

Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing

April 4 to April 10, 2026

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Budgets and Finance

Marinette County public safety referendum fails

Marinette County voters defeated a recurring public safety funding referendum on April 9, 2026, by a margin of 7,270 votes against to 2,749 in favor. The measure would have levied approximately \$20 annually per \$100,000 of assessed home value to generate \$1.5 million per year, sustaining existing funding levels for countywide dispatch services, the sheriff's department, and the district attorney's office. No allocation for capital projects or new construction was included. County Administrator Kevin Solway stated the county will now review all vacant positions countywide to determine whether they can be filled and will evaluate non-mandated services for potential cuts or reductions. Sheriff Randy Miller confirmed that a vacant lieutenant position will likely remain unfilled and that squad car rotation schedules have already been deferred due to prior budget reductions.

Source: EagleHerald (Northeastern) | https://www.ehextra.com/news/marinette-county-public-safety-referendum-fails/article_a0f80aac-2187-455c-8d43-bf5b38f945fd.html

City of Tomahawk elects new mayor after a decade and levy referendum fails to pass

Tomahawk voters elected Michael Hob Habeck as mayor on April 8, 2026, defeating Jeffery Koth by approximately 70 percent to 30 percent, marking the first contested mayoral race in a decade following incumbent Steven E. Taskay's decision not to seek reelection. In the same election, residents rejected a proposed 20 percent increase in the city's levy referendum. Alderperson Mikey Loka stated the failed levy places the city in a fiscally constrained position, noting the prior budget cycle had already required service-level cuts in several key areas. With expenses projected to continue growing while revenue remains flat, city officials indicated additional budget reductions beyond those implemented in the previous year may be necessary as cost figures come in.

Source: WAOW ABC9 Wausau (Central/Northern) | https://www.waow.com/news/city-of-tomahawk-elects-new-mayor-after-a-decade-and-levy-referendum-fails-to-pass/article_1cb7b298-cb4e-4ff4-9b8a-49882668fb6f.html

Workforce and Labor

ECASD anticipates staff cuts for next school year

The Eau Claire Area School District board voted on April 7, 2026, to approve preliminary notices of intent to non-renew contracts for 21 certified employees under limited-term contracts while issuing notices of potential hour reductions to 20 additional certified employees, in

response to a projected \$10.5 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2026–2027. The combined staffing actions are projected to save approximately \$4.2 million. Director of Business Services Mark Elworthy identified health insurance costs at 30 percent, salary increases at 4 percent, utilities and bussing at 5 percent, and an additional \$500,000 in special education staffing needs as deficit contributors. The district’s \$18 million operational referendum passed in 2024 is insufficient to cover the shortfall. Under Wisconsin Statute 118.22, the board must issue finalized written notices on teacher contracts no later than May 15, 2026.

Source: Leader-Telegram (Western) | https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/ecasd-anticipates-staff-cuts-for-next-school-year/article_4033b1b5-95f4-449b-a541-fe1a2bbef184.html

2 city of Janesville staff arrested for misconduct, theft for mishandling money in city’s rent assistance program

The City of Janesville terminated two Rent Assistance Housing Specialists following an internal investigation into misconduct in the city’s rent assistance program. Rachel D. Jacquest was arrested on three counts of misconduct in public office by false entry and one count of theft; Alicia Alvarado was arrested on three counts of misconduct in public office by false entry. City staff discovered irregularities in November 2025, prompting the internal investigation. Both employees were placed on administrative leave, had their access to city facilities and systems terminated, and subsequently resigned. Janesville Police Chief Chad Pearson confirmed an ongoing criminal investigation, though the total dollar amount of misappropriated rent assistance funds has not been publicly disclosed. The city is actively recovering improper payments made on behalf of ineligible renters. Both individuals have been arrested and released, with a mandatory court date set for May 11, 2026.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/crime/2-city-of-janesville-staff-arrested-for-misconduct-theft-for-mishandling-money-in-citys-rent/article_d93ae327-5aad-4303-91b1-633077b4f7b3.html

Former Glenwood City superintendent sentenced to jail time in misconduct case

A Barron County judge sentenced former Glenwood City School District Superintendent Timothy Johnson on April 8, 2026, following his no-contest plea in December to three counts of uttering a forgery and three counts of misconduct in office by producing fraudulent records. The court imposed a stayed sentence of three years in prison and three years of extended supervision, requiring Johnson to serve eight months in jail across a four-year probation period, with the prison term activated only upon probation violation. A 68-page forensic audit determined the district reimbursed Johnson \$75,000 for graduate courses he claimed to have completed between 2013 and 2023 but never finished, and found he negligently placed \$349,000 of district funds into investments non-compliant with Wisconsin statutes. Johnson resigned as District Administrator in May 2023.

Source: WEAU NBC13 Eau Claire (Western) | <https://www.weau.com/2026/04/08/former-glenwood-city-superintendent-sentenced-jail-time-misconduct-case/>

Infrastructure and Utilities

Beaver Dam approves second data center

The Beaver Dam Common Council voted 11–3 on April 7, 2026, to approve the sale of 13 acres of city-owned land near the intersection of Highway 151 and Hemlock Road to Oppidan for construction of a second data center. The sale price is \$31,000 per acre, yielding a total

payment of \$407,340 to the city. Oppidan's planned facility will be a 90,000-square-foot edge data center situated between the existing Generac and Meta Platform sites, carrying a minimum taxable value guarantee of \$41 million with no city incentives. Beaver Dam Area Development Corporation Executive Director Trent Campbell addressed the council prior to the vote. Alderpersons Frank Ferree, Elwood Flaherty, and Jeff Bierman cast the dissenting votes. Meta Platforms is separately constructing a \$1 billion, 700,000-square-foot facility on 930 acres north of Beaver Dam.

Source: Beaver Dam Daily Citizen (South Central) | https://wiscnews.com/news/community/bdc/article_c8f9d650-e768-4311-9fb0-e2ce709c7147.html

Tamarack drops Ashland ambulance for non-emergency transfers

Ashland officials discussed the financial impact of Tamarack Health's decision to redirect non-emergency patient transport contracts from the Ashland Ambulance Service to Cable-based Great Divide Ambulance Service, effective April 10, 2026, at the March 31 City Council meeting. Tamarack notified the city in March, citing unfulfilled transport requests. No formal contract existed between the city and Tamarack, leaving Tamarack free to shift providers without city approval. Mayor Matt MacKenzie and Fire Chief Stuart Matthias presented findings of a budget review indicating no immediate staff reductions were necessary despite the revenue loss. The city will allow existing vacancies to remain unfilled through the next budget cycle rather than pursue layoffs. MacKenzie indicated a formal staffing and budget review is scheduled for August, at which point position reductions remain a possibility.

Source: Ashland Daily Press (Central/Northern) | https://apg-wi.com/ashland_daily_press/news/local/tamarack-drops-ashland-ambulance-for-non-emergency-transfers/article_1f42a95c-5ed3-42eb-8bfb-838ab91a2429.html

Public Safety

Wausau voters approve fire department staffing referendum

Wausau voters approved a property tax referendum on April 7, 2026, authorizing a tax levy increase to maintain current Wausau Fire Department staffing levels. The referendum will replace expiring federal grant funding that had supported twelve firefighter positions, including nine funded through a 2021 FEMA SAFER grant and three through American Rescue Plan Act dollars. The approved levy increase will impose an additional \$36 in annual property taxes per \$100,000 of assessed home value. Fire Chief Jeremy Kopp had advocated for the measure to sustain response capacity. The referendum result shifts ongoing personnel costs from temporary federal grants to permanent local property tax revenue, with the new levy structure taking effect as the expiring grants conclude.

Source: WSAW CBS7 Wausau (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wsaw.com/2026/04/08/wausau-voters-approve-fire-department-staffing-referendum/>

County board approves stricter large assembly event ordinance

The Polk County Board approved a resolution at its March 2026 meeting amending Polk County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28, Article II, adding enforceable penalties for noncompliance with large-event permitting requirements. Corporation Counsel Joe Loso identified the central change as the addition of citation enforcement authority, which was absent from prior ordinance language. Under the revised ordinance, failure to obtain a permit carries a minimum fine of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$10,000; failure to comply with permit conditions carries a minimum fine of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$10,000. The revision also

requires permit applicants to secure approval from the county emergency coordinator and the local fire chief as conditions of permit issuance. Polk County Sheriff Bret Waak initiated the revision following two unpermitted music festivals that coincided with the Polk County Fair in summer 2025, straining county public safety resources.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | https://theameryfreepress.com/news/county-board-approves-strict-large-assembly-event-ordinance/article_0b8a3352-823f-4310-b871-8f552c277d0d.html

Land Use and Development

Port TIF referendum approved by a landslide

Port Washington voters approved a binding referendum on April 8, 2026, requiring the city to obtain voter approval before creating any tax incremental financing district with project costs or a base value of \$10 million or more. The measure passed 2,710 to 1,371, with 66.4 percent voting in favor on a 51 percent turnout of 4,201 of 8,257 eligible voters. The referendum was prompted by the city's prior approval of TIF District 5, which funds \$459 million in infrastructure costs for the Vantage Data Centers Lighthouse Campus project; that district is not affected by the vote. Mayor Ted Neitzke acknowledged the result while expressing concern about its effect on future investment. A legal challenge filed by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and allied business organizations was previously denied an injunction by Ozaukee Circuit Judge Adam Gerol, with a scheduling conference set for April 16.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/port-tif-referendum-approved-landslide>

Manitowoc County committee recommends 1-year moratorium on data center permitting

The Manitowoc County Planning and Parks Commission voted unanimously to recommend a proposed ordinance imposing a one-year moratorium on data center permitting within county zoning jurisdiction. The commission acted following resolutions passed in mid-February by three rural towns—Two Creeks, Two Rivers, and Mishicot—all subject to county zoning authority, citing health and safety concerns related to data center construction and operation. The proposed ordinance states that data center construction is not consistent with existing county plans and ordinances and that current zoning regulations contain no provisions addressing data center siting or operation. If enacted, the moratorium would bar the county from accepting applications or issuing construction permits for up to 12 months, or until new regulations are adopted. The moratorium would not apply to municipalities with independent zoning codes. The full county board is expected to consider the ordinance at its April 28 meeting.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) (Northeastern) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/manitowoc-county-committee-recommends-moratorium-data-center-permitting>

New details emerge on possible data center in Wisconsin's Driftless Area

Cassville town residents in Grant County voted 54–3 to authorize village powers, a formal governance action granting the township expanded zoning authority over potential development including a proposed \$1 billion to \$2 billion data center. The vote was sought by residents seeking local control over any data center siting decision in the approximately 500-acre project area near power transmission lines. Ron Brisbois, executive director of the Grant County Economic Development Corp., disclosed that the facility would generate an estimated

\$5.6 million annually in property tax revenue to local governments and school districts with no tax incremental district or other tax incentives required. Brisbois stated he expects to learn this month whether the unnamed developer selects Grant County over competing sites in Indiana and North Dakota. No formal land use application or zoning petition has been filed; the next step is the developer's site selection decision.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Western) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/04/wisconsin-data-center-driftless-area-new-details-emerge-grant-county-cassville/>

Lake Mills city council approves apartment proposal at Sentry site

The Lake Mills City Council unanimously approved a rezoning request on April 7, 2026, authorizing a 100-unit, four-story apartment complex at the corner of Lake Street and Madison Street, the former site of a Sentry grocery store vacant since 2019. The council rezoned the parcel from downtown business district to downtown business district with a planned development district, enabling the mixed-use configuration proposed by Hovde Properties and Angus Young Architects. The development will include approximately 10,000 square feet of first-floor commercial space, 84 underground parking stalls, 49 surface parking stalls, and 23 additional on-street parking stalls on Lake Street. The Lake Mills Plan Commission had unanimously recommended approval in February 2026.

Source: Cambridge Enterprise Sentinel (South Central) | https://hngnews.com/leader_independent/news/local/lake-mills-city-council-approves-apartment-proposal-at-sentry-site/article_0058e545-5686-4b92-b422-fc9f59d4ec57.html

Rock County committee indefinitely postpones NDA ban

The Rock County Board Staff Committee voted unanimously on April 6, 2026, to indefinitely postpone a resolution introduced by Supervisor Philip Gorman that would have banned county staff from entering non-disclosure agreements. The resolution had previously been voted down by the county's Planning and Development Committee on March 26, 2026. The NDA issue arose in connection with the 430-acre Project Cornmaze hyperscale data center proposal in the Town of Beloit. Gorman ultimately joined the majority to make the postponement unanimous after committee members argued the NDA issue and data center concerns should be treated as separate matters. County Corporation Counsel Richard Greenlee indicated a new resolution could be introduced. Gorman confirmed he intends to bring forward a revised resolution establishing guardrails for staff NDA signings, with data center transparency as a central concern.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/local/rock-county-committee-indefinitely-postpones-nda-ban/article_1d879ab4-542b-412f-8cd6-88005f8d799d.html

Governance and Elections

Amery adopting fraud prevention policy

The Amery Common Council is set to vote on the city's first formal fraud prevention and whistleblower policy after City Administrator Alex Mansfield presented the measure during a Committee of the Whole meeting on April 1, 2026. No vote was taken at that session; formal adoption is scheduled for the council's next regular meeting. The policy, identified as the primary governance gap in the city's 2026 financial policy review, mandates dual authorization for any disbursement exceeding \$5,000, requires a preliminary fraud assessment within 10 business days of a report, and invokes whistleblower protections under Wisconsin Statutes

Section 895.65. All city employees must receive training upon hiring and at minimum every two years. The council must reaffirm the policy every three years or following any confirmed fraud incident.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | https://theameryfreepress.com/news/amery-adopting-fraud-prevention-policy/article_ceb6b979-8583-4741-8c1d-efad0cba2f0a.html

Crowe upsets Menomonie Mayor Knaack

City Council member Matthew Crowe defeated 16-year incumbent Mayor Randy Knaack in the April 7, 2026 Menomonie mayoral election, securing the office with 2,105 votes (58.5 percent) against Knaack's 1,488 votes (41.4 percent) with all 11 wards reporting. Crowe has served on the Council alongside roles on the Downtown Menomonie Board, Dunn Economic Development Board, Tourism Commission, Board of Review, Dunn County Local Emergency Planning Commission, and the Housing Committee. Crowe's second ward Council seat simultaneously transferred to challenger Diane Edwards, who defeated Crowe in that concurrent race 216 to 157, meaning the Council faces no separate appointment process. Crowe stated his priorities include economic development, addressing the city's housing shortage and deteriorating rental units, and establishing a strategic plan for the Industrial Park, Tech Park, and Downtown Menomonie.

Source: Leader-Telegram (Western) | https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily-updates/crowe-upsets-menomonie-mayor-knaack/article_62969693-a766-4f86-b057-a34b99f56a48.html

UPDATE: Common Council denies Mayo historic building designation appeal

The La Crosse Common Council voted 10–3 on April 9, 2026, to deny an appeal filed by Mayo Clinic Health System challenging the historic designation of the Professional Arts Building on its campus. The Heritage Preservation Commission had voted in February 2026 to add the five-story structure, built in 1942 as the St. Francis School of Nursing, to the local registry of historic locations. The denial upholds the Commission's designation, which protects the building from demolition and major exterior changes but does not restrict interior renovations. Mayo Clinic had argued that the designation would limit its ability to plan and deliver advanced healthcare options. Council member Mackenzie Mindel noted the Council held authority under city procedures to either uphold or remove the designation following the owner's appeal within the required 30-day window.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Western) | https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/update-common-council-denies-mayo-historic-building-designation-appeal/article_474eb583-2861-490f-ba6d-0c5554a360cc.html

La Crosse council rejects North Side pool reopening

The La Crosse Common Council voted 8–5 on April 9, 2026, to reject a proposal that would have allocated \$90,000 in American Rescue Plan Act interest funds to reopen and operate the North Side Community Pool for summer 2026. The pool has been closed since the prior year following budget cuts. Council member Erin Goggin had sponsored the resolution, stating the funds would not draw from the general budget. In separate action during the same session, the council voted 10–1 following an hour-long closed session to appeal the state's approval of the Town of Campbell's incorporation as a village. Wisconsin's Incorporation Review Board had recommended Campbell proceed with incorporation, which requires voter approval through a referendum. The appeal constitutes the next procedural step in the incorporation dispute.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Western) | https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/la-crosse/la-crosse-council-rejects-north-side-pool-reopening/article_8743b97c-a0f5-4bde-af93-20ca0d5baa99.html

Human Services

Wisconsin Department of Health Services releases \$31M plan to combat opioid epidemic

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services released a two-year, \$31 million spending plan drawn from a national opioid settlement against drug manufacturers and distributors, allocating \$14.5 million in the current fiscal year and \$16.5 million in fiscal year 2027. DHS Secretary Kirsten Johnson announced the plan directs funds toward prevention programming, overdose death reduction, infectious disease mitigation, treatment access expansion, and recovery services. The broader settlement will deliver approximately \$800 million to Wisconsin through 2038, split between the state and 87 local governments. DHS Director of Substance Use Initiatives Michelle Haese stated the plan was developed through public surveys, stakeholder listening sessions, and program data review. DHS has already released \$3 million in room and board funding to counties, which previously bore those costs independently.

Source: WMTV NBC15 Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wmtv15news.com/2026/04/10/dhs-invest-31-million-opioid-settlement-funds-support-prevention-efforts/>

School Districts

Butternut School District referendum may have passed by 1 vote

Butternut School District voters approved an unofficial referendum result on April 8, 2026, authorizing the district to exceed its revenue limit by \$500,000 per year for four years, beginning with the 2026–2027 school year through 2029–2030, for non-recurring operational expenses. Unofficial combined returns from Ashland and Price Counties show the measure passed 281 yes to 280 no, a margin of one vote. The \$500,000 would bring annual district revenue from approximately \$1.57 million to \$2.07 million. This was the fourth referendum attempt after three prior failures that had resulted in staff and resource cuts. District Administrator Carolyn Pollitt confirmed the reported totals are correct but indicated she is awaiting final certification before officially announcing the outcome.

Source: Ashland Daily Press (Central/Northern) | https://apg-wi.com/ashland_daily_press/news/local/butternut-school-district-referendum-may-have-passed-by-1-vote/article_32907128-c03d-457f-9751-53061bf83fd3.html

Cornell voters approve school referendum

Cornell School District voters approved a \$15 million facilities referendum on April 7, 2026, authorizing construction of a new 30,000-square-foot wing at Cornell High School and demolition of approximately 70,000 square feet of the existing 1915 structure. The final tally was 757 votes (67.8 percent) in favor and 359 votes (32.2 percent) opposed. The referendum authorizes construction of a two-level wing plus a shop area on the east end of the high school while preserving the kitchen, gymnasium, metal shop, and commons area. Superintendent Paul Schley stated construction plans are largely complete and the district intends to begin foundation work before winter 2026. The new wing is projected to be complete by the end of 2027, with demolition of the older west-side portion scheduled for summer 2028.

Source: WEAU NBC13 Eau Claire (Western) | <https://www.weau.com/2026/04/08/cornell-school-district-looks-ahead-after-referendums-passing/>

Spring election results: Voters pass WUSD referendum

Watertown Unified School District voters approved a referendum on April 7, 2026, authorizing the district to exceed its state-imposed revenue limit by \$4,500,000 per year for five years, beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, for non-recurring operational, instructional, and maintenance expenses. The combined Dodge and Jefferson County result was 53.12 percent in favor (4,382 votes) to 46.88 percent opposed (3,867 votes). Jefferson County returned 53.49 percent yes to 46.51 percent no, while Dodge County returned 52.59 percent yes to 47.41 percent no. The authorization allows the district to collect up to \$22,500,000 in additional revenue over the five-year period. The next procedural step involves the district incorporating the additional levy authority into its annual budget beginning with the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

Source: Watertown Daily Times (Southeastern) | https://www.wdtimes.com/news/local/spring-election-results-voters-pass-wusd-referendum/article_8eb70c0a-a3ad-47b2-8966-34ea91c8a1ff.html

School District of Holmen passes 2026 Operational Referendum

Holmen voters approved the School District of Holmen’s 2026 Operational Referendum on April 8, 2026, by a vote of 4,041 in favor to 2,746 against. The referendum authorizes the district to exceed its state revenue limit by \$4,525,000 per year for five years to fund operations, maintenance, safety, and educational programming. District Administrator Kris Mueller confirmed the approved funding will not be directed toward new building construction and is not expected to increase the school tax rate. The passage grants the district formal authority to collect the additional revenue beginning with the next applicable fiscal year through the duration of the five-year authorization period.

Source: WXOW ABC19 La Crosse (Western) | https://www.wxow.com/news/coulee/school-district-of-holmen-passes-2026-operational-referendum/article_613cde17-2fd5-4914-9541-99714d7773f6.html

Sparta school referendum and board results

The Sparta Area School District operating referendum failed in an unofficial count on April 7, 2026, with 2,148 votes against and 1,895 in favor. The measure sought authorization for the district to exceed its state-imposed revenue limit by \$1,800,000 annually for three years through the 2028–29 school year. The requested funds were designated for operational expenses encompassing student academic resources, co-curricular programming, and staff salaries and benefits. With the referendum’s defeat, the district will remain bound by its existing revenue limit and will not receive the additional \$1.8 million per year sought to sustain the identified programs. The official Canvass of Election Returns is scheduled for Monday, April 13, at 9:00 a.m. at 900 East Montgomery Street, Sparta.

Source: Monroe County Herald (Sparta) (Western) | <https://monroecountyherald.com/stories/sparta-school-referendum-and-board-results,162601>

State-Local Interface

Universities of Wisconsin board votes to fire system president after he refused to quit

The Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents voted unanimously on April 7, 2026, to terminate System President Jay Rothman, who had held the position since January 2022 and earns \$600,943 annually. The board acted five days after the Associated Press reported the regents had given Rothman the choice to resign or be fired; Rothman declined, stating in two letters that no specific cause was provided. Under his contract, Rothman is entitled to six months' notice and holds no appeal rights. Board President Amy Bogost and Regent Timothy Nixon subsequently testified before the Senate Committee on Universities on April 9, citing personnel confidentiality constraints. Senate President Pro Tempore Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) called on the Republican-led Senate to reject all 10 unconfirmed Evers-appointed regents, which would remove them from the board. The full Senate is not scheduled to convene again this calendar year, leaving the confirmations without a defined timeline.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Statewide) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/04/universities-of-wisconsin-board-votes-to-fire-system-president/>

Gov. Tony Evers signs bills releasing money to combat PFAS contamination

Governor Tony Evers signed 2025 Wisconsin Act 200 (AB 130) and 2025 Wisconsin Act 201 (AB 131) on April 6, 2026, releasing \$125 million in previously appropriated state funds to address PFAS contamination. Approximately \$80 million will flow to a community grant program enabling local governments to remediate PFAS contamination; approximately \$5 million will fund grants for public airports; and \$35 million will expand the Well Compensation Grant Program for homeowners, businesses, schools, and child care facilities with private wells. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources receives 10 new positions and \$1.3 million for conservation, fishery, and regulatory functions. The legislation also amends the state Spills Law to shield farmers, landowners, certain business owners, and fire departments from liability for PFAS contamination they did not cause. The signing was supported by a bipartisan group including Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Gillett) and Rep. Renuka Mayadev (D-Madison).

Source: Phillips Price County Review (Statewide) | https://apg-wi.com/news/state/gov-tony-evers-signs-bills-releasing-money-to-combat-pfas-contamination/article_72efc0b9-af29-5e2e-8786-2fd70f866592.html

Evers vetoes Wisconsin election law changes

Gov. Tony Evers vetoed Assembly Bill 595 on April 8, 2026, blocking changes to Wisconsin's election administration framework. The bill would have required the Wisconsin Elections Commission to investigate complaints alleging federal election law violations, mandated daily data sharing on voter eligibility between the Departments of Transportation, Health Services, and Corrections and the commission, required interagency data agreements to be renewed every two years, capped voter registration list purchase prices at \$1,000, and required removal of ineligible voters from registration rolls. Evers cited the Legislature's failure to appropriate funding for expanded agency data-matching workload, concerns that eligible voters could be incorrectly flagged as noncitizens and required to provide documentary proof of citizenship, and a likelihood that the \$1,000 fee cap would reduce Elections Commission revenue used for election security and system maintenance.

Source: WKOW ABC27 Madison (Statewide) | https://www.wkow.com/news/evers-vetoes-wisconsin-election-law-changes/article_550e727b-3b50-4da1-b7d6-261594d7b4c2.html

Wisconsin DACA recipients can now get professional licenses

Governor Tony Evers signed Act 240 on April 9, 2026, allowing recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to obtain professional licenses and certifications in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Senate passed the bill 31–2. Act 240 removes a prior statutory barrier that classified professional licenses as state benefits, which DACA recipients were prohibited from receiving; the new law authorizes the state to waive that restriction for DACA holders who maintain valid immigration status, a Social Security number, and a clean criminal record. Eligible professions include registered nursing, dentistry, teaching, emergency medical technology, and skilled trades. Credentials issued under the law remain valid only for the duration of the holder’s federal employment authorization. Wisconsin is home to approximately 5,100 DACA recipients according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Source: WSAW CBS7 Wausau (Statewide) | <https://www.wsaw.com/2026/04/10/wisconsin-daca-recipients-can-now-get-professional-licenses/>

Antitrust suits against fire truck manufacturers will be centralized in Wisconsin federal court

The U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation issued an order this month transferring at least a dozen antitrust lawsuits filed by municipalities and fire departments against fire truck manufacturers Oshkosh Corp., REV Group, and Rosenbauer America to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, assigned to Judge William Griesbach for coordinated pretrial proceedings. The suits allege the three manufacturers, which collectively control an estimated 70 to 80 percent of the U.S. fire truck market, engaged in anticompetitive conduct that inflated prices for emergency vehicles purchased by local governments. Plaintiff municipalities include the City of La Crosse and Onalaska, Wisconsin. All three defendant companies have denied the allegations. The next procedural step is coordinated pretrial proceedings before Judge Griesbach.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/antitrust-suits-fire-truck-manufacturers-centralized-wisconsin-federal-court>

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