \$23.5M KENOSHA INNOVATION CENTER AS COMPLETED	4
PUBLIC SAFETY	5
GRAND CHUTE CANCELS FLOCK CONTRACT, SIGNS DEAL WITH NEW LICENSE PLATE READER COMPANY	5
DANE COUNTY COVERS FLOCK CAMERAS AFTER COMPANY FAILS TO REMOVE THEM FOLLOWING CONTRACT EXPIRATION	5
CALEDONIA TRUSTEES RESCIND DECISION TO REOPEN GORNEY PARK POLICE SHOOTING RANGE	5
SUPERIOR BUSINESSES FACE LOSS OF LICENSES	5
RECENT RACINE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STORIES	6
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT	6
DANE COUNTY APPROVES 18-MONTH BAN ON HYPERSCALE DATA CENTERS	6
MORE HURDLES FOR WISCONSIN DATA CENTER PROJECTS	6
ONEIDA COUNTY CONSIDERING DATA CENTER MORATORIUM AMID UNCERTAINTY	7
RECENT MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE BOARD STORIES	7
CITY OF MILTON OKS FORMATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EYE FUTURE HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL GROWTH	7
GOVERNANCE AND ELECTIONS	8
FORMER MADISON DEPUTY CLERK REMOVED FROM ELECTION TASKS AFTER MISPLACING 23 SUPREME COURT RACE BALLOTS	8
KENOSHA COUNTY PRIDE MONTH RESOLUTION FAILS ON TIE VOTE	8
HUMAN SERVICES	8
DANE COUNTY BOARD URGES UW HEALTH TO RESUME GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH	8
DANE COUNTY ENDS SAFER SMOKING PROGRAM THAT CONFLICTED WITH WISCONSIN LAW	9
SCHOOL DISTRICTS	9
RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SELECTS CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR SCHOOL DEMOLITION PROJECT	9
AMERY SCHOOL BOARD GIVES FIRST READING TO BUS SURVEILLANCE CAMERA POLICY	9
AMERY SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR, ACCEPTS RESIGNATIONS, AND RETIREMENT	10
JANESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT CLOSING WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 2026-27 AFTER APRIL FLOOD	10

FALLS SCHOOLS HOPING THIRD TRY'S THE CHARM FOR SPENDING REFERENDUM 10

STATE-LOCAL INTERFACE 11

TYCO AGREES TO \$10 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH WISCONSIN OVER PFAS WATER CONTAMINATION 11

WISCONSIN LAWMAKERS OPPOSE UTILITY PUSH TO PAUSE COMPETITION FOR POWER LINE PROJECTS 11

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT REVISITS RECUSAL RULES AMID DEBATE OVER MONEY AND IMPARTIALITY 11

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW: NAMES OF POLICE SHOULD BE PUBLIC 12

LEGAL DISPUTE OVER LAC DU FLAMBEAU TRIBAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS REMAINS UNRESOLVED 12

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES FUNDING FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION..... 12

MAJORITY LEADER: SENATE WILL RECONVENE IF 2 MEMBERS CHANGE VOTE ON TAX RELIEF, SCHOOL FUNDING BILL 13

WISCONSIN ALLOCATES NEARLY \$50M IN TAX CREDITS FOR HOUSING PROJECTS..... 13

Announcement

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 under Specialized Training.

Budgets and Finance

County considers selling parcel in Oak Grove

The Pierce County Board received a first reading on May 26 of a resolution authorizing the sale of a county-owned 7.956-acre parcel in the town of Oak Grove, acquired in 2003 for parkland tied to the Diamond Bluff Estates housing development. Land Management Director Andy Pichotta said the parcel is landlocked and publicly inaccessible after the surrounding development collapsed following the late-2000s housing market crash. Adjacent landowner Christopher Brekken has expressed interest in purchasing the property, and Parks Superintendent Travis Campbell stated retaining the land provides no public benefit. Corporation Counsel Brad Lawrence described the action as the first of two phases; if the board approves surplus designation, the Finance and Personnel Committee will handle appraisal and offer negotiations before any sale returns to the full board. Properties valued above \$5,000 require a formal appraisal. The matter is scheduled to return at the June county board meeting.

Source: Pierce County Journal (Western) | <https://www.piercecountyjournal.news/stories/county-considers-selling-parcel-in-oak-grove,192698>

Workforce and Labor

Dave Solberg poised for Eau Claire city manager role, deputy position to go unfilled

The Eau Claire City Council is scheduled to vote June 9 on appointing Dave Solberg as city manager, with Solberg confirmed as the sole finalist. Solberg has served as interim city manager and deputy city manager since 2022 and would assume the role June 10 pending council approval. The appointment follows the April 28 resignation of city manager Stephanie Hirsch. Solberg has worked for the city for 12 years, including as engineering director and interim community services director. Upon his appointment, the deputy city manager position, which carried a \$163,175 annual salary as of 2024, will remain vacant for the foreseeable future. Solberg tied that decision to addressing the city's \$2.2 million budget deficit, with

leaving the role unfilled through year-end projected to save about \$95,000 in payroll costs. The council vote on June 9 is the next procedural step.

Source: Volume One (Western) | <https://volumeone.org/articles/2026/06/03/391379-dave-solberg-poised-for-eau-claire-city-manager-role-deputy-role-to-go-unfilled-for-foreseeable-future>

Door County Recruiting Human Resources Director

Door County is seeking a Human Resources Director in Sturgeon Bay to lead the county's HR functions, including classification and compensation, employee and labor relations, and policy administration. The position is open until filled. Full details and application are at the county posting.

Source: Door County Government (Northeastern) | <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/doorcounty/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/764>

Infrastructure and Utilities

Lake Geneva will ask state to help pay for costs related to Highway 50/Main Street project

The Lake Geneva City Council voted unanimously on May 26 to send a letter to state Representatives Tyler August and Robin Vos and Senator Steve Nass requesting state funding to offset costs the city expects to incur during the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Highway 50 and Main Street reconstruction, scheduled for 2027 and 2028. The letter, to be signed by alderpersons and Mayor Todd Krause, itemizes three expenditures: about \$42,790 to hire G. Moxie Communications of Elm Grove for communication services, about \$10,000 for parking direction signs, and \$500,000 to \$750,000 to offset projected lost parking revenue. City Administrator Dave De Angelis noted the request specifies dollar amounts rather than seeking unspecified reimbursement. Alderwoman Joel Hoiland noted that securing legislative sponsorship in both chambers remains uncertain because Nass and Vos are not seeking reelection.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/government-politics/article_18f861a3-9ef8-4e87-8c09-0da236210a5a.html

Panel accepts \$23.5M Kenosha Innovation Center as completed

The Kenosha Common Council's Public Works Committee formally accepted the Kenosha Innovation Center as satisfactorily completed by Miron Construction of Neenah at a final contract amount of \$23.57 million. The committee acted under its authority as a standing committee of the Common Council, and Miron Construction served as the general contractor for the project. The acceptance represents the formal close of the construction contract between the City of Kenosha and Miron Construction. The available reporting did not include a vote count or a meeting date beyond the current week, and did not indicate whether full Common Council ratification of the committee's acceptance would follow.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/government-politics/collection_ddd6c774-4568-5272-8686-9dfb732741d8.html

Public Safety

Grand Chute cancels Flock contract, signs deal with new license plate reader company

The Grand Chute Town Board voted unanimously, 5 to 0, on June 3, 2026, to terminate its contract with Flock Safety for automatic license plate reader services before the agreement's scheduled expiration next summer, and entered a new agreement with Axon for equivalent services. Police Chief David Maas cited audit deficiencies in Flock's data-sharing protocols, a pattern of camera malfunctions, and inadequate security controls at partner agencies as grounds for early termination. The town will retain its 23 existing license plate reader cameras, which Axon will replace with its own hardware. Town officials reported no net financial change to the municipality from the switch. Axon's cameras must be fully operational in place of Flock's units by September 1, 2026.

Source: WTAQ 1360 AM / 97.5 FM Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://wtaq.com/2026/06/05/grand-chute-cancels-flock-contract-signs-deal-with-new-license-plate-reader-company/>

Dane County covers Flock cameras after company fails to remove them following contract expiration

Dane County deputies placed physical covers over all 26 Flock Safety license plate reader cameras across the county at about 11:30 a.m. on June 5, 2026, after the company failed to remove the cameras within days of its contract expiring May 31. The County Board had voted in April to terminate the Flock contract. Sheriff Calvin Barrett directed the covering and issued an additional formal removal request to Flock on June 5; Board Chair Patrick Miles affirmed the action as necessary to prevent unauthorized data collection. The county had previously approved \$80,000 for an automated license plate reader system and is evaluating roughly 16 alternative vendors, with any replacement required to ensure the county retains full data control. A vendor selection timeline has not been established.

Source: WMTV NBC15 Madison (South Central) | <https://www.wmtv15news.com/2026/06/05/dane-county-covers-flock-cameras-after-company-fails-remove-them-following-contract-expiration/>

Caledonia trustees rescind decision to reopen Gorney Park police shooting range

The Caledonia Village Board voted to rescind its earlier decision to reopen the Gorney Park police shooting range, reversing a January vote by the same body to reopen and revitalize the site. The range, located at Gorney Park, had served the Caledonia Police Department until the department discontinued its use in 1997 for reasons Police Chief Christopher Botsch described as unknown. The rescission nullifies the revitalization plan approved earlier in the year. The available reporting did not include a vote count, the meeting date for the rescission, or dollar figures tied to either action. No subsequent procedural steps regarding the future use of the site were reported.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_6737bcc0-ba8e-4520-896f-9d4769207d0f.html

Superior businesses face loss of licenses

The Superior City Council scheduled a public hearing for 10 a.m. Thursday, June 11, to consider nonrenewal of liquor, beer, tobacco, and vaping licenses for three business locations.

Assistant Police Chief Michelle Pope filed a complaint recommending nonrenewal of liquor and beer licenses for Alyce's Palace at 1108 Tower Avenue, owned by Gary Nelson, citing repeated police service calls including felony batteries, sexual assault allegations, drug offenses, and an April 4 firearm discharge. City Clerk Heidi Blunt filed separate complaints against WI Cstore Inc., operating at 311 and 406 Belknap Street, for failing to report a change of agent within the 30-day statutory deadline and for exceeding the city's per-capita zoning limit for tobacco and vaping businesses set under 2024 regulations. The annual licenses at issue would run July 1 through June 30, 2027. The License and Fees Committee will hold the hearing and forward a recommendation to the full council.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/superior-businesses-face-loss-of-licenses>

Recent Racine County Board of Supervisors stories

The Racine County Board of Supervisors approved a policing-services contract between the Sheriff's Office and the Village of Sturtevant running through December 31, 2030, and authorized grant funding for digital forensic technology and investigative analyst training for the Sheriff's Office. The board ratified a tentative collective bargaining agreement for sheriff's deputies providing retroactive 2.5% wage increases for 2025, 4% for 2026, and 6% increases for both 2027 and 2028, and approved salary increases for the county sheriff and clerk of courts after rejecting two substitute salary resolutions. Supervisors also approved borrowing \$23 million in bonds to complete the county's mental health facility, consistent with the original capital project financing plan. No subsequent procedural step was reported for these actions.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_ee7d523f-719c-4b64-b5dd-0a0e6c8fb966.html

Land Use and Development

Dane County approves 18-month ban on hyperscale data centers

The Dane County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on June 5, 2026, to approve an 18-month moratorium halting zoning-related permits for new hyperscale data centers, defined as facilities using at least 5,000 servers and 10,000 square feet of floor space, in the 27 towns subject to county zoning. Board Chair Patrick Miles said the pause will let county staff study environmental, economic, health, and safety effects and develop permanent zoning regulations. The moratorium does not apply to cities, villages, or the towns of Berry, Blue Mounds, Bristol, Springfield, Sun Prairie, and Westport, which have opted out of county zoning. Dane County is the second Wisconsin county to enact such a ban, following Manitowoc County's 18-month moratorium approved in April 2026. The moratorium will expire after 18 months or upon a board determination that staff have developed adequate regulatory frameworks.

Source: La Crosse Tribune (South Central) | https://lacrossetribune.com/news/state-regional/wisconsin/article_7245f658-4fc0-5b8c-8d88-d3d8264c9906.html

More hurdles for Wisconsin data center projects

Additional Wisconsin local governments advanced restrictions on hyperscale data centers. In Brown County, Supervisor Christopher Welch proposed a moratorium barring data centers from purchasing land or permits pending state-level regulatory action, though the absence of

county-wide zoning may limit its reach; State Representative Amaad Rivera-Wagner urged residents on June 1 to testify in support. The town of Cassville's board voted unanimously in April to bar data centers for two years within its 36-square-mile jurisdiction. The actions followed the Dane County zoning and land regulation committee's unanimous May 26 approval of an 18-month hyperscale moratorium, which the full Dane County Board was scheduled to take up June 4. Dane Board Chair Patrick Miles said the pause would let an advisory committee established in fall 2025 complete its research on the impacts of such facilities.

Source: The Daily Reporter (Statewide) | <https://dailyreporter.com/2026/06/05/wisconsin-counties-impose-moratoriums-on-hyperscale-data-centers/>

Oneida County considering data center moratorium amid uncertainty

The Oneida County Planning and Development Committee directed the county Planning and Zoning Department in April 2026 to draft a one-year moratorium on data center development, citing the absence of any county zoning definition or designated districts for such facilities. Planning and Zoning Department head Karl Jennrich initiated the effort after determining that data centers constitute an unclassified use under existing county zoning. The proposed moratorium would provide up to one year, extendable if needed, for the county to establish frameworks governing where data centers may be sited and how power and water impacts are addressed. No data center proposals are currently pending in the county. If moratorium language is approved in June 2026, a public hearing is expected in July or August, after which the committee would vote before forwarding the measure to the full Oneida County Board for a final vote.

Source: WJFW NBC12 Rhinelander (Central/Northern) | https://www.wjfw.com/news/local/oneida-county-considering-data-center-moratorium-amid-uncertainty/article_1064d1c9-0676-46cf-8ce2-c216ac621974.html

Recent Mount Pleasant Village Board stories

The Mount Pleasant Village Board approved site plans for 15 new Microsoft data centers; Microsoft is completing construction on its first data center and preparing to break ground on its second. Finance Director Kathy Kasper reported the village will pay off Tax Increment District 5 borrowing one year early, saving between \$500,000 and \$600,000 in interest. The board awarded a contract for the village's 2026 roadway paving program and approved a sanitary sewer replacement covering about 1,300 feet of line downstream of Summerset Drive. The board approved an ordinance revision clarifying regulations for attached homes, including townhouses and duplexes, and divided a Luanne Drive parcel into four lots of 29,676 square feet each. CNH secured an agreement for additional Mount Pleasant Police Department patrols ahead of an anticipated labor strike.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_d7bce080-f67e-4706-a929-6f037fe3ea33.html

City of Milton OKs formation of ad hoc committee to eye future housing, industrial growth

The Milton Common Council approved establishing an ad hoc committee to negotiate intergovernmental agreements with the Towns of Milton and Lima aimed at directing future housing and industrial growth within the city. The committee's mandate centers on reaching agreements that would govern coordinated land use and development expansion between the city and the two adjacent townships. The available reporting did not include a vote count, an

ordinance identifier, or an effective date. The next procedural step is for the committee to enter negotiations with the Towns of Milton and Lima on the terms of the agreements.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/city-of-milton-oks-formation-of-ad-hoc-committee-to-eye-future-housing-industrial-growth/article_f649c7ce-1cfe-4855-8403-f0ac5c084281.html

Governance and Elections

Former Madison deputy clerk removed from election tasks after misplacing 23 Supreme Court race ballots

Madison City Clerk Lydia McComas reassigned former Deputy Clerk Jim Verbick, removing him from all election-related duties after his admitted role in the late delivery of 23 absentee ballots during the April Wisconsin Supreme Court election. Verbick, who previously faced scrutiny over the clerk's office losing 200 ballots in the 2024 election, has been reassigned to serve as lead worker for licensing. McComas described the move as part of broader personnel changes to improve election logistics, and the city is hiring two new deputy clerks and a lead employee for absentee voting, though one election staff member recently departed, partially offsetting the additions. The Wisconsin Elections Commission separately voted to open a formal investigation into Madison over the incident, one of the commission's first two authorized investigations. The disputed ballots were ultimately counted after a court reversed the commission's order excluding them.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (South Central) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/06/wisconsin-madison-ballots-deputy-clerk-removed-election-supreme-court/>

Kenosha County Pride Month resolution fails on tie vote

The Kenosha County Human Services Committee voted 2 to 2 on Tuesday, failing to advance a resolution that would have symbolically recognized June as Pride Month in Kenosha County; the measure did not include a flag-raising request or funding. The tie defeated the resolution. Supervisors Tim Stocker and Erin Decker voted against it, and the available reporting did not name the two supervisors who voted in favor. Stocker cited Title VI of the Civil Rights Act as his stated rationale during the meeting. Because the resolution failed in committee, it does not advance to the full County Board. The last formal county recognition of Pride Month occurred in 2021. Community members, including organizer Joshua Maglasang, called for another attempt, though no future committee date or procedural vehicle for a revote has been announced.

Source: WTMJ 4 NBC Milwaukee (Southeastern) | <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/in-your-community/kenosha-county/it-should-have-been-a-simple-thing-kenosha-community-members-call-for-revote-after-county-pride-month-resolutions-fail-on-tie-vote>

Human Services

Dane County Board urges UW Health to resume gender-affirming care for transgender youth

The Dane County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution on June 5, 2026, urging UW Health and Children's Wisconsin to resume prescribing puberty blockers and hormone therapy to transgender and gender-diverse patients under 18, to the fullest extent permitted by law. The resolution, authored by Supervisor Aria Trucios, states that UW Health paused such

prescriptions on January 14, citing a federal directive and concerns over potential Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement enforcement; the board, chaired by Patrick Miles, argues the legal landscape has since changed following federal court action. The resolution also calls on UW-Madison to conduct a transparent review of the pause, encourages collaboration among providers and families, and directs the county's lobbyist to advocate for legislation protecting transgender residents' healthcare access. As of the publication date, UW Health's policy remained unchanged.

Source: WMTV NBC15 Madison (South Central) | <https://www.wmtv15news.com/2026/06/06/dane-county-board-urges-uw-health-resume-gender-affirming-care-transgender-youth/>

Dane County ends safer smoking program that conflicted with Wisconsin law

Public Health Madison and Dane County discontinued its safer smoking supply distribution program in March 2026, ending an initiative begun in 2022 that provided pipes, filters, and mouthpieces as harm-reduction tools to people who smoke drugs. Department spokesperson Morgan Finke cited the program's conflict with Wisconsin law, which classifies syringe service materials as disease-prevention items but does not extend equivalent protections to smoking supplies. Medical Director Dr. Jonathan Temte had authorized the launch in 2022 based on supporting medical evidence. Monthly client visits had risen nearly 30% after implementation, and syringe distribution decreased 3.7% between 2021 and 2023. The department continues to offer injection supplies, fentanyl test strips, and overdose reversal medication. No county board vote to formally terminate the program was reported.

Source: PBS Wisconsin WHA21 (South Central) | <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/dane-county-ends-safer-smoking-program-that-conflicted-with-wisconsin-law/>

School Districts

Racine Unified School District selects construction manager for school demolition project

The Racine Unified School District selected a construction manager for a school demolition project at an estimated cost of \$1.87 million. The procurement was reported as a formal selection by the district, whose board holds authority over construction and procurement decisions of this kind. The available reporting did not identify the construction manager firm, the governing board vote count, a resolution identifier, or the specific schools targeted for demolition. The \$1.87 million figure represents the estimated cost of the demolition work covered by the contract. No subsequent procedural step was reported in the available reporting.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/collection_20ee748b-5a85-4052-b403-8b40ab0a068d.html

Amery school board gives first reading to bus surveillance camera policy

The Amery School Board received a first reading on June 2, 2026, of proposed Policy 751.1, which would formally authorize video and audio surveillance on district school buses, citing Wisconsin Act 160 as its legal authority. District Administrator Shawn Doerfler presented the policy, noting the state mandate is already being met in practice but has not been codified in written policy. Under the proposal, parents and students would be notified of recording, posted signage would be required inside each bus, and access to recordings would be limited to the

transportation director, bus drivers, building principals, and the district administrator, with case-by-case authorization possible for other staff. Camera placement would be set by the transportation director, and footage could not be used to evaluate driver performance except when addressing student conduct. A second reading and final vote are scheduled for the board's June 2026 meeting.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | https://theameryfreepress.com/news/amery-school-board-gives-first-reading-to-bus-surveillance-camera-policy/article_5efb68c2-0ba7-44a2-8632-e37be8096969.html

Amery school board approves new finance director, accepts resignations, and retirement

The Amery School Board approved a personnel package at its June 2, 2026, meeting, filling the Director of Finance position vacant since Jon McBride's December 2025 resignation by approving Isaac Christensen; the district had relied on interim business office support from CESA 11 during the search. The board approved Elizabeth Volkert as a new school psychologist, reassigned paraeducators Lily Burke to a special education paraeducator role and Gwyn Otto to a special education teacher role, and accepted resignations from speech-language pathologist Jennifer Chivers and school counselor Vanessa Mercer. The board approved the retirement of bus driver Jerol Johnson, denied employment to Juanita Rogney for an athletic office assistant position, and approved the termination of special education paraeducator Misty Wishard. The available reporting did not include a vote count, and no subsequent procedural step was identified.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | https://theameryfreepress.com/news/amery-school-board-approves-new-finance-director-accepts-resignations-and-retirement/article_8e282bf9-ef66-42c1-bcce-448b496dcc65.html

Janesville School District closes Washington Elementary School for 2026-27 after April flood

The Janesville School District announced on Thursday, June 4, 2026, that Washington Elementary School on the city's west side will be closed for the 2026-27 school year following flood damage sustained on April 17, 2026. The district cited supply chain and repair delays as the basis for the closure. The district, as the body responsible for facility operations, issued the determination. The available reporting did not include a vote count, dollar figures, or a resolution identifier, and did not state where affected students will be reassigned or provide a timeline for repairs and potential reopening.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/janesville-school-district-closes-washington-elementary-school-for-2026-27-after-april-flood/article_5d251787-553d-4275-9f41-2eab901d74ad.html

Falls Schools hoping third try's the charm for spending referendum

The Sheboygan Falls School District board is advancing toward a third capital improvements referendum, targeting the November 2026 ballot, after a community survey found 57% of respondents supported a \$65.7 million renovation plan for the elementary and high schools. The proposal focuses on renovation rather than expansion and would impose an estimated \$22 annual tax increase on a \$100,000 assessed home. Board members indicated they will proceed without a previously proposed gymnasium addition. No formal vote on the referendum question has been recorded. The board could finalize and approve the referendum question for the November ballot as early as August 2026, which would be the next formal governance action.

Source: WHBL 1330 AM Sheboygan (Southeastern) | <https://whbl.com/2026/06/05/falls-schools-hoping-third-tries-the-charm-for-spending-referendum/>

State-Local Interface

Tyco agrees to \$10 million settlement with Wisconsin over PFAS water contamination

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul and Governor Tony Evers announced a \$10 million settlement resolving a 2022 state lawsuit against Tyco Fire Products, a subsidiary of Johnson Controls, over PFAS contamination of groundwater around its Fire Technology Center in Marinette. The lawsuit alleged Tyco violated state law by failing to notify regulators of PFAS discharges and neglecting investigation and remediation obligations at the facility, where firefighting foam containing PFAS was used from the 1960s until outdoor training ended in 2017. Under the settlement, the \$10 million will be deposited into a dedicated trust fund for PFAS cleanup. Tyco also agreed to continue providing replacement wells, conduct required monitoring and reporting, and implement long-term remediation. The settlement requires approval by the presiding judge before taking effect. A separate state lawsuit against Tyco and more than a dozen other companies over PFAS contamination elsewhere in Wisconsin remains active.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Statewide) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/06/wisconsin-pfas-tyco-settlement-water-contamination-evers-forever-chemicals/>

Wisconsin lawmakers oppose utility push to pause competition for power line projects

Twelve Wisconsin Republican state legislators, eight from the Assembly and four from the Senate, submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission urging rejection of a utility coalition's petition to suspend competitive bidding for major electrical transmission projects in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator region. The coalition, which includes Xcel Energy's Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin and American Transmission Company, proposed either case-by-case exemptions or a five-year blanket suspension of competition. The lawmakers argued competition lowers costs for ratepayers and that suspending it would expose consumers to unchecked cost escalation. Wisconsin's Citizens Utility Board filed a formal protest with FERC in late May, citing the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, a non-competitively bid project that came in roughly 40% over its construction budget upon completion in fall 2024. FERC has not yet ruled on the petition.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Statewide) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/06/wisconsin-utility-power-line-projects-competition-lawmakers-electrical-transmission-data-centers/>

Wisconsin Supreme Court revisits recusal rules amid debate over money and impartiality

The Wisconsin Supreme Court held a public hearing at the Capitol in Madison on a petition filed in January by five retired circuit court judges from Dane, Milwaukee, and Monroe counties seeking mandatory recusal rules that would require judges to step aside when past campaign donors appear before them. After the public comment period, the court convened an open conference to determine next steps, which may include voting on the proposed changes, forming an advisory committee for further study, or other procedural action. The existing rules,

drafted by Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Wisconsin Realtors Association and adopted by a then-conservative-majority court in 2010, state that campaign donations alone do not require recusal. Law Forward, the Wisconsin Association for Justice, and the State Democracy Research Initiative submitted letters recommending an advisory committee rather than immediate adoption. Any rule change would affect judicial conduct standards ahead of the 2027 Wisconsin Supreme Court election.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Statewide) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/06/wisconsin-supreme-court-judge-recusal-rules-campaign-money-justice-impartiality/>

Your Right to Know: Names of police should be public

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Rhonda Lanford ruled in April in favor of The Badger Project and the Invisible Institute, ordering the Wisconsin Department of Justice to release the full list of names and work histories of all Wisconsin law enforcement officers. The ruling followed a lawsuit filed after the DOJ refused a public records request for the officer roster. Lanford cited a prior state appeals court ruling holding that officers relinquish certain privacy rights given the public trust placed in them. The Wisconsin Professional Police Association, through executive director Jim Palmer, criticized the ruling and indicated an appeal may follow, citing officer-safety and doxxing concerns; the DOJ had also objected that release could compromise undercover officers. The records sought include birth years, not full birthdates, to distinguish officers who share a name. No decision on a formal appeal had been announced as of publication. The article's language is partly advocacy-oriented.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Statewide) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/06/wisconsin-police-officer-names-public-records-your-right-to-know/>

Legal dispute over Lac du Flambeau tribal fishing restrictions remains unresolved

Following a three-hour hearing on May 29, 2026, U.S. District Court Chief Judge William Conley of the Western District of Wisconsin declined to rule in the State of Wisconsin's lawsuit against the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa over tribal fishing restrictions on 19 reservation lakes. The tribe passed a mid-April resolution barring non-members from harvesting walleye and muskellunge on those lakes after a population study prompted a declared state of emergency. The state, asserting jurisdiction over waters within tribal lands, had obtained a temporary injunction on May 1 permitting continued fishing on the 19 lakes regardless of the resolution. Conley recommended the tribe conduct additional research and directed both governments to work toward a negotiated settlement. Tribal President John D. Johnson represented the tribe before the court. The temporary injunction remains in effect, and no date for a subsequent hearing has been reported.

Source: PBS Wisconsin WHA21 (Statewide) | <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/a-legal-dispute-over-lac-du-flambeau-tribal-fishing-restrictions-remains-unresolved/>

Joint Finance Committee approves funding for vocational rehabilitation

The Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee approved additional funding for the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to address a months-long waitlist affecting more than 7,600 Wisconsin residents with disabilities seeking employment services such as job and benefits counseling and resume assistance. DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek confirmed the department has begun notifying eligible individuals in priority order as required by federal law, starting with those demonstrating the greatest need

for assistive services. The department set a target of eliminating the waitlist within roughly one year of the committee's action. The available reporting did not specify the exact dollar amount approved or the committee vote.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Statewide) | https://www.news8000.com/news/wisconsin-news/joint-finance-committee-approves-funding-for-vocational-rehabilitation/article_a11ad9b7-4ded-54ba-9484-c42137572da0.html

Majority leader: Senate will reconvene if 2 members change vote on tax relief, school funding bill

The Wisconsin State Senate failed to pass a tax relief and school funding bill during a May special session, with the measure falling on a 15 to 18 vote as all 15 Democrats and three Republicans opposed it. The bill, which had passed the Assembly, would have provided \$300 rebate checks to taxpayers, temporary increases in school and special education funding, and tax exemptions on tips and overtime pay. Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu stated on June 4 that the Senate will reconvene if two senators reverse their votes in favor of the package. A subsequent nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo indicated the deal would have left the state with a projected deficit of roughly \$3 billion. No reconvening date has been announced, and LeMahieu's office had not confirmed whether any senators were considering changing their votes.

Source: WAOW ABC9 Wausau (Statewide) | https://www.waow.com/news/majority-leader-senate-will-reconvene-if-2-members-change-vote-on-tax-relief-school-funding/article_d452bd1c-c7f7-52f9-b61d-22ee5645f50c.html

Wisconsin allocates nearly \$50M in tax credits for housing projects

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority awarded approximately \$50 million in Housing Tax Credits to 35 multifamily housing developments statewide, supporting 2,128 affordable housing units across 26 communities. Of the 35 developments, 28 are new construction and the remainder involve rehabilitation or adaptive reuse; 24 are designated for families and the rest for seniors. Funding categories include general, which covers more than half of the projects, rural and small urban at about 40%, and innovative at about 6%. WHEDA CEO and Executive Director Elmer Moore Jr. characterized the credits as a public-private mechanism to offset rising construction costs. The credits were awarded under WHEDA's established allocation authority. Developers receiving the credits must reserve units for income-eligible households.

Source: The Daily Reporter (Statewide) | <https://dailyreporter.com/2026/06/04/wisconsin-awards-tax-credits-multifamily-housing/>

Each edition reflects ongoing refinement of the underlying workflow, and I expect the product to keep improving. Source articles are not independently verified beyond the curation process, and errors in source reporting may occur. Some Wisconsin news outlets restrict automated access to their content, which can limit coverage in any given edition. If you notice an inaccuracy, a story of statewide governance significance that was missed, or have feedback on how this briefing can better serve your work, I welcome hearing from you. Forward this edition to a colleague who works in Wisconsin local government if you find it useful. Reach me at patrick@boldpathconsulting.com or (920) 522-2413.
