

Wisconsin LocalGov Hub Briefing

May 24 to May 30, 2026

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

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Announcement

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

BoldPath Consulting principal Patrick Glynn and Attorney Kyle Gulya of von Briesen will co-teach a two-day public-sector collective bargaining program on August 17 and 18, 2026, at Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee. The 12-hour program runs 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 17 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 18. The session is built for city and county administrators, human resources and finance staff, public safety command staff, transit managers, and school administrators who negotiate or administer labor agreements. Tuition is \$385 per participant. Registration is available at www.wctc.edu/cjtraining under Specialized Training.

Budgets and Finance

CVTC board approves 2026-27 district budget

The Chippewa Valley Technical College District Board approved its 2026-27 budget on May 29, 2026. The adopted budget sets total expenditures at \$115,475,407, a 0.82 percent increase over the revised 2025-26 budget, against projected revenues of \$104,107,191, down 2.37 percent from the prior year. The tax levy rises 3.43 percent to \$30,312,403, while the mill rate falls from \$63.88 to \$61.75 per \$100,000 of property value, a 3.33 percent decrease the college attributes to an estimated 7 percent district-wide increase in property values. Caleb Cornelius, vice president of administration and chief strategy officer, presented the budget. The board will formally set the final tax levy at its October 2026 meeting.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Western) | https://chippewa.com/news/community/article_966c3677-14cd-5ca3-8b12-6c1f3583281f.html

Racine County Board approves mental health facility bonds and deputy wage agreement

The Racine County Board of Supervisors approved a slate of actions spanning budget, labor, and public safety matters. The board authorized \$23 million in bonds to complete construction of a county mental health facility, described as part of the original capital project plan. Supervisors ratified a tentative union agreement for sheriff's deputies providing a retroactive 2.5 percent wage increase for 2025, 4 percent for 2026, and 6 percent for both 2027 and 2028. The board approved salary increases for the county sheriff and clerk of courts after rejecting two substitute salary resolutions, and approved a policing services contract between the Sheriff's Office and the Village of Sturtevant running through December 31, 2030. The board also authorized pursuit of state funding toward a Rochester Dam repair project estimated at approximately \$750,000.

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

Dane Co. executive asks departments to look for targeted cuts in 2027 budget

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard issued 2027 budget guidelines on May 28, 2026, directing department heads to collectively identify \$10 million in general purpose revenue reductions to address a structural deficit of roughly \$15 million. The guidelines depart from the

prior year's uniform 4 percent across-the-board cut. Departments may not request new general purpose revenue-funded positions and must exercise restraint in capital requests, and department heads are directed to review existing programs for alignment with current community needs and to pursue cost-reducing partnerships. The county's current structural deficit is down from the \$31 million gap projected at the same point a year earlier. Agard's office is expected to announce budget listening sessions as the next step in the 2027 budget process.

Source: WISC CBS3 Madison (South Central) | https://www.channel3000.com/news/dane-co-executive-asks-departments-to-look-for-targeted-cuts-in-2027-budget/article_ab77ae3e-2765-42eb-a050-7e80f82e6e1b.html

Workforce and Labor

Kaukauna teacher fired over social media post on presidential assassins

The Kaukauna School Board voted to terminate Kaukauna High School social studies instructor Patrick Meyer following a nearly 10-hour meeting on May 28, 2026. Meyer had been placed on administrative leave after district officials were notified of a post he made on the social platform X the day after shots were fired at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, in which he commented that he was unimpressed with recent presidential assassins. The board, acting in its authority over district employment decisions, took the formal termination action. No vote count or subsequent procedural step was reported.

Source: WHBY 1150 AM Appleton (Northeastern) | <https://www.whby.com/2026/05/28/kaukauna-teacher-fired-over-social-media-post-on-presidential-assassins/>

Infrastructure and Utilities

County seals deal to fix data center road damage

The City of Port Washington and Ozaukee County executed an intergovernmental agreement authorizing the county Highway Department to repair and maintain roads in and around the Vantage Data Centers Lighthouse Campus, with costs billed monthly to Vantage on a time-and-materials basis, including asphalt produced at the county's hot mix plant in the Town of Saukville. The agreement extends a September pact covering repaving of Highway LL after sewer and water line installation at Highland Road, and rests on an existing developer's agreement that holds Vantage financially responsible for road damage caused by heavy construction traffic on town, city, and county routes. The Wisconsin Counties Association provided legal counsel to draft the agreement. Either party may terminate with 60 days' notice.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeeexpress.com/content/county-seals-deal-fix-data-center-road-damage>

County shocked by \$375K wetlands fee it faces

The Ozaukee County Public Works Committee awarded the Highway W reconstruction contract to Manitowoc-based Vinton Construction for \$2 million and accepted a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirement that the county purchase 2.42 wetlands mitigation credits at \$148,600 per acre, totaling \$375,000, from the Barnes Prairie wetlands bank near Kenosha. The credits offset 2.2 acres of wetlands to be destroyed during the \$3 million Highway W reconstruction in Saukville, running from Highway 33 north to Schowalter Street. The Corps classified the project solely as a transportation project, declining to count nine acres of

wetlands being restored in the adjacent Oxbow Nature Preserve as mitigation. County Administrator Jason Dzwinel said the \$375,000 obligation will be covered from already-budgeted amounts, as 2026 construction and engineering costs came in under budget.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/county-shocked-375k-wetlands-fee-it-faces>

Baraboo is switching to Passport for automated parking enforcement

The Baraboo Common Council voted unanimously on May 27, 2026, to contract with Passport Parking for parking citations, vehicle identification in timed zones, and citation appeals, replacing current provider Clancy Parking. The Passport contract costs \$7,356 for 2026-27, plus a one-time \$3,250 fee for five new printers at \$650 each, for an initial outlay of about \$10,606. The city had been leasing five printers from Clancy at \$700 per month, or \$8,400 annually, with separate reminder and processing fees that pushed annual enforcement costs above \$10,000. A May 12 vote on the switch failed 6-3 over data storage concerns; Police Chief Justin Carloni subsequently presented Passport's offer and addressed those concerns before the unanimous reversal. The contract takes effect in July 2026, when the city will own its printers and stop paying leasing fees.

Source: WiscNews (South Central) | https://wiscnews.com/news/local/article_3d8eccd3-ca6d-4a7d-822d-ee4159643522.html

City Council votes on paid parking delay, new brush site location

The Eau Claire City Council took two unanimous actions on May 26, 2026. The council approved an ordinance amendment delaying the downtown paid parking system's effective date from June to August 1, 2026, which Interim City Manager David Solberg attributed to a postponed kiosk delivery. The amended ordinance sets two rate tiers: \$1.00 per hour in designated yellow zones and \$0.50 per hour in designated blue zones within the downtown area. Separately, the council authorized the city to submit an offer to purchase approximately 22 acres along Highway 12 and Vollendorf Lane for a new municipal brush site at \$25,000 per acre, a potential acquisition cost of \$550,000. City officials said the new brush site could open as early as 2027. The next step is execution of the formal offer-to-purchase documents.

Source: WEAU NBC13 Eau Claire (Western) | <https://www.weau.com/2026/05/26/city-council-votes-paid-parking-delay-new-brush-site-location/>

Madison considers taking control of Park Street corridor from the state amid safety concerns

The Madison City Council is weighing a proposal to transfer jurisdiction of portions of Park Street, John Nolen Drive, Blair Street, West Washington Avenue, and Proudfit-North Shore from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to the city, removing those segments from the U.S. Highway 151 connecting-highway designation. Under the proposed agreement, WisDOT would make a one-time payment of approximately \$36 million, with final figures still under negotiation. District 14 Alder Noah Lieberman is sponsoring the proposal, which city documents indicate would grant Madison independent authority over signal installations, lane reconfigurations, and pedestrian-safety improvements that currently require state approval. In exchange, the city would assume future reconstruction costs and forfeit annual state connecting-highway aid for the transferred segments. The Madison Transportation

Commission took public comment in April. Negotiations are ongoing, with no vote date announced.

Source: WMTV NBC15 Madison (South Central) | <https://www.wmtv15news.com/2026/05/30/madison-considers-taking-control-park-street-corridor-state-amid-safety-concerns/>

DeForest board votes to restore fluoride in drinking water

The DeForest Village Board voted to restore fluoride to the municipal drinking water supply, according to a May 24, 2026, report. The action reverses a prior removal of fluoride from the village water system. The available reporting did not include a vote count, the ordinance or resolution identifier, an effective date for the restoration, or an estimated cost. Municipal fluoridation has surfaced as a recurring question before Wisconsin local governing bodies, and the DeForest action returns the village to a fluoridated supply.

Source: WISC CBS3 Madison (South Central) | <https://www.channel3000.com/news/for-the-record/>

Public Safety

County supervisors OK grants for digital forensic software for RCSO

The Racine County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 27, 2026, to authorize the Sheriff's Office to accept two grants totaling \$301,200: \$169,600 from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and \$131,600 from the Wisconsin Department of Administration's State Violence Prevention grant program. The DOJ funds will cover a \$169,061 three-year contract with Cellebrite Technology Corp. for digital forensic platforms that let investigators lawfully access, analyze, and share evidence from mobile devices, while the state grant will fund forensic analyst training and additional hardware and software. In other business, the board authorized the purchase of two snowmobiles for the Sheriff's Office at \$15,000, accepted a \$100,000 grant for the county Meals on Wheels program, and approved a rezoning of about 13.68 acres along South Maple Lane in the Town of Burlington.

Source: Journal Times (Southeastern) | https://journaltimes.com/news/local/government-politics/article_6105328b-86db-497a-96ed-8c49706edeb5.html

Wausau committee advances proposal to move crossing guard program back to police department

The Wausau Committee of the Whole voted 8-1 on May 26, 2026, to advance a proposal returning oversight of the city's crossing guard program from contractor All City Management Services to the Wausau Police Department. The current ACMS contract runs about \$223,000 per school year at \$34.92 per hour for 18 crossing guards at 15 locations; the proposed in-house model is projected to save the city and Wausau School District a combined \$60,000 annually. Crossing guard wages would rise from \$20 to \$22 per hour, and the department's Parking Control Specialist would receive a \$1.50 hourly increase to reflect added supervisory duties. The Wausau School District currently funds 29.75 percent of annual crossing guard costs under a cost-sharing agreement. The proposal advances to the full Common Council, with the transition targeted for the start of the next school year.

Source: WSAW CBS7 Wausau (Central and Northern) | <https://www.wsaw.com/2026/05/27/wausau-committee-advances-proposal-move-crossing-guard-program-back-police-department/>

Dane Co. Sheriff's Office concerned over budget guidelines

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard has directed departments to collectively identify \$10 million in general purpose revenue reductions to address a roughly \$15 million structural deficit, with the Sheriff's Office asked to absorb \$1.85 million. Sheriff Calvin Barrett and Deputy Brian Tuescher, who also serves as the union's vice president, said that figure equates to roughly 16 deputy positions. The County Board previously imposed a hiring freeze on 20 vacant Sheriff's Office positions, leaving the department operating 41 deputies below authorized strength when combined with 21 existing vacancies. Tuescher said the additional cuts would jeopardize the planned opening of a new county jail, which requires full authorized staffing. Agard said in a written response that no final budget decisions have been made and that the county will continue working with departments and the County Board to develop a final budget.

Source: WISC CBS3 Madison (South Central) | https://www.channel3000.com/news/dane-co-sheriffs-office-concerned-over-budget-guidelines/article_0207af52-81d1-48dc-b1a7-e1d1ad48e6cd.html

Land Use and Development

Council OKs city land deal done behind closed doors

The Port Washington Common Council voted 6-1 on May 19, 2026, to approve a purchase agreement selling the current police and fire station property at Pier and Wisconsin streets to PFD Redevelopment for \$465,000, with Alderman Michael Beaster dissenting. The agreement obligates the city to reimburse the developer for demolition, environmental testing, and power line burial or removal, capped at \$464,999, meaning the city could net as little as \$1 from the sale. Estimated reimbursable costs total \$440,500, with up to \$140,000 in additional potential costs for utility disconnection and abatement. PFD Redevelopment, comprising Fine Line Carpentry of Port Washington and partners Paul Schueller and Peter Herrmann, proposes The Seven Hills Collection, a 20-townhouse, nine-building development valued at roughly \$16 million, with projected completion in spring 2029. The sale must close by September 15. Demolition is expected in the fall after the police and fire departments move to the new public safety building.

Source: Ozaukee Press (Southeastern) | <https://ozaukeepress.com/content/council-oks-city-land-deal-done-behind-closed-doors>

Janesville city council approves DORA

The Janesville City Council voted unanimously on May 26, 2026, to establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in the city's downtown entertainment district. The council amended the ordinance during the meeting, changing operating hours from the proposed 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. to noon to 10 p.m., Monday through Sunday. The DORA boundaries encompass most of central downtown, including portions of North and South Main streets, East and West Milwaukee streets, parts of North Franklin and South Jackson streets, and blocks of West Court and River streets along the riverfront, including the town square that hosts the Farmers Market. Open alcohol containers will be permitted on designated sidewalks and streets within the district but not inside Firehouse Park, and open alcohol is allowed in retail businesses only with property owner permission. Sergeant Drew Seaver of the Janesville Police Department said enforcement will begin with warnings before escalating to citations for repeat violations.

Source: Janesville Gazette (South Central) | https://www.gazettextra.com/news/janesville-city-council-approves-dora/article_580415fe-619d-4007-a290-a410cdf455b3.html

Dane County data center moratorium on fast track

The Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee unanimously approved a substitute resolution on May 25, 2026, advancing an 18-month moratorium on permits for large hyperscale data centers in most county towns. County Board Chair Patrick Miles introduced the resolution on May 22 and referred it to the committee, which acted after county corporation counsel attorneys identified a drafting approach, modeled on a recently passed Manitowoc County moratorium, that sidesteps a state statutory prohibition on development moratoriums. If adopted, the measure would direct county planners to research hyperscale data center impacts and develop zoning regulations within 18 months, with the study expected to conclude in May 2027. It would apply to towns operating under county zoning but would not cover cities, villages, or the six Dane County towns that have opted out of county zoning under a 2016 state law. The full County Board is scheduled to vote on June 4, 2026.

Source: Isthmus (South Central) | <https://isthmus.com/news/news/dane-county-data-center-moratorium-on-fast-track-after-finding-state-law-workaround/>

Future of North Side Library building murky as La Crosse facility set to close

La Crosse's Economic Development Committee voted near-unanimously on May 28, 2026, to designate the North Community Library as surplus property, the first formal step toward a potential sale of the city-owned facility. The library board previously voted to permanently close the North Side branch on June 15 following council-approved budget cuts. Council member Erin Goggin cast the sole dissenting vote on the surplus designation, citing insufficient community transparency. To complete the disposal, the surplus resolution must advance through the city planning committee, then the finance committee, and finally the full city council, which could consider it as early as June 11. Mayor Shandel Washington-Spivey said the city has received three responses to its request-for-interest solicitation, two deemed serious, but declined to disclose the parties or proposed uses. The La Crosse Tribune has filed an open records request with the mayor's office for the submitted documents.

Source: Chippewa Herald (Western) | https://chippewa.com/news/local/government-politics/article_ddb03540-79e8-5c0f-958e-e35d256b1f07.html

Town of Rock approves liquified natural gas plant permit

The Town of Rock Planning and Zoning Committee voted unanimously on May 27, 2026, to approve a conditional use permit for Wisconsin Power and Light to build a \$512 million liquified natural gas plant on South Duggan Road. The vote followed decisions tabled in March and April. Committee Chair and Rock Town Board Supervisor Tony Dubanowich said the town's attorney advised that Alliant Energy, WP&L's parent company, had agreed to all township conditions, leaving no legal basis for denial. WP&L purchased the 129.3-acre site on February 26, 2025, for \$5.43 million. The facility would store up to 2 billion cubic feet of liquified natural gas and is projected to generate more than \$350,000 annually in shared revenue for the town, which carries an annual budget of about \$1.3 million. The project still requires Wisconsin Public Service Commission approval before construction, with WP&L targeting a 2029 operational start.

Source: Beloit Daily News (South Central) | https://www.beloitdailynews.com/news/local-news/town-of-rock-approves-liquified-natural-gas-plant-permit/article_fabaa3aa-a558-4ea9-a528-0406f73c8dcc.html

Rice Lake: 'Alcatraz' approved for cleanup grant

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced on May 22, 2026, a Brownfield Grant to Barron County under the DNR's Wisconsin Assessment Monies program to support environmental assessment of a 1.53-acre tax-delinquent property at 220 East Charles Street in Rice Lake, known locally as “Alcatraz,” along with about 200 feet of adjacent Rice Lake lakebed. The grant will fund contractor services to determine the degree and extent of confirmed soil and groundwater contamination, including diesel range organics, chlorinated volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and lead, as well as lead contamination in adjacent lake sediment. The DNR did not disclose the grant amount. Jodie Thistle, the DNR's Brownfields Outreach and Policy Section manager, is the named agency official. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has separately assisted the City of Rice Lake with a redevelopment plan and market study for lakefront properties that includes the site.

Source: Barron News-Shield (Western) | https://news-shield.com/news/top_stories/article_c5e41b68-9d28-4978-bad5-3e0cf0759387.html

Governance and Elections

Town of Campbell officially incorporated into Village of French Island

Following approval by nearly 1,500 residents in a referendum, the Town of Campbell formally incorporated as the Village of French Island, effective May 26, 2026, in La Crosse County. The incorporation, the fifth attempt after prior failures in the 1960s, 1970s, and around 2000, gives the new village sealed municipal borders that protect against annexation along with expanded state revenue sharing. Village Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Stahl said the next step requires candidates for village trustee and village president to file nomination papers collecting no fewer than 77 and no more than 156 signatures per candidate by June 12, 2026. A village board election is scheduled for July 7, 2026, when trustees and a village president will be elected to assume governance authority over the newly incorporated municipality.

Source: WEAU NBC13 Eau Claire (Western) | <https://www.weau.com/2026/05/26/town-campbell-officially-incorporated-into-village-french-island/>

County Board considers 'self-organizing'

The Burnett County Board of Supervisors passed five resolutions at its May 21, 2026, meeting while taking no action on a proposed self-organizing resolution. Resolution 26-04 revised the zoning district map for the Town of Webb Lake. The board also approved resolutions supporting a DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund property purchase in the Town of West Marshland; reclassifying Johnson Street in Grantsburg as a minor collector to expand grant eligibility; supporting a change in state Public Defender compensation procedures for discovery reimbursements to counties; and authorizing County Forester Jake Nichols to seek up to \$600,000 in grants for a bridge replacement on Bents Road, with Nichols estimating a net county cost of roughly \$300,000 to \$350,000 after trail maintenance reimbursements. No vote counts were reported. Supervisor Duke Tucker said he will introduce a separate resolution to reduce board membership from 21 to 15 supervisors.

Source: Burnett County Sentinel (Western) | https://burnettcountysentinel.com/news/county-board-considers-self-organizing/article_42f64a48-5b9a-44b5-be59-dd9a7879894e.html

School Districts

Goodman center pushes to save after-school bus service

The Goodman Community Center submitted a formal draft proposal to the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education on May 28, 2026, seeking an amendment to the district's transportation policy to restore bus service for elementary students attending after-school programming. The proposed change would require the district to provide transportation when 14 or more students regularly attend a licensed childcare center, after-school program, or designated community partner, and would authorize cost-sharing agreements with organizations that do not meet standard eligibility thresholds. Deputy Superintendent TJ McCray said in a May 14 letter to Goodman Center President Chris Talton that routes to Lowell and Emerson elementary schools were eliminated after a transportation audit last summer, citing rising costs and ineligibility under current distance and attendance-area policies. Board member Martha Siravo confirmed the full board did not vote on the administrative decision. Goodman leaders have asked that the proposal be placed on the June 8 agenda of the board's operations work group.

Source: Isthmus (South Central) | <https://isthmus.com/news/news/goodman-center-seeks-school-policy-change-to-keep-bus-service-for-after-school-program/>

Marinette school board resets leadership, highlights student gains

The Marinette School Board elected new officers at its May 24, 2026, reorganization meeting, with each office requiring multiple ballots due to repeated tied votes. Martin Shaw was elected board president, Cindy Verschay vice president, Maria Fong-Baake clerk, and Kurt Uecke treasurer. The board approved several action items, including open enrollment into and out of the district, a new physical education and health position, replacement Chromebooks and carts funded in part by federal Title funds, club and academic trips, and an early graduation request for a student who completed high school requirements in three years. A districtwide staffing plan for 2026-27 was presented, reducing a sixth-grade science position, eliminating a music role, converting an instructional coach position to a high school math teaching role, and consolidating high school art under one teacher. Survey results from School Perceptions are scheduled for presentation at the June board meeting.

Source: EagleHerald (Northeastern) | https://www.ehextra.com/news/marinette-school-board-resets-leadership-highlights-student-gains/article_001fd778-6e88-4d29-8591-9bfbf896dfa4.html

New Ladysmith school cell phone ban a disconnect for students

The Ladysmith School Board unanimously approved a \$121,504 computer network overhaul at its May 2026 meeting, with anticipated E-Rate federal reimbursement of about \$102,606, or 84 percent, leaving the district's share at roughly \$18,898. The project, presented by IT Director Jim Scherzer, covers a full network upgrade including new switches and access points, as well as an upgrade to the business education classroom. The board also unanimously approved a bell-to-bell cell phone prohibition for grades K-12, effective for the 2026-27 school year, in compliance with 2025 Wisconsin Act 42, which requires all public school boards to adopt such policies by July 1, 2026. Under the policy, devices must be shut off, silenced, and stored in lockers during instructional hours, with exceptions for medical needs, IEP requirements, and educational purposes. Survey results on a proposed fall referendum to exceed state revenue limits are scheduled for the June 10 board meeting.

Source: Ladysmith News (Western) | https://ladysmithnews.com/news/article_ab3d03b2-96bf-49af-a894-67a9c2e8ecaa.html

Amery school board approves salary increases for all employee groups

The Amery School Board voted on May 26, 2026, to approve salary increases for all district employee groups across two motions. The first vote, covering support staff including custodians, school nutrition workers, paraeducators, van drivers, secretaries, and bus drivers, passed 4-0 with board member Steve Osero abstaining due to a familial conflict of interest. A second vote covering Clubhouse childcare staff, certified staff, and the administrative team passed unanimously. District Administrator Shawn Doerfler presented the compensation scales, projecting costs of \$102,941 for support staff, \$209,755 for certified staff, \$38,381 for Clubhouse staff, \$16,052 for bus drivers, and \$56,650 for the administrative team. The board's summary document projects a net savings of \$423,779 for fiscal year 2026-27 after a reduction of 25.5 positions. Board President Charlotte Glenna presided. Work on restructuring the certified staff compensation scale is slated to begin in fall 2026 with an advisory committee.

Source: Amery Free Press (Western) | https://theameryfreepress.com/news/amery-school-board-approves-salary-increases-for-all-employee-groups/article_baa63118-f5c5-4f1a-aeb4-b29482383fe7.html

Judge allows Union Grove High School land condemnation, orders district to pay legal fees

A judge ruled that Union Grove High School may take possession of 80 acres owned by Daniel Riedel through eminent domain, contingent on the school district first depositing \$2.4 million with the Racine County Clerk of Circuit Court and obtaining a subsequent court order. The condemnation targets the parcel to support campus expansion and facilities improvements connected to a previously approved referendum. Racine County Circuit Court Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz separately ruled that Riedel is entitled to have the district cover his attorney and expert witness costs, and a later ruling ordered the district to pay Riedel more than \$106,000 in legal fees. The district cannot acquire the property until the \$2.4 million payment is made to the Clerk of Circuit Court and a court order authorizes formal transfer of possession.

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

State-Local Interface

Wisconsin Supreme Court takes up appeal seeking redraw of congressional map

The Wisconsin Supreme Court, by order issued May 29, 2026, accepted an appeal of a Dane County multi-judge panel's April 28 dismissal of a lawsuit challenging Wisconsin's eight congressional districts as an anti-competitive gerrymander. The court's four-justice liberal majority, Chief Justice Jill Karofsky and Justices Rebecca Dallet, Janet Protasiewicz, and Susan Crawford, voted to take the case while denying the petitioners' request to expedite the appeal. Conservative Justices Annette Ziegler and Rebecca Bradley dissented. Law Forward filed the lawsuit on behalf of Wisconsin Business Leaders for Democracy, arguing the districts favor incumbent re-election over competitive races. The petitioners are not seeking map changes before the 2026 elections; they seek a spring 2027 trial that could produce revised congressional maps for 2028. The lower panel had ruled that only the Supreme Court could

overturn the map on partisan grounds. No briefing schedule or oral argument date was specified in the order.

Source: WPR News Madison (Statewide) | <https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-supreme-court-appeal-seeking-redraw-of-congressional-map>

Evers seeks applicants for Richland Co. district attorney

Governor Tony Evers has opened a formal appointment process to fill the Richland County District Attorney vacancy created by District Attorney Jennifer Harper's resignation, effective July 13, 2026. The appointee will serve the remainder of the unexpired term running through January 2029. Evers has set an application deadline of 5 p.m. on June 15, 2026, requiring candidates to submit a completed application form and supporting materials to GovDAapp@wisconsin.gov. The application is available through the "Apply to Serve" page on the Governor's official website. The next step is review of applications received by the deadline, after which the Governor will designate an appointee to assume the district attorney's duties following Harper's departure.

Source: WKBT CBS8 La Crosse (Statewide) | https://www.news8000.com/news/local-news/evers-seeks-applicants-for-richland-co-district-attorney/article_19ab7389-fa32-5d06-84d7-37f4c531100d.html

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.
