



3001 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 225  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
Phone (715) 232-2429  
Fax (715) 232-1324  
[admin@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:admin@co.dunn.wi.us)

---

**COUNTY OF DUNN  
MENOMONIE, WI  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19.84, Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 3:00 pm in Room 54 of the Dunn County Government Center, 3001 US Highway 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The building entrance for public meetings is on the lower level of the Government Center. The legislative Committee will begin following the conclusion of the Land information Council.

Video recordings of the meetings will be available for subsequent viewing on the Dunn County YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@dunncounty1854>

Persons wishing to provide public comment may do so at the meeting or may submit written comments by sending an email beforehand to [publiccomment@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:publiccomment@co.dunn.wi.us). Comments, provided in person or written, will be subject to the rules of the county board and will not be allowed or provided to the committee and not reflected on the record if they do not align with the Chapter 2 of Dunn County Ordinances.

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Call of the Roll
3. Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2025 meeting.
4. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda
5. Consideration of Actions to be Taken by the Legislative Committee:
  - a. Resolution Adopting the 2026 Legislative Agenda
6. Adjournment

Gary Stene, Chairperson

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Dunbar  
County Manager

Members of the public who require assistance in accessing the meeting, please call (715) 231-6505. Upon reasonable notice, the County will make efforts to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County Human Resources Manager at 715-232-2429 (Office), 715-232-1324 (FAX) or 715-231-6406 (TDD) or by writing to the Human Resources Manager, Human Resources Department, 3001 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 225, Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751.

---

Minutes for the November 5 2025 Legislative Committee

1. Call to Order.  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Stene.
2. Call of the Roll.  
All members were present. Supervisors Bauer, Wilsey, Procknow, Kneer, Morehouse, McCullough, Stene, Vogl, Quinn, and Hedlund
3. Approval of Minutes from May 14, 2025 meeting.  
Motion to approve by Supervisor McCullough seconded by Morehouse motion carried by voice vote
4. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda:  
None
5. Consideration of Actions to be Taken by the Legislative Committee:
  - a. Resolution, Support for Increasing State Funding to Counties for Income Maintenance  
Motion to forward the resolution made by Supervisor Morehouse seconded by McCullough. Morehouse provided information about the resolution and a clerical error on the provided resolution. Supervisor McCullough made a motion to amend the motion to reflect the changes to the committee forwarding the resolution to the Legislative Committee and setting the date to November 12, 2025. Morehouse seconded. The amendment carried by voice vote. The amended resolution carried by voice vote.
6. Adjournment  
With no further agenda items Chair Stene adjourned the meeting.

Gary Stene, Chairperson

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Dunbar  
County Manager

**DUNN COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**RESOLUTION NO. [\_\_\_\_]**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 DUNN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA  
AND AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTREACH TO ELECTED  
OFFICIALS**

**WHEREAS** Dunn County is committed to advancing policies that support public safety, health and human services, transportation and infrastructure, environmental stewardship, economic development, fiscal responsibility, and effective local governance; and

**WHEREAS** clear, timely communication with state and federal elected officials is essential to ensure that Dunn County’s priorities, needs, and constraints are understood and taken into account in legislative deliberations; and

**WHEREAS** adoption of a comprehensive legislative agenda provides a transparent, nonpartisan framework to advocate for Dunn County residents and to guide County engagement on proposed legislation, administrative rules, and budget issues; and

**WHEREAS** coordinated outreach led by County leadership enhances the County’s ability to present data-driven policy positions, convey operational impacts, and collaborate with legislators on constructive solutions; and

**WHEREAS** the County Manager and the Chair of the Legislative Committee are well positioned to organize and conduct meetings, briefings, and communications with local legislators and other stakeholders to inform them of Dunn County’s needs and priorities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Dunn County Board of Supervisors that:

1. Adoption of Agenda. The Dunn County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the “2026 Dunn County Legislative Agenda,” as presented and attached hereto as “Exhibit A,” and incorporates it by reference as the County’s formal statement of legislative priorities for Calendar Year 2026.

2. Authorization to Implement. The County Manager, in coordination with the Chair of the Legislative Committee, is authorized and directed to implement the 2026 Legislative Agenda, including developing materials, analysis, testimony, position statements, and communications necessary to effectively advocate for the County’s priorities.

3. Outreach to Elected Officials. The County Manager and the Chair of the Legislative Committee are authorized to:

- Schedule and conduct regular meetings and briefings with local legislators representing Dunn County in the Wisconsin State Legislature and the U.S. Congress, as well as relevant state agencies;

- Provide concise summaries of the County’s legislative positions and distribute the adopted agenda and supporting materials to elected officials and staff;
- Coordinate with regional partners and associations, where appropriate, to align efforts and amplify Dunn County’s priorities.

4. Monitoring and Reporting. The County Manager shall:

- Track legislation and administrative rules relevant to the adopted agenda, evaluate potential impacts to County operations and budgets, and recommend positions consistent with the agenda;
- Provide updates to the Legislative Committee and the County Board summarizing outreach activities, status of priority items, key legislative developments, and recommended adjustments to strategy.

5. Nonpartisan Conduct and Compliance. All advocacy and outreach conducted under this Resolution shall be nonpartisan and in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and County ethics policies, including any reporting or transparency requirements pertaining to legislative contacts.

6. Fiscal Note. The implementation of this Resolution is anticipated to be accomplished within existing resources. Any material costs associated with outreach events or materials shall be identified and approved consistent with County purchasing and budget policies.

7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Dated the 18th of March, 2026, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE  
COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Stene, Chair

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form and Execution:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Mercil, County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
James McMenemy, Corporation Counsel

**Budget Impact:** There is no budget impact for this Resolution.

**Background Information:** Dunn County routinely interacts with state and federal policymakers on issues that directly affect County operations, finances, and services to residents. Decisions made by the Wisconsin State Legislature, Congress, and administrative agencies influence funding

levels, regulatory requirements, infrastructure investments, and program delivery in areas such as public safety, human services, highways, conservation, and economic development. Establishing a formal legislative agenda enables the County to clearly articulate its priorities, provide consistent and data-driven input, and respond proactively to proposed legislation and rulemaking. By coordinating outreach through County leadership and maintaining regular communication with elected officials, Dunn County can more effectively advocate for policies that reflect local needs while ensuring transparency, accountability, and nonpartisan engagement.

# Exhibit A

Dunn County seeks the support of the State elected representatives representing the citizens of the County on the following issues:

## 1) Land Use

- a) Support establishment of a Wisconsin Legacy Fund to support core conservation and environmental programs and practices;
- b) Request full funding for all local Land Conservation staff according to formula contained in Chapter 92.14(6)(b) of Wisconsin Statutes;
- c) Support increased farmer assistance by providing increased funding to farmers for conservation including funding for managed grazing initiatives and producer-led watershed efforts;
- d) Recommend revising Chapter 33 Wis. Stats. to allow for absentee voting as a part of the annual meeting or a special meeting of a lake district;
- e) Advocate for a statewide groundwater assessment and monitoring initiative. Additionally fund mitigation of problems that are identified in groundwater quality and secure funding for long-term, private drinking water protection, monitoring and remediation program.
- f) Recommend permanent changes to the state's Well Compensation Grant Program eligibility requirements to allow more access to the program's funds by private well owners, transient non-community wells and non-transient non-community wells;
- g) Housing/Economic Development
  - i) Wisconsin's housing shortage is closely tied to workforce challenges and affordability concerns. Dunn County supports legislative efforts that provide tools and resources for local governments to address these issues. Passage of the following proposals would have significant countywide benefits:
    - (1) **AB194/SB180**: Updates WHEDA housing programs (Infrastructure Access, Restore Main Street, Vacancy-to-Vitality) to improve deployment of funding and make programs more realistic for communities.
    - (2) **AB454/SB476**: Establishes a workforce home loan program to help attract and retain employees in critical sectors.
    - (3) **AB451/SB480**: Authorizes municipalities to designate Residential Tax Increment Districts (TIDs), creating new opportunities for housing development.
    - (4) **AB182/SB178**: Improves the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.
    - (5) **AB453/SB472**: Aligns residential zoning with local comprehensive plans and expands opportunities for municipalities to extend TIDs for affordable housing.
  - ii) Modernization of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Support legislative changes that allow greater flexibility in the use of TIF for housing development, including residential TIDs and extensions for affordable housing projects. These updates will help municipalities respond to housing demand and workforce needs.

## 2) Health and Human Services

\*see Appendix 1 for more detail.

- a) Provide additional state GPR funds to cap the rate charged to counties at the current \$1268 /day for juvenile corrections placements.
- b) Develop an equitable funding structure for juvenile corrections that spreads costs statewide, utilizing state GPR costs, rather than unaffordable and inequitable program revenue charges to counties.
- c) State GPR be provided at \$20 million annually to fund the non-federal share of MA Community Support Program (CSP) services.
- d) State GPR be provided at \$21 million annually to fully fund Crisis services statewide.
- e) Increase the Medicaid reimbursement per diem rate for Crisis stabilization services from \$139 to \$450.
- f) Provide a \$10 million increase in state GPR funding for Birth to Three, and support annual increases.
- g) Provide increased GPR funding of \$5 to \$10 million GPR annually to counties for Adult Protective Services (APS).
- h) Support a \$32 million increase in state GPR support for Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) services.
- i) Statutory changes to protect volunteer drivers providing nutrition delivery from insurance discrimination, including prohibiting insurers from canceling, refusing to issue, or increasing premiums for automobile insurance solely because the policyholder is a volunteer driver.
- j) Assure Public Health Authority for control of communicable diseases and health threats.
- k) To provide \$36 million in sustainable funding, with at least half allocated to local public health agencies, in infrastructure to support foundational capabilities and areas.
- l) \$1.9 million in GPR funds to cover the operations for both the Chippewa Falls and Green Bay Veterans Housing and Recovery Program sites.

## 3) Committee on Administration & Planning Resources and Development:

- a) Support an increase in funding to the Wisconsin Land Information Program, to maintain existing services, statewide mandated initiatives, and expanded services. These services increase the availability and accuracy of vital land records data to improve the efficiency of government and provide improved government services to both private sector and internal and external governmental stakeholders. Reference legislative proposal LRB 5300/LRB 5447.
- b) Support for counties to retain a larger portion of the real estate transfer fee. Recommend 50 percent of fee retained for the local county; (2025 SB218/AB216)  
Support efforts to modernize and clarify Chapter 59.43, which governs the Register of Deeds office, by incorporating updates that reflect current technology and ensuring consistent language across related statutes. (2025 SB449/AB445)
- C) Support increased state funding for Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Programs for Wisconsin Counties.

## 4) Nursing Homes:

- a) In recent biennium budgets the State of Wisconsin has shown their support of the state Medicaid program and long-term care. The creation of new rate setting methodologies that better capture the true cost of care for over 70 percent of NDC's population. NDC would like to show their sincere gratitude for these adjustments. That being said the cost to continue the Medicaid program continues to increase as costs go up and the number of Medicaid beneficiaries increases. In addition to the increase in cost, the potential of a decrease in federal funding support places the Medicaid system and long-term care at risk. The ask is for the State to support the cost to continue of Medicaid with the current rate setting methodology. This will keep Wisconsin nursing homes viable to provide essentially services to our aging population.
- b) To continue to increase funding for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and nursing programs at Wisconsin colleges and facilities. There is currently a workforce crisis across most industries. One of the industries hit hardest by this crisis is healthcare, and more specifically long-term care. There are simply not enough nursing assistants or nurses to care for our rapidly increasing aging population. Increasing funding and resources for nursing and CNA educational programs would assist in increasing the number of CNAs and Nurses.
- c) Increase availability of nursing programs to all UW system schools, as currently certain universities are not able to have nursing programs. Every year the nursing programs have waiting lists. For some students that discourages them from nursing, and they eventually change majors. Increasing the funding to have additional seats in current classrooms and adding nursing majors to all universities would help keep more students on the path to becoming health care workers

## 5) Financial

- a) Support modifying the annual levy limit to include exemptions for the costs of services or programs mandated by state law that cannot be fully funded with state appropriations and required county appropriations;
- b) Encourage the State to amend the annual levy limit law to allow counties to increase the levy over the amount levied in the prior year by the percentage increase in equalized value from net new construction plus CPI for the region in which the county is located. If no new construction occurred in a county, then the allowable levy increase may equal CPI for the region;
- c) In lieu of making changes to levy limits, modify the ability of counties to impose up to a 1% sales tax;
- d) Support legislative reform of the funding structure of the Wisconsin Technical College System, including increased state funding, reduction of the threshold for issuance of debt without approval by referendum, and review of duplication of educational services between the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

## 6) Roads and Highways

- a) Support an increase in the gas tax which is sustainable and comparable to all states throughout the upper Midwest and Great Lakes Regions;

- b) Support an increase in Transportation Aids, and changes to the distribution formula that would take into account increases in costs and decreased purchasing power of counties resulting from inflation, the flattening of revenues from the gas tax due to increased fuel economy, increased use of electric vehicles and alternative fuels, and, potentially, fewer commuter miles as more workers telecommute;
- c) Support long term alternatives to and solutions for loss of gas tax revenue for highway funding that take into account the flattening and decrease of “real “ gas tax revenues caused by increased use of electric vehicles and alternative fuels and decreases in commuter miles;
- d) Support increased funding for local road and bridge assistance programs, such as the Surface Transportation Program Rural (STP-R), the Surface Transportation Program Urban (STP-U), Local Bridge Improvement Assistance (Local Bridge Program), the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

## 7) Community Resources & Tourism

- a) Support allocation of State funds to encourage and develop rural and agricultural Tourism;
- b) Continued support for increased funding for rural broadband expansion. Support to refund the Affordable Connectivity Program or similar program. Authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) brought affordable high-speed internet to almost 23 million households across the country including 2,600 in Dunn County. The program's funding expired in May 2024. This program or a similar program is integral to increasing the adoption of broadband and controlling the costs of broadband for everyone.
- c) Request that Legislature revisit 2023 changes made the regulation of alcohol and wedding barns with an eye towards considering the impact and needs on the wedding barn industry.

## 8) Judiciary & Law

# Appendix 1

## Dunn County Health and Human Services Board

---

County Human Service Agencies statewide are struggling to meet under-funded mandates, funding shortfalls, increasing costs for out-of-home placements, and the growing complexity of mental health and other needs. This threatens our ability to serve vulnerable children, families, older adults and persons with behavioral health issues. On behalf of the Dunn County Health and Human Services Board, we respectfully request your support for the following legislative priorities for 2026.

### Juvenile Corrections Payments and Funding Structure

**Request:** Provide additional state GPR funds to cap the rate charged to counties at the current \$1268 /day.

**Request:** Develop an equitable funding structure that spreads costs statewide, utilizing state GPR costs, rather than unaffordable and inequitable program revenue charges to counties.

**Rationale:** It has become increasingly unaffordable for Dunn County to send youth to juvenile corrections. The current daily rate for a single youth amounts to \$462,800 annually. Any increase in daily rates, such as that proposed, would raise the cost to place a single youth in juvenile corrections to \$841,300 annually. This has a devastating impact on our county budget, as well as our ability to meet increasingly complex behavioral needs. Counties are required to provide services. Counties should not be punished with a huge and often unanticipated cost for using youth corrections when no other options exist. A new funding structure must be developed.

### Mental Health Services

**Request:** State GPR be provided at \$20 million annually to fund the non-federal share of MA Community Support Program (CSP) services.

**Request:** State GPR be provided at \$21 million annually to fully fund crisis services statewide.

**Request:** Increase the Medicaid per diem rate for crisis stabilization services from \$139 to \$450.

**Rationale:** State law gives counties the primary responsibility for the well-being, treatment, and care of persons with mental health issues. The number of persons experiencing a mental health crisis in our county has increased significantly, while available resources, particularly in the Western Region, have declined following the closures of HSHS, St. Joseph's, and LE Phillips. Since mental health and substance abuse services are generally covered by private health insurance, county services are provided for those without insurance, as well as persons eligible for MA. The county finances the cost of the services up front and receives subsequent reimbursement equal to the federal share (60%), meaning that the county is responsible for the 40% non-federal share. The reimbursement rate for Community Support Program (CSP) services is the same. Again, with capped local levy, these increasing, unreimbursed, costs are not supportable.

### Birth to Three B-3

**Request:** Provide a \$10 million increase in state GPR funding for Birth to Three, and support annual increases.

**Rationale:** The Birth to 3 Program serves children under the age of three with developmental delays and disabilities, as well as their families. The program works to enhance the child's development while supporting the family's knowledge, skills, and abilities to raise their child. The most rigorous evidence suggests that these early intervention services can significantly improve outcomes for children as well as increasing the capacity of parents, ultimately minimizing the need for later spending on remediation. Under federal law, the Birth to Three program must be operated as an entitlement, serving all eligible children. Increased awareness of the importance of early intervention services has contributed to an approximately 20% growth in caseload in the last five years, while state funding has not increased. Increased program costs have largely been met by county property tax levy which, again, is capped. Additional state GPR funding is needed to serve all eligible children and ensure there are sufficient service providers.

### Adult Protective Services APS

**Request:** Provide increased GPR funding of \$5 to \$10 million GPR annually to counties for APS.

**Rationale:** Adult Protective Services serve elder adults and adults-at-risk who have been abused, neglected, or exploited. APS investigates allegations of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse or financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. The population in need of APS services is growing rapidly in Wisconsin and nationally. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) estimates the population aged 65 and older will grow by 640,000 people between 2015 and 2040, an increase of 72%. In addition to the population increase, the complexities of cases, and new federal regulations have increased workload and service demands. In Dunn County, we have had a 380 % increase in APS reports in the past 8 years. We have shifted personnel from other essential services to keep up with the demand. Counties currently provide over 75% of the funding for APS, using county levy. The current state APS allocation to counties is small and simply does not keep pace.

### **Aging and Disability Resource Center Services (ADRC) and Nutrition Support**

**Request:** Support a \$32 million increase in state GPR support for ADRC services.

**Request:** Statutory changes to protect volunteer drivers from insurance discrimination, including prohibiting insurers from canceling, refusing to issue, or increasing premiums for automobile insurance solely because the policyholder is a volunteer driver

**Rationale:** The Dunn County ADRC provides a central source of reliable and objective information and assistance, outreach, long-term care options counseling, elder benefits specialist services, disability benefit services, and access to other public programs and benefits, including nutrition assistance. ADRC services are available to older adults and adults with disabilities regardless of income. While adjustments to base funding have been made, the ADRC remains underfunded even as the population of older adults in Dunn County is expected to grow from the current 22% of the population to 31% by 2040. Another increase is needed to continue to address funding inequities and to serve a burgeoning population of clients.

Volunteer drivers provide rides for individuals who have no other transportation options—to medical appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores, employment, volunteer sites, and community activities including home delivered nutrition. Yet, many are facing insurance-related barriers that threaten their ability to do so. Across Wisconsin, volunteer drivers are being told their coverage will be dropped, not renewed, or dramatically increased simply because they volunteer their time and accept mileage reimbursement for their expenses.

## Public Health Authority

**Request:** Assure Public Health Authority for control of communicable diseases and health threats.

**Rationale:** Local Health Departments are essential for community health, providing mandated services like food safety, sanitation, water/sewage, vital records and communicable disease control, operating under state guidelines. Authority is vested in local health departments and local health officers who are mandated by statute to manage communicable diseases, conduct surveillance, and maintain public health standards. Such authority needs to be clear and allow local health departments the authority for on-the-ground surveillance, reporting investigation, control, and other direct response to outbreaks.

## Public Health Infrastructure

**Request:** To provide \$36 million in sustainable funding, with at least half allocated to local public health agencies, in infrastructure to support foundational capabilities and areas.

**Rationale:** The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the critical importance of a robust public health system. The pandemic also accentuated long-standing weaknesses and created new challenges to public health infrastructure. Moreover, COVID-19 affected nearly every aspect of healthcare and public health, laying bare disparities and gaps in some conditions and worsening others. Public health partners need the capacity to address those gaps and improve service delivery through hiring, retention and training of staff, and increased capacity to address the foundations of public health work. Wisconsin continues to rank near the bottom nationally (49th) in public health funding, contributing to widening racial and other disparities in maternal and infant health.

## Veteran Homeless Prevention Program Funding

**Request:** 1.9 million in GPR funds to cover the operations for both the Chippewa Falls and Green Bay Veterans Housing and Recovery Program sites.

**Rationale:** Veterans are disproportionately represented among the homeless population due to factors like service-related disabilities, PTSD, and difficulty transitioning to civilian life. Many Veterans struggle with mental health conditions

(e.g., PTSD, depression) and substance use disorders, which require specialized care not always available in general shelters.