

Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing

May 3 to May 9, 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 performed 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.

Budgets and Finance	3
Dane County is facing a \$15 million budget deficit. How did it happen?	3
Racine County approves borrowing of \$23 million to finish mental health facility	3
Sheboygan Awards CDBG to Six Community Groups	3
Workforce and Labor.....	4
Acting E.C. City Manager Dave Solberg Named A Final Candidate For Chippewa Falls Role	4
Common Council approves Racine police union contract	4
Delavan police officer resigns after stalking charge	4
Lahner to get \$110,000 severance when he departs Janesville City Hall	4
Infrastructure and Utilities	5
Madison seeks control of Park Street corridor to improve safety	5
Panel accepts \$23.5M Kenosha Innovation Center as completed	5
Second Water Rate Increase Incoming.....	5
City of Marshfield Authorizes Temporary Placement of FirstNet SatCOLT Near the Marshfield Fairgrounds.....	6
Superior council funds town halls on utility acquisition	6
Controversial Waterloo water tower dismantled	6
Public Safety	7
MPD Chief rejects Fire and Police Commission's recommendations to change pursuit policy	7
Caledonia trustees rescind decision to reopen Gorney Park police shooting range	7
Data center traffic mess called 'inexcusable'	7
Work starts on \$86 million jail, sheriff complex	8
Judge temporarily blocks Milwaukee ordinance that limits food trucks hours	8
Chippewa Falls mother inspires city to update sex offender ordinance.....	8
Appleton moves to end use of Flock cameras	9
Land Use and Development.....	9
Barrett Lo Visionary Development buys former Greendale Boston Store for \$3.3M	9
Plans finally forge ahead for new Beloit subdivision.....	9
Plans for 60-unit apartment in La Crosse's River Point District advance	9
City of Eau Claire seeks to apply for state grant for new restaurant Condesa	10

Commission expands Superior film incentives	10
Recent Mount Pleasant Village Board stories	10
Governance and Elections.....	11
Shorewood Hills moves toward vote on removing Village Board leader	11
Wisconsin Elections Commission faces lawsuit, criticism over order not to count late-arriving Madison ballots	11
Mequon neighbors praise electoral counting process following inclusion of five April ballots after state order.....	12
City of Milton defers decision on mayor, council member pay raises	12
Kronenwetter trustee resigns, creating vacancy on village board	12
City hires independent investigator to review dispute involving Milwaukee alders	12
First council meeting for Krantz and Lippert.....	13
Mitch Sands to fill vacant Cambridge village board seat	13
Gondik Law sues for Douglas County records	13
Dane County to appeal discarding Madison's 23 late-arriving ballots	14
No 'No Mow May' in Wisconsin Rapids in 2026	14
School Districts	14
The show goes on: Wind Symphony will continue to practice 'A Mother of a Revolution' amid scrutiny.....	14
Upgrades coming to Franklin Elementary School in Oshkosh; funded by successful referendum.....	15
Southern Door school district to cut teachers and sports teams after failed referendum	15
Kenosha Unified School Board adopts AI policy, updates others	15
Rib Lake School Board sets increases at inflation rate	16
Tri-County approves new 4-K program and golf co-op program for 2026-27 school year.....	16
Racine Unified School District selects construction manager for school demolition project....	16
McFarland School Board votes to amend new name of Performing Arts Center	17
State-Local Interface	17
UW-Superior chancellor named interim Universities of Wisconsin president, search committee constituted.....	17
Evers wins another battle over agency rulemaking	17
Wisconsin regulators approve rates for Meta's Beaver Dam data center, with sharp criticism	18
PSC approves Alliant-Meta data center power deal while criticizing 'black box' approach.....	18
DPI's ruling on Menomonee Falls Schools' book ban does little, but 2024 complaint ignited change	18
Wisconsin sues Lac Du Flambeau Tribe over non-member fishing restrictions on 19 lakes....	19
Northeast Wisconsin projects one step away from state grants	19

Budgets and Finance

Dane County is facing a \$15 million budget deficit. How did it happen?

Dane County Chief Financial Officer Chuck Hicklin projected in February 2026 a \$32 million structural deficit for the county's 2027 budget, subsequently revised to approximately \$15 million after the 2025 fiscal year closed better than expected. The shortfall stems from multi-year County Board decisions to approve budgets in which spending outpaced revenues, including a 2025 budget that added the equivalent of approximately 44 full-time positions and drew nearly \$60 million from reserves to balance the operating plan. County Executive Melissa Agard, who holds executive authority over the nearly \$1 billion annual budget covering more than 30 departments and over 2,800 employees, acknowledged the deficit as a significant hurdle. County Board Chair Patrick Miles stated the gap cannot be closed within a single budget cycle. The next procedural step is development of the 2027 budget, which Hicklin's February memo to the county executive indicated will require spending reductions.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | https://captimes.com/news/government/dane-county-is-facing-a-15-million-budget-deficit-how-did-it-happen/article_1edbc300-5889-4840-b9fb-eb930dc9a815.html

Racine County approves borrowing of \$23 million to finish mental health facility

The Racine County Board of Supervisors approved the issuance of \$23 million in general obligation bonds to fund completion of the new mental health facility located at 1720 Taylor Avenue in Racine. The borrowing authorization was described as part of the county's original capital project plan for the facility, which is slated to open by the end of 2026. Racine County has separately secured \$5 million in federal funds toward the same project. The County Board, comprising supervisors from all 21 districts, holds formal authority over county borrowing actions of this scale. The article does not report the vote count on the bond resolution. The bond approval follows the broader financing framework established at the outset of the capital project, with the facility's anticipated late-2026 operational date representing the next consequential milestone tied to this borrowing action.

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

Sheboygan Awards CDBG to Six Community Groups

The Sheboygan Common Council voted to award more than \$136,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to six public service organizations. Recipients, each receiving between \$12,000 and \$31,200, included Adobe, Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization, the Salvation Army, Shoreline Metro, the Sheboygan Warming Center, and Lakeshore CAP. The awards represent 15 percent of the city's total \$910,600 CDBG allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the maximum share permitted under federal rules for public service entities. The remaining funds are designated for housing and community development purposes administered by the City of Sheboygan. The article does not report the vote count or ordinance identifier associated with the appropriation.

Source: WHBL 1330 AM Sheboygan (Southeastern) | <https://whbl.com/2026/05/08/sheboygan-awards-cdbg-to-six-community-groups/>

Workforce and Labor

Acting E.C. City Manager Dave Solberg Named A Final Candidate For Chippewa Falls Role

The Eau Claire City Council scheduled a closed session for Monday, May 11, 2026 to review and discuss interim city manager candidates, with a formal appointment planned at the legislative session on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Deputy City Manager Dave Solberg, currently serving as acting city manager following former City Manager Stephanie Hirsch's April 28, 2026 resignation, is simultaneously identified as one of five finalists for the City of Chippewa Falls city administrator position, a role vacant since the 2009 firing of Ron Singel. The other Chippewa Falls finalists, reported following an open records request, are Heath Eddy, Jerry Gabrielas, Doug Pearson, and Laura Stelzner. Chippewa Falls formally initiated its city administrator search in December 2025. The Eau Claire City Council will convene at 6 p.m. May 11 at City Hall, 203 S. Farwell St., with public comment accepted prior to the May 12 appointment vote.

Source: Volume One (Western) | <https://volumeone.org/articles/2026/05/08/389420-acting-eau-claire-city-manager-dave-solberg-named-a-final-candidate-for-chippewa-falls-role>

Common Council approves Racine police union contract

The Racine Common Council approved a new labor contract with the Racine Police Association at its May 9, 2026 meeting, ending a period during which the union had operated without a formal collective bargaining agreement since 2021. The Common Council, exercising its authority over municipal labor relations, ratified the contract restoring formal contractual standing for the association, which represents sworn officers within the Racine Police Department. The article does not specify the vote count, contract duration, or wage and benefit terms. Execution of the ratified agreement constitutes the immediate operational consequence of the council's action; no subsequent procedural step was reported.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_7ddd260a-5529-413d-b2ec-305a154fdb91.html

Delavan police officer resigns after stalking charge

The City of Delavan Police Department accepted the resignation of Officer Joshua Bittner, who had served the department since February 2023, following his March 2026 arrest in the Rockford, Illinois area on charges of aggravated stalking and two counts of violating a protection order. The charges were filed in Winnebago County, Illinois Circuit Court. Under the formal resignation agreement reached with the city, Bittner will receive a payout for unused vacation, compensatory time, and holiday leave benefits. The Delavan Police Department stated it is cooperating with the sheriff's office investigation. Bittner is scheduled for a status conference in Winnebago County Court on May 13, 2026, regarding the pending criminal charges.

Source: Janesville Gazette (Southeastern) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/delavan-police-officer-resigns-after-stalking-charge/article_ebf7ac75-56d0-4b07-82a8-d919fc4f5334.html

Lahner to get \$110,000 severance when he departs Janesville City Hall

The Janesville City Council approved a \$110,336 severance package for departing City Manager Kevin Lahner, effective upon his May 29, 2026 resignation date, following a closed session discussion on April 27, 2026. The payout, equivalent to four months of wages and benefits with a pension deduction applied, will be disbursed in nine installments over four months. Lahner's total annual compensation package was recorded at \$337,773. The dollar

amount was not disclosed publicly until The Janesville Gazette obtained records through a formal open records request filed April 29 under Wisconsin law, to which the city responded May 6. The city separately confirmed the elimination of Deputy City Manager Ryan McCue's position, which carried a total annual compensation of \$246,013, as part of a restructuring of the city manager's office. No successor or interim city manager has been publicly named.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/your-right-to-know-lahner-to-get-110-000-severance-when-he-departs-janesville-city/article_ace97cb8-7494-4c7a-ba54-65aa93f12f8c.html

Infrastructure and Utilities

Madison seeks control of Park Street corridor to improve safety

The Madison City Transportation Department is pursuing a jurisdictional transfer of the U.S. 151 corridor, encompassing South Park Street from the Beltline to West Washington Avenue, West Washington Avenue, Proudfit Street, North Shore Drive, John Nolen Drive, and Blair Street, from Wisconsin Department of Transportation control to city ownership. Under the proposed agreement, WisDOT would issue a one-time payment of approximately \$36 million to Madison, with \$10 million designated for Park Street reconstruction and \$5 million potentially allocated for John Nolen Drive pavement replacement. In exchange, the state would cease its annual \$300,000 connecting highway aid payments. City Transportation Director Christof Spieler presented the proposal to the Transportation Commission, whose members expressed receptivity. The transfer requires approval by the Madison City Council following additional review by the Transportation Commission, Finance Committee, and Board of Public Works, as well as approval from the Wisconsin state transportation secretary.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | https://captimes.com/news/government/madison-seeks-control-of-park-street-corridor-to-improve-safety/article_66b30c69-2020-443a-a166-acea8c32f006.html

Panel accepts \$23.5M Kenosha Innovation Center as completed

The Kenosha City Council's Public Works Committee formally accepted the Kenosha Innovation Center as satisfactorily completed by Miron Construction of Neenah at a final contract value of \$23.57 million. The acceptance was taken by the Public Works Committee acting within its oversight authority over capital construction projects for the City of Kenosha. The article does not report the vote count. The action represents the conclusion of the construction phase of the Innovation Center, a city-affiliated facility, and the acceptance constitutes the final formal governance action in the construction contract process. No subsequent procedural step was identified in the available reporting.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/collection_48acd2df-acd8-55dc-ad12-e02c0bf651d0.html

Second Water Rate Increase Incoming

The Bloomer Common Council unanimously approved implementation of the second phase of a Wisconsin Public Service Commission-authorized water rate increase, effective with the June 15 meter reading and appearing on July utility bills. The PSC originally approved the two-phase increase in 2023 to fund the \$22.5 million Lead Jointed Water Main construction project, which replaced 35,000 feet of lead-jointed water main across 30 blocks. Phase one, implemented in fall 2023, added \$338,246 to annual revenues; phase two adds \$955,984, bringing the total revenue increase to approximately \$1.2 million and raising overall water rates by more than 190 percent. For an average residence using 2,000 gallons, the monthly bill rises from \$35.11 to

approximately \$70. City Administrator Sandi Frion indicated the phase two implementation was triggered by project completion and noted she anticipates a further rate increase request within the next few years to bring the utility's rate of return to PSC-recommended levels.

Source: Bloomer Advance (Western) | https://www.bloomeradvance.com/news/community_news/article_bb2cc1a5-49f3-4915-a59f-d1a015aedbdc.html

City of Marshfield Authorizes Temporary Placement of FirstNet SatCOLT Near the Marshfield Fairgrounds

The City of Marshfield authorized the temporary placement of a FirstNet Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT) on city-owned property near the Marshfield Fairgrounds to support public safety communications. The unit will operate on Band 14 and serve eligible FirstNet public safety users, including first responders, for an approximately 45-day period. City staff coordinated with FirstNet and associated parties on placement, timing, and operational requirements. The authorization permits use of city-owned property for the temporary deployment, which is explicitly limited to public safety communications and is not intended to enhance commercial or residential AT&T cellular service. The deployment is a bridging measure intended to remain in place until a longer-term communications solution becomes operational, at which point the SatCOLT will be removed.

Source: WDLB 1450 AM Marshfield (Central/Northern) | <https://wdlbam.com/2026/05/08/city-of-marshfield-authorizes-temporary-placement-of-firstnet-satcolt-near-the-marshfield-fairgrounds/>

Superior council funds town halls on utility acquisition

The Superior City Council voted to transfer \$5,000 from its Economic Development Fund to finance public engagement activities related to the potential municipal acquisition of Superior Water, Light & Power's utility assets. The appropriation will cover costs for approximately five town hall sessions distributed across the city, including venue and equipment rental, printed educational materials, and related outreach expenses. Mayor Jim Paine, who announced the plan at the May 5 council meeting, holds mayoral authority over scheduling the sessions and intends to invite both SWL&P officials and the Superior Community Coalition to present competing perspectives. The council action follows a Raftelis Financial Consultants report, received approximately one month prior, that established a fair market value of \$58 million for the water utility assets alone; reports on electric and natural gas utility valuations remain pending. Councilor Mike Herrick requested at least 10 days' advance notice to council members before each session. The council faces an August deadline to place an acquisition referendum on the November ballot.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/superior-council-funds-town-halls-on-utility-acquisition>

Controversial Waterloo water tower dismantled

Waterloo Utilities authorized and completed the dismantlement of the city's water tower on May 6, 2026, following a formal vote by the utilities board to seek demolition bids earlier than the originally scheduled timeline. Utilities Director Barry Sorenson cited the tower's decommissioned status since 2023 and prohibitively high repair costs relative to the structure's age as the basis for the procurement action. Contracted workers hired by Waterloo Utilities removed the over-100-year-old tower in sections by crane, with steel pieces flattened on-site and transported off-site for melting. The utilities board had previously considered transferring the tower to the City of Waterloo as a historical marker, but the city formally declined on cost grounds. Historical society members Heather Yohn and Maureen Giese attended multiple city meetings opposing the

accelerated schedule, though the historical society itself declined to fundraise toward preservation. The dismantlement was completed in full on May 6.

Source: Cambridge Enterprise Sentinel (South Central) | https://hngnews.com/leader_independent/news/local/controversial-waterloo-water-tower-dismantled/article_c8563308-d641-481d-ba07-809e57de340c.html

Public Safety

MPD Chief rejects Fire and Police Commission's recommendations to change pursuit policy

Milwaukee Police Department Chief Jeffrey Norman formally rejected on Friday the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission's recommended modifications to Standard Operating Procedure 660, the department's vehicle pursuit policy, and to the Video Release Policy. The FPC had submitted a memorandum requesting that SOP 660 be amended to require MPD officers to terminate a pursuit when reckless driving escalates and endangers the public. Chief Norman, exercising his executive authority over departmental policy, declined the recommendation, stating that MPD intends to maintain its current policy, which permits pursuits when a member has probable cause to believe a vehicle is engaged in reckless driving. Norman acknowledged prior revisions to SOP 660 informed by FPC meetings and Common Council Public Safety and Health Committee sessions. Norman stated MPD will continue to evaluate the policy's effectiveness, leaving open the possibility of future revisions without committing to a specific procedural timeline.

Source: WTMJ 4 NBC Milwaukee (Southeastern) | <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/in-your-community/milwaukee-county/mpd-chief-rejects-fire-and-police-commissions-recommendations-to-change-pursuit-policy>

Caledonia trustees rescind decision to reopen Gorney Park police shooting range

The Caledonia Village Board voted to rescind its prior decision to reopen and revitalize the Gorney Park police shooting range, reversing a January 2026 board vote that had approved plans to restore the site. The Caledonia Police Department had discontinued use of the firing range in 1997 for reasons described as "unknown," though Police Chief Christopher Botsch had reported the range remained largely in good condition. The Village Board, exercising its governing authority over municipal facilities, formally withdrew the revitalization approval. The article does not report a vote count, ordinance identifier, or associated dollar figure for the rescinded plan. No subsequent procedural step was specified in the available reporting.

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

Data center traffic mess called 'inexcusable'

The Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office and Wisconsin State Patrol entered into a procurement arrangement with Vantage Data Centers, under which Vantage will fund overtime and benefits costs for law enforcement officers providing traffic control near the Lighthouse Campus construction site in Port Washington. Sheriff Christy Knowles confirmed the contract, stating the arrangement shifts costs from county taxpayers to Vantage. Three officers are currently deployed at three intersections, highways D and LL in Belgium, the I-43 northside ramps in Port Washington, and Lake Drive at Highway KW in the Town of Port, during peak hours of 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Staffing is expected to increase to four

personnel in the near future. Traffic control officers are contracted to remain on duty through at least October. Port Washington Public Works Director Rob Vanden Noven separately reported that Lake Drive between highways KW and LL will reopen May 9, with Highway LL closing for repaving until approximately May 25.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/data-center-traffic-mess-called-%E2%80%98inexcusable%E2%80%99>

Work starts on \$86 million jail, sheriff complex

Green County commenced site work on an \$86 million jail and sheriff's office complex on county-owned property in Monroe. The Green County Board of Supervisors voted final approval at its regular meeting on June 10, 2024, authorizing issuance of more than \$86 million in general obligation bonds to fund and equip the facility. County Administrator Nic Owen and Sheriff Cody Kanable are the primary administrative authorities overseeing the project. The new facility will replace a 1958-era structure and provide initial capacity for 94 inmates, expandable to 124, compared with the current maximum of approximately 70. The project includes a law enforcement center of approximately 36,000 square feet, a parking deck, mezzanine, and a tunnel connecting the jail to the Justice Center valued at nearly \$1 million. Recent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources environmental approvals allowing on-site soil reuse generated cost savings against the original estimate. Completion is scheduled for October 2028.

Source: Monroe Times (South Central) | <https://themonroetimes.com/local-news/work-starts-on-86-million-jail-sheriff-complex/>

Judge temporarily blocks Milwaukee ordinance that limits food trucks hours

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Jean Kies issued a temporary restraining order on Friday blocking enforcement of a Milwaukee Common Council ordinance that restricts food truck operating hours in two downtown zones. The Common Council passed the ordinance in April, sponsored by Alder Bob Bauman; it would have prohibited food truck operation after 10 p.m. in a designated downtown Milwaukee zone and after 11 p.m. in a south side zone, reducing the current 1 a.m. closing time. The ordinance was scheduled to take effect the day after the restraining order was issued. The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty filed suit Thursday in Milwaukee County Circuit Court on behalf of Fatty Patty food truck owner Abdallah Ismail, prompting Judge Kies's order. City Attorney Evan Goyke declined to comment on the pending litigation. The restraining order remains in effect until the next scheduled court hearing on June 10.

Source: WPR News Madison (Southeastern) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/judge-temporarily-blocks-milwaukee-ordinance-food-trucks-hours>

Chippewa Falls mother inspires city to update sex offender ordinance

The Chippewa Falls City Council received a public presentation on April 7, 2026 that initiated a formal review of the city's existing sex offender ordinance, written approximately 20 years ago, which currently restricts offenders only from entering or loitering within 66 feet of city parks, pools, trails, and licensed daycare centers, with no residency restrictions and no mention of schools. A draft revision under consideration would prohibit sex offenders from living or being present within 500 feet of parks, pools, trails, athletic facilities, schools, and licensed child daycare centers. During the April 21 Committee #3 meeting, city leaders voted to schedule additional discussions following May 5 with stakeholders including the Chippewa County District Attorney and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections before advancing the draft toward a final vote by the full council.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Western) | https://www.news8000.com/news/originals/chippewa-falls-mother-inspires-city-to-update-sex-offender-ordinance/article_5fd9136b-0609-48c1-bbbf-7211c7594f8c.html

Appleton moves to end use of Flock cameras

The City of Appleton has initiated termination of its contract with Flock Safety, the provider of the city's automated license plate reader and surveillance camera system, according to an announcement from Mayor Jake Woodford's office on May 6, 2026. The decision constitutes a formal executive action by the mayor's office to end the city's deployment of the Flock platform. The article does not report a contract termination dollar figure, an effective end date, an ordinance identifier, or whether Common Council action will be required to complete the termination. No subsequent procedural step was specified in the available coverage.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Northeastern) | https://chippewa.com/news/local/collection_8ebb023e-43b4-5a1a-8c5d-75ec7c63a8a2.html

Land Use and Development

Barrett Lo Visionary Development buys former Greendale Boston Store for \$3.3M

The Village of Greendale transferred 14.8 acres at 5300 S. 76th Street to Milwaukee-based Barrett Lo Visionary Development on May 8, 2026, for \$3.3 million, matching the price the village paid for the former Boston Store parcel in 2021. The sale, recorded with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, follows a June 2025 village approval of a development plan authorizing demolition of the former Boston Store and construction of four buildings in multiple phases on the west side of Southridge Mall. Barrett Lo's planned \$100 million mixed-use project, called Verdell on the Green and designed by architect KTGy, includes approximately 740 apartments and 20,000 square feet of retail space. The project team must next demolish the existing store structure, relocate utilities, and establish infrastructure for building pad locations, while continuing to resolve longstanding building rule disputes with Southridge Mall's ownership.

Source: The Daily Reporter (Southeastern) | <https://dailyreporter.com/2026/05/08/barrett-lo-buys-greendale-boston-store-3-3m/>

Plans finally forge ahead for new Beloit subdivision

The Beloit City Council voted to refer consideration of the final plat and a zoning amendment for Creek Woods Estates to the plan commission, advancing a \$1 million city incentive package awarded to Next Generation Homes of Beloit for a subdivision on 41.1 acres along Murphy Woods and Shopiere roads. The \$1 million incentive, drawn from an expiring tax-increment district, was originally awarded to Next Generation Homes after the company was selected from five bidders based on the scale of its proposal. The City Council previously granted two deadline extensions to allow Next Generation Homes additional time to finalize plans and secure financing. The revised final plan proposes 87 single-family lots, three two-family lots, and three multi-family lots, reduced from an original two-phase concept of 138 units. The next procedural step is plan commission review of the final plat and zoning amendment.

Source: Beloit Daily News (South Central) | https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/business-news/plans-finally-forge-ahead-for-new-beloit-subdivision/article_c8e0d155-97d9-4c2d-950b-87122c3275f2.html

Plans for 60-unit apartment in La Crosse's River Point District advance

A La Crosse city review committee, comprising city planning and development officials, on May 8, 2026 advanced plans for The Eleven, a proposed 60-unit, three-floor apartment building in

the River Point District developed by RyKey, owned by Lee Harezma. The committee reviewed updated building plans and advised RyKey on code-compliance additions, finding no significant challenges to proceeding. Separately in April, the city entered a non-binding agreement outlining terms of a potential tax increment financing break for the project; in 2024, the city approved a \$2.1 million tax break for RyKey's Lofts apartment building in the same district. The city officially split the subject lot in April and executed planning agreements with both RyKey and Cowboy Jack's. The building would include roughly 55 parking stalls and electric vehicle charging stations. Foundation work remains a next procedural step due to riverbed soil conditions on the site.

Source: La Crosse Tribune (Western) | https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/article_705a3612-8982-4134-ad76-97001ffb5ae7.html

City of Eau Claire seeks to apply for state grant for new restaurant Condesa

The Eau Claire City Council was scheduled to vote on May 8, 2026 to authorize the city to apply for a \$250,000 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Community Development Investment grant on behalf of Condesa, a proposed 200-seat Latin-inspired steakhouse at 200 Eau Claire Street in the Haymarket Landing development. The grant funds would offset increased construction costs associated with redeveloping a 7,700-square-foot commercial space previously purchased by Foxconn Technology Group in 2018 and vacant since. Prospective tenant JP Nunez of Eau Claire intends to operate the restaurant, which city documents project will generate \$2 million in annual revenue and create 30 to 40 jobs. If the council approves the authorization, the city would submit the CDI grant application to WEDC on behalf of the business. The next procedural step is the council's recorded vote on whether to authorize the application.

Source: WEAU NBC13 Eau Claire (Western) | <https://www.weau.com/2026/05/08/city-eau-claire-seeks-apply-state-grant-new-restaurant-condesa/>

Commission expands Superior film incentives

The Superior Tourism Development Commission voted Tuesday, May 5, 2026 to expand its film incentive reimbursement program, broadening the categories of qualifying expenses beyond the original 2022 program's coverage of food and lodging. The amended program now includes transportation, personnel costs for Superior-based labor, sets, props and wardrobe, studio and soundstage rentals, production office and equipment rental, editing and post-production expenses, and other direct production costs, all of which must be paid to businesses operating within the City of Superior. The reimbursement rate remains 25 percent. The commission has allocated \$20,000 in city-collected lodging taxes to fund the program. Becky Baker, the mayor's chief of staff and adviser to the Tourism Development Commission, noted the changes align the local program with the Upper Midwest Film Office's standards in Minnesota and Wisconsin's newly established state film office, which awards up to \$5 million annually in tax credits.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/commission-expands-superior-film-incentives>

Recent Mount Pleasant Village Board stories

The Mount Pleasant Village Board approved site plans for 15 new Microsoft data centers, awarded a contract for the village's 2026 roadway paving program, approved a contract for sanitary sewer replacement covering approximately 1,300 feet of sewer line downstream of Summerset Drive, approved division of a Luanne Drive parcel into four lots of 29,676 square feet each with 150 feet of frontage, and passed an ordinance revision clarifying village

regulations for attached homes including townhouses and duplexes. The Village Board, governing body of the Village of Mount Pleasant in Racine County, took these formal actions across recent meetings. Separately, CNH secured supplementary Mount Pleasant Police Department patrols ahead of an anticipated labor strike, an arrangement consistent with a similar agreement during the 2022 CNH labor strike, according to village documents. Vote counts, contract dollar figures, and ordinance identifiers for the actions described were not included in the available reporting.

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

Governance and Elections

Shorewood Hills moves toward vote on removing Village Board leader

The Shorewood Hills Village Board scheduled a May 12, 2026 special meeting to vote on whether to remove Village Board President John Imes from his position under a Wisconsin statutory provision allowing removal of local officials for “gross neglect of duty.” The action follows a formal complaint filed by resident Peter Hans and Village Board member Brian Utschig, alleging Imes committed perjury, failed to disclose conflicts of interest, and conducted official business through private email accounts to conceal public records. Imes serves as president of the Wisconsin Environmental Institute, which the complaint alleges received donations from entities holding village agreements. Board President Pro Tem Shabnam Lotfi denied Imes's attorneys' requests to postpone the hearing and to require recusal of Utschig and board member Rocky Van Asten. Separately, the Dane County District Attorney's Office has a pending investigation of the village, with Village Administrator Brian Mooney confirming records requests initiated February 12 remain in process.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | https://captimes.com/news/government/shorewood-hills-moves-toward-vote-on-removing-village-board-leader/article_63ceae8b-f6d5-48d3-92df-2c5a3b25620c.html

Wisconsin Elections Commission faces lawsuit, criticism over order not to count late-arriving Madison ballots

The Wisconsin Elections Commission voted 5-1 to order the City of Madison to remove 23 late-arriving absentee ballots from the certified count of the April 2025 Wisconsin Supreme Court race, finding that Madison erred in counting ballots that arrived at polling places after the 8 p.m. statutory deadline. WEC Chair Ann Jacobs and GOP Commissioner Don Millis publicly criticized Madison's handling. The Madison Board of Canvassers complied Wednesday but executed a controversial drawdown that randomly removed 20 of the 23 ballots after poll workers failed to mark the late ballots as instructed by Madison Clerk Lydia McComas. The same day, Law Forward filed suit in Dane County Circuit Court on behalf of voters Margaret and Robert Honig, alleging the WEC order unconstitutionally disenfranchises voters; the Dane County Board of Canvassers, authorized by the County Board on Tuesday, separately filed suit Wednesday seeking prospective legal clarity. Madison City Attorney Mike Haas stated the city has 30 days to decide whether to file its own appeal.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (South Central) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/05/wisconsin-elections-commission-faces-lawsuit-criticism-over-order-not-to-count-late-arriving-madison-ballots/>

Mequon neighbors praise electoral counting process following inclusion of five April ballots after state order

The Mequon Board of Canvass complied with a Wisconsin Elections Commission order by adding five previously excluded absentee ballots to the April election tally. The WEC, at its April 30 meeting, directed the city to reinstate the ballots after determining that a street address alone is sufficient to identify a witness, overriding the city's earlier rejection of ballots whose witness envelopes lacked state or zip code information. The city clerk's office confirmed the five reinstated ballots do not alter the outcome of any race, including the state Supreme Court contest and local aldermanic and school board races. Following the Mequon Board of Canvass's compliance, the Ozaukee County Board of Canvassers convened Thursday to formally accept the updated tally. The city clerk's office indicated it hopes the Wisconsin Elections Commission will issue clarifying guidance on witness address requirements before the next scheduled election.

Source: WTMJ 4 NBC Milwaukee (Southeastern) | <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/in-your-community/ozaukee-county/mequon-neighbors-praise-electoral-counting-process-following-inclusion-of-five-april-ballots-after-state-order>

City of Milton defers decision on mayor, council member pay raises

The Milton Common Council voted Tuesday, May 5, 2026 to table a framework for mayoral and council member pay increases until its first September meeting, scheduled for September 1, 2026. City Administrator Paul Hensch presented a staff memo compiling compensation data from 15 peer Wisconsin municipalities but offered no formal recommendation. Currently the mayor receives \$2,200 annually and council members receive \$1,200 annually; staff analysis of peer-city averages indicated comparable figures of \$9,778 and \$5,375, based on per-resident pay rates of \$1.71 and \$0.94. Mayor Eric Stockman, who initiated the review, noted no pay adjustments have occurred in approximately 20 years. Council member Ken Smith expressed reservations about the timing. State law prohibits the council from approving pay increases applicable to sitting members during their current terms, meaning any adopted adjustments would take effect no earlier than 2027. The matter returns to the council on September 1, 2026.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/local/city-of-milton-defers-decision-on-mayor-council-member-pay-raises/article_022f9ee7-dd93-496f-bdb3-1c0b1e3eb128.html

Kronenwetter trustee resigns, creating vacancy on village board

Trustee Sandi Sorensen submitted her letter of resignation from the Kronenwetter Village Board on Monday, May 4, 2026, creating a vacancy on the seven-member board, which consists of a village president and six trustees. Sorensen had been elected to the board in April 2025. Under the village's appointment process, interested applicants must submit an application by June 3, 2026. Approximately four weeks following that deadline, the full village board will review submitted applications during an open session and conduct a vote to appoint one applicant to complete Sorensen's remaining term. The appointed trustee will hold the seat until April 2027, when the position would next appear on a regular election cycle.

Source: WSAW CBS7 Wausau (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wsaw.com/2026/05/04/kronenwetter-trustee-resigns-creating-vacancy-village-board/>

City hires independent investigator to review dispute involving Milwaukee alders

Milwaukee's Department of Employee Relations hired an independent outside investigator to review a February 11, 2026 verbal altercation at City Hall between Alder JoCasta Zamarripa and Alder Mark Chambers Jr. The action was taken by DER, the city's human resources authority,

following a formal complaint filed by Zamarripa against Chambers. Zamarripa separately filed a complaint with the city's Ethics Board but withdrew that complaint after the Ethics Board declined her request to delay proceedings pending the DER investigation; her DER complaint remains active. Common Council President Jose Perez had previously removed both alders from shared committee assignments following the incident. Mayor Cavalier Johnson's office, represented by spokesman Jeff Fleming, stated it would not participate in the matter to preserve investigative independence. Chambers stated he will cooperate with the investigation and accept its outcome. No timeline for the investigation's conclusion was reported.

Source: WFHR 1320 AM Wisconsin Rapids (Southeastern) | <https://www.wfhr.com/news/2026/05/07/city-hires-independent-investigator-to-review-dispute-involving-milwaukee-alders>

First council meeting for Krantz and Lippert

The Fennimore City Council approved two procurement awards for the Dwight T. Parker Public Library remodeling project at its monthly meeting, awarding a furniture contract to Henricksen for \$82,187.04 and a shelving contract to Library Furniture International for \$117,926.43; both contracts were confirmed as within budget and recommended by FEH Design, the project's oversight designer. Separately, the council conducted its organizational meeting, during which newly sworn-in Mayor Rob Krantz and 3rd Ward Alderperson Todd Lippert assumed their offices following certification by outgoing Mayor Ryan Boebel. David Streif, 2nd Ward Alderperson, was reelected as council president. The council also received a presentation from Alderpersons Sarah Kretschman and Adam Day outlining three contractual options for formalizing the city's relationship with Fennimore EMS, with any financial commitment deferred to 2027. Mayor Krantz indicated he and Alderperson Lippert would review prior EMS materials before further council deliberation.

Source: SW News Group (South Central) | <https://www.swnews4u.com/local/first-council-meeting-for-krantz-and-lippert/>

Mitch Sands to fill vacant Cambridge village board seat

The Cambridge Village Board voted to appoint Mitch Sands to fill a vacant trustee seat at its April 28, 2026 meeting. The vacancy arose after the spring election left one of three open board seats unfilled: candidate Sandy Jankowski withdrew from the race after filing but remained on the ballot, won a seat, and then declined to serve. Following a call for applicants issued at the board's April 14 meeting, requiring submission of a resume and cover letter, Sands was the sole respondent. The board voted to appoint him, though the article does not report a specific vote count. Sands, who purchased a home in Cambridge in April 2026 and currently serves as office director for State Senator Cory Tomczyk, attended his first board meeting on April 28 alongside two newly elected trustees, Greg Jankowski and Betsy Busch. No further procedural step was reported.

Source: Cambridge Enterprise Sentinel (South Central) | https://hngnews.com/leader_independent/news/local/mitch-sands-to-fill-vacant-cambridge-village-board-seat/article_32a2dc28-c316-437c-a787-a66dba26e7bf.html

Gondik Law sues for Douglas County records

Gondik Law filed a civil lawsuit on April 21 in Douglas County Circuit Court against the Douglas County Board of Supervisors, all 21 of its individual members, and County Administrator Dave Sletten, seeking records pursuant to Wisconsin's open records law. Attorney Richard S. Gondik Jr. had submitted written records requests on April 6 and April 15 seeking correspondence, board minutes, agendas, photographs, audio and video recordings, contracts, and bid proposals

related to the firm, the Gondik family, and the Superior speedway. The suit follows a separate \$10 million damages claim filed against the county in early April over alleged interference with a contractual naming-rights agreement between Gondik Law and Head of the Lakes Management Group, under which the firm pays a minimum of \$10,000 per year. Douglas County Circuit Court issued a temporary restraining order on April 28 prohibiting the speedway name change pending a hearing scheduled for May 6.

Source: Superior Telegram (Western) | <https://www.superiortelegram.com/news/local/gondik-law-sues-for-douglas-county-records>

Dane County to appeal discarding Madison's 23 late-arriving ballots

Dane County's Board of Canvassers voted Tuesday to appeal in court the Wisconsin Elections Commission order directing Dane County to exclude 23 late-arriving absentee ballots from its certification of the recent state Supreme Court race. Dane County Corporation Counsel David Gault authored the underlying legal memo, which argues the applicable delivery-deadline statute does not apply on its face because the ballots arrived at Madison's city election office on the Monday before Election Day, not on Election Day itself, and that disenfranchising compliant voters due to clerk error would be unconstitutional. The County Board's authorization of the lawsuit, which was filed Wednesday in Dane County Circuit Court, seeks prospective legal clarity on late-arriving ballots caused by administrator error. Madison City Attorney Mike Haas separately confirmed the city has 30 days to decide whether to file its own appeal of the commission's decision.

Source: Capital Times (South Central) | https://captimes.com/news/elections/dane-county-to-appeal-discarding-madisons-23-late-arriving-ballots/article_fa5930e0-1c97-4377-95b3-dbd0bc7a566.html

No 'No Mow May' in Wisconsin Rapids in 2026

The Wisconsin Rapids City Council voted at its March 17, 2026 meeting to discontinue the city's No Mow May program, requiring residents to comply with municipal code Chapter 36, Section 302.4, which mandates that lawns be maintained below seven inches in height. The vote ends a multi-year exemption that had previously allowed grass to grow unchecked through May. Mayor Matt Zacher, speaking publicly in April, confirmed the council's decision, citing widespread abuse of the program that resulted in grass reaching three to four feet in height and extending beyond May into June. The article does not report a vote count. Property owners across Wisconsin Rapids are now subject to the seven-inch height requirement for the full month of May, effective immediately for the 2026 growing season.

Source: WFHR 1320 AM Wisconsin Rapids (Central/Northern) | <https://www.wfhr.com/news/2026/05/07/no-mow-may-in-wisconsin-rapids>

School Districts

The show goes on: Wind Symphony will continue to practice 'A Mother of a Revolution' amid scrutiny

The Watertown Unified School District Educational Services Committee convened Tuesday, May 6, 2026, and took up the question of whether to remove the musical piece "A Mother of a Revolution" from Watertown High School's spring concert program scheduled for May 18. No formal removal vote was taken at the committee level. WUSD Board of Education Vice President and Educational Services Committee Chair Sam Ouweneel announced he would schedule a full Board of Education meeting to decide whether to remove the piece from the

concert set; that full board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Music instructor Reid LaDew, who holds authority over the Wind Symphony's programming, stated he would continue rehearsing the piece pending any board decision. LaDew previously complied with board policy in October by notifying parents of the piece's subject matter and offering an opt-out option, which three students initially exercised.

Source: Watertown Daily Times (Southeastern) | https://www.wdtimes.com/news/local/the-show-goes-on-wind-symphony-will-continue-to-practice-a-mother-of-a-revolution/article_159f8ea3-2ed5-49bf-9f08-5e03d490e589.html

Upgrades coming to Franklin Elementary School in Oshkosh; funded by successful referendum

The Oshkosh Area School District commenced construction at Franklin Elementary School on May 8, 2026, following a capital referendum passed in April 2025 that authorized renovation and expansion projects at multiple district elementary schools. Franklin Elementary is the second of two schools entering construction under the referendum, with Oakwood Elementary School having broken ground several weeks prior; Carl Traeger Elementary School is also beginning construction concurrently. The Franklin project includes a new academic wing, a larger gymnasium, and air conditioning installation, with the expanded facility designed to accommodate up to 600 students. The work is part of the district's long-range facilities plan, which also targets operational savings through building consolidation. Principal Kathryn Noble represents the school's administrative leadership at the site. Construction is expected to be completed before the start of the 2027-28 academic year.

Source: WLUK FOX11 Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://fox11online.com/news/local/upgrades-coming-to-franklin-elementary-school-in-oshkosh-funded-by-successful-referendum-oakwood-construction-students-projects-renovation-expansion>

Southern Door school district to cut teachers and sports teams after failed referendum

Following the failure of an April 2026 referendum in which 56 percent of voters rejected a three-year, \$3 million-per-year operational levy, the Southern Door County School District board and administration approved a package of budget reductions totaling approximately \$1.7 million to balance the fiscal year 2026-27 budget. Employee reductions account for roughly \$1,029,011 and include elimination of approximately 13 staff positions, among them a K-5 elementary teacher, four high school teachers, a middle school art teacher, a middle school social studies teacher, a school psychologist (0.5 FTE), and five associates. Compensation reductions totaling approximately \$210,000 include a pay freeze for all employees and health insurance plan changes. Program reductions of approximately \$400,230 include elimination of boys and girls swim and boys volleyball pending alternative funding, elimination of JV2 basketball and volleyball, and a 15 percent reduction in co-curricular assignment pay. The district's existing \$975,000-per-year operational referendum expires June 30, 2026; Superintendent Kevin Krutzik indicated the district anticipates pursuing another referendum in the future.

Source: WTAQ 1360 AM / 97.5 FM Green Bay (Northeastern) | <https://wtaq.com/2026/05/08/southern-door-school-district-to-cut-teachers-and-sports-teams-after-failed-referendum/>

Kenosha Unified School Board adopts AI policy, updates others

The Kenosha Unified School Board approved a new artificial intelligence policy at its April 28, 2026 meeting, establishing a framework for the use of generative AI technology across the district. Superintendent Jeff Weiss characterized the policy as a "cautious approach," directing staff to responsibly integrate AI tools to support student learning and administrative efficiency

while identifying and mitigating associated risks. The board approved the policy with the condition that it be reviewed each July. At the same meeting, the board revised its law enforcement agency access policy, developed in collaboration with the Kenosha Police Department, to extend protections for students and staff from state and federal agencies, requiring valid legal authorization such as custody orders, subpoenas, arrest warrants, or parental consent before access is granted. The board also updated its teaching load policy, guaranteeing teachers no fewer than 330 minutes of non-instructional time per five-day work week, and revised the 2026-27 instructional calendar to shorten the school year by one week.

Source: Lake Geneva Regional News (Southeastern) | https://lakegenevanews.net/news/local/education/article_18cb00c2-2c19-51f1-859b-a826ed94a8de.html

Rib Lake School Board sets increases at inflation rate

The Rib Lake School Board, at its April 29, 2026 meeting, approved wage and benefit adjustments for district employees tied to the inflation rate, with health insurance plan modifications incorporated into the package as a cost-management measure. The action represents the governing body's formal exercise of its budget and personnel authority over compensation terms for school district employees. The article does not provide supporting details for the specific vote count, dollar figures, or the precise inflation index applied to the wage adjustments. No further procedural step was reported in the available coverage.

Source: Medford Star News (Central/Northern) | <https://www.centralwinews.com/news/2026/05/06/rib-lake-school-board-sets-increases-at-inflation-rate/?destination=star-news>

Tri-County approves new 4-K program and golf co-op program for 2026-27 school year

The Tri-County School Board voted to approve a new 4-K (four-year-old kindergarten) program and a separate golf co-op program for the 2026-27 school year at its regular board meeting on April 28, 2026. The board, acting as the governing body for the Tri-County School District in northeastern Wisconsin, authorized both programs to take effect for the upcoming academic year, expanding early childhood education access and adding a cooperative athletic offering. The article does not report the vote count, cost figures, or the partnering district for the golf co-op. No further procedural step was reported, indicating the approvals represent final board action on both programs ahead of the 2026-27 enrollment cycle.

Source: Waushara Argus (Northeastern) | <https://wausharaargus.com/stories/tri-county-approves-new-4-k-program-and-golf-co-op-program-for-2026-27-school-year,333076>

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 award constitutes a formal action by the district's governing body. The article does not specify the name of the selected construction manager, the vote count, the specific school or schools designated for demolition, or the resolution identifier associated with the award. No further procedural steps or operational details beyond the estimated project cost are provided in the available reporting; the procurement award itself represents the consequential governance action documented this week.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/education/collection_a01d135f-3e08-4b47-a8e6-3643b790d021.html

McFarland School Board votes to amend new name of Performing Arts Center

The McFarland School Board voted 3-2 to rename the McFarland Performing Arts Center after former teacher Bill Garvey at a meeting in early April 2026. The board, acting in its capacity as the governing body of the McFarland School District, approved the name change by a narrow majority. The article does not report the effective date of the renaming, the names of board members in the majority or minority, the rationale offered for the recognition, or any subsequent procedural steps required to formalize the new facility name.

Source: Cambridge Enterprise Sentinel (South Central) | https://hngnews.com/leader_independent/news

State-Local Interface

UW-Superior chancellor named interim Universities of Wisconsin president, search committee constituted

The Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents, led by Board President Amy Bogost, on May 8, 2026 appointed UW-Superior Chancellor Renée Wachter as interim president of the Universities of Wisconsin system, effective May 18, and constituted a 25-member presidential search committee chaired by Regent Ashok Rai. Wachter, who has led UW-Superior since 2011 and is the longest-serving chancellor in the system, will oversee operations serving more than 164,600 students across the system's 13 universities. She replaces Chris Patton, the system's vice president for university relations, who had been serving as acting head following the Board of Regents' April 7 termination of former President Jay Rothman after he refused to resign. The search committee, supported by Universities of Wisconsin Human Resources, the Office of the Board of Regents, and executive search firm AGB Search, will deliver a final presidential recommendation to the full Board of Regents by the end of 2026.

Source: WMTV NBC15 Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wmtv15news.com/2026/05/08/universities-wisconsin-board-regents-names-presidential-search-committee/>

Evers wins another battle over agency rulemaking

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Nia Trammell ruled in favor of Gov. Tony Evers on Thursday, finding that state agencies may publish administrative rules without completed review by legislative standing committees and extending the Wisconsin Supreme Court's July 2024 ruling to all legislative committees. The case arose after the Legislature's Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, chaired by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and Senate President Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk), voted to order the Legislative Reference Bureau to withhold publication of any rules not fully reviewed by standing committees. Evers sued the joint committee in Dane County Circuit Court approximately two months after issuing an August 2024 directive to agency heads that they need not await standing committee review before submitting rules for publication; that directive prompted 27 previously stalled proposed rules to be submitted for publication. Trammell held that any statutory provision allowing committees to pause promulgation would be unconstitutional. A spokesperson for Vos did not immediately respond to inquiries about a potential appeal.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/evers-wins-another-battle-over-agency-rulemaking>

Wisconsin regulators approve rates for Meta's Beaver Dam data center, with sharp criticism

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission approved Alliant Energy's individual contract rate agreement with Meta affiliate Degas LLC to supply 220 megawatts of power over a 10-year term to Meta's \$1 billion, 700,000-square-foot data center campus in Beaver Dam. The commission simultaneously ordered Alliant to file for a standardized rate applicable to future data center customers requiring 100 megawatts or more. Regulators strengthened termination charges by extending them through the full 10-year contract term and added conditions requiring Meta's parent entity to cover costs if subsidiary Degas LLC encounters financial difficulties. The PSC also mandated cost-of-service studies, incremental cost analyses, and additional reporting to protect existing ratepayers. PSC Chair Summer Strand and Commissioner Kristy Nieto both voiced criticism of the process's lack of transparency. Alliant must additionally coordinate with American Transmission Company to prevent other Wisconsin customers from absorbing transmission costs associated with the data center, though final transmission rate authority rests with federal regulators.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-regulators-approve-rates-for-metas-beaver-dam-data-center-with-sharp-criticism>

PSC approves Alliant-Meta data center power deal while criticizing 'black box' approach

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission voted 3-0 Thursday to approve a modified contract between Wisconsin Power and Light, an Alliant Energy subsidiary, and a Meta subsidiary developing a 220-megawatt peak-demand data center campus in Beaver Dam, scheduled to open in 2027. The American Transmission Company is currently constructing a \$200 million transmission line to serve the campus. The PSC simultaneously directed Alliant to develop a standardized payment structure for future large data center customers modeled on the We Energies framework that the commission approved the prior month. The PSC declined to approve in full Alliant's requested extensive contract redactions, and a related lawsuit filed by Midwest Environmental Advocates seeking unredacted documents from the case remains ongoing.

Source: Wisconsin Watch (Statewide) | <https://wisconsinwatch.org/2026/05/psc-approves-alliant-meta-data-center-power-deal-while-criticizing-black-box-approach/>

DPI's ruling on Menomonee Falls Schools' book ban does little, but 2024 complaint ignited change

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Deputy State Superintendent Tom McCarthy issued a formal ruling dated May 4 finding that the School District of Menomonee Falls followed its own discrimination and complaint procedures regarding the removal of "Love Makes a Family" from a 4K traveling library in September 2024. McCarthy determined the traveling library was not subject to DPI review, in part because the 2025-27 biennial budget eliminated the 87.5-hour outreach requirement for 4K programs. However, McCarthy found the district improperly relied on the now-defunct BookLooks website as a selection aid, characterizing it as neither reputable nor unbiased. The ruling directs the school district to provide DPI, within 60 days, a description of the professional, unbiased selection aids it will use to assess supplemental materials going forward. Superintendent David Munoz confirmed the district will comply. The ruling resolved PI 8 and PI 9 complaints originally filed in 2024 by parent Michelle Cramer and other district residents.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/dpi-ruling-menomonee-falls-book-ban>

Wisconsin sues Lac Du Flambeau Tribe over non-member fishing restrictions on 19 lakes

The state of Wisconsin filed a federal lawsuit against the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa after the tribe's governing council passed a resolution on April 16, 2026, restricting walleye and musky harvesting on 19 reservation lakes to tribal citizens only. On May 1, 2026, the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin issued a temporary restraining order against the tribe, compelling it to lift the harvest ban on non-tribal members. The state, represented through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with Secretary Karen Hyun and Secretary's Director James Yach engaged in prior negotiations, argues the restrictions violate the Treaty of 1854 and Seventh Circuit precedent established in Baker. The tribe's council based its resolution on fish hatchery management data regarding at-risk walleye and musky populations. A full federal court hearing on the matter is scheduled for May 29, 2026.

Source: PBS Wisconsin WHA21 (Statewide) | <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/wisconsin-sues-lac-du-flambeau-tribe-over-non-member-fishing-restrictions-on-19-lakes/>

Northeast Wisconsin projects one step away from state grants

The Wisconsin Department of Administration has recommended \$50 million in Non-State Grant Program funding for 71 projects statewide, including 13 projects totaling approximately \$7.6 million in Northeastern Wisconsin, pending a vote by the Wisconsin State Building Commission scheduled for the following week. The program, established in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget, requires recipient organizations to secure at least 50 percent of project funding from non-state sources. Northeastern Wisconsin recipients include \$2 million to First 5 Fox Valley Inc. for a Family Resource Center, \$1.2 million to the city of Green Bay for the Green Bay Fire Station Flats Apartments, \$975,593 to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum for its Maritime Heritage Center Revitalization Project, \$800,000 to Fox Cities Sports Development Inc. for the Community First Champion Center, \$800,000 to the Chilton Public Library, \$376,000 to the Brown County Library for an Ashwaubenon branch, and additional allocations to seven other organizations. The Wisconsin State Building Commission vote is the final required approval step before funds are released.

Source: WTAQ 1360 AM / 97.5 FM Green Bay (Statewide) | <https://wtaq.com/2026/05/08/northeast-wisconsin-projects-one-step-away-from-state-grants/>

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.
