

Wisconsin Towns Association

October 2025



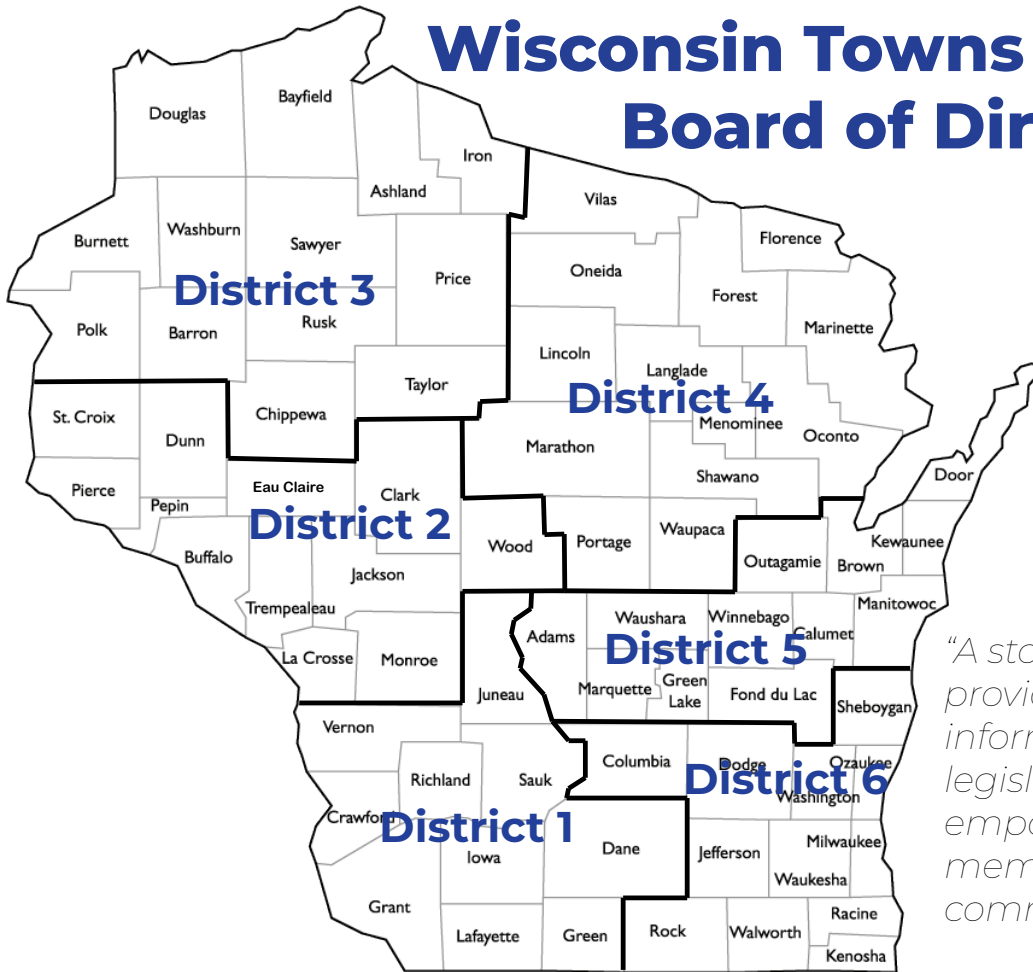
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Wisconsin Towns Association Board of Directors



"A statewide association providing education, legal information and grassroots legislative advocacy to empower and inspire our members to lead in their communities."



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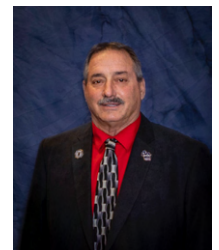
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Wisconsin Towns

October 2025

What's Inside...	Page
From the Desk of the Executive Director, Mike Koles	4
2025 WTA Annual Convention	6
2025 WTA Annual Convention Registration Form	12
2025 WTA Annual Convention Lodging	13
Bonding FAQs - Atty. Carol Nawrocki, Assistant Director	15
2025 Town Law Conference	19
Hunting and Local Regulation of Firearms - Atty. Joe Ruth, Government Affairs Director	21
Vendor Focus: Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations	24
Town Websites - Jake Langenhahn, Outreach Specialist	27
Now is the Time for Towns to Consider a .gov Email - Melissa Kono, UW Extension/WTIA Clerk Specialist	30
LRIP and ARIP Programs	33
Classified Ads	35

Empowering Town Officials

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By
Mike Koles

LRIP Fundamentals

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) recently announced the 2026-27 **Local Road Improvement Program** cycle. WisDOT has provided an article in this magazine that serves as a gateway to information to assist town and village officials in their pursuit of road funding. In anticipation of the WisDOT roll out, WTA produced an LRIP fundamentals webinar that can be found under the “Resources” tab on our website.

LRIP was established in 1991 to assist local governments in improving seriously deteriorating county highways, town roads, and city/village streets. It is a reimbursement-based grant program that originally included two components and provided only several million dollars for towns.

One of the original components is the **entitlement** portion, often referred to as TRI (Town Road Improvement). Entitlement funding is allocated on a county basis based on the percent of town road miles statewide that are in your county. Grant winners are chosen by a county committee of not more than five town chairs or their designees.

The other original component is the **discretionary** portion, often referred to as TRID (Town Road Improvement Discretionary). All towns compete statewide for TRID funding. A committee of 12 town officials, 2 agriculture representatives, and 1 timber representative determines which project applications are funded. Both TRI and TRID are 50-50 cost share grants.

After 25 years of LRIP, there were still just the two components, TRI and TRID, and town funding had grown to \$20.5 million per cycle. In the 2019-21 state budget, the legislature created a third program

component referred to as **supplemental** or Town Road Improvement Supplemental (TRIS). This portion of the program functions nearly identical to TRID except the state will cover up to 90% of project costs and TRIS funding is nearly double that of the original two components combined. Yes, in 2019, LRIP funding for towns significantly expanded from about \$20 million to \$60 million.

A \$150 million **agricultural** focused component referred to as ARIP (Agricultural Roads Improvement Program) was created in the 2023-25 state budget to improve highways functionally classified as local roads, minor collectors, or culverts that provide access to agricultural lands or facilities. Unlike the other three components, funding is not segregated out to different types of local governments. Instead, all towns, cities, villages, and counties compete with each other. Successful ARIP grant applications are chosen by a large statewide committee comprised of ag and local government stakeholders. In the first cycle, towns obtained \$115.5 million.

For towns, the LRIP program has expanded from about \$20.5 million in 2015 to \$177.7 million just a decade later. The Town Advocacy Council, WTA lobbying team, Town Ambassadors, and all town officials have recently been extremely successful in their legislative advocacy. Continued funding of this program is contingent on multiple factors, including towns strictly following the LRIP statutes, administrative code, and rules as laid out in the program manual. In particular for this cycle, please note in the WisDOT announcement in this magazine and also the program manual one rule clarification regarding contracting with a county and a substantial change to how towns must advertise their bids.



Unlock the Power of Our Paser Rating Services!

LET US HELP YOU!

The PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) system is your ultimate tool for accurately assessing road conditions and ensuring top-tier infrastructure. Our PASER ratings service streamlines the process for your town, we meet all WisDOT requirements and effortlessly update your PASER ratings on the WISLR website. **CALL FOR A QUOTE TODAY!**

WHY CHOOSE US

- **Efficiency.** We utilize the latest GIS technology to improve data collection as we drive all town roads
- **Reliable.** Whether it is road, culvert, or bridge assessments, we ensure accurate & consistent data
- **Valuable.** We present data that allows maximum benefits for WisDOT requirements and town budgeting

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2025



WTa

Convention

Kalahari Resort

1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells

October 12 - 14, 2025

Looking for an opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge about your role as a municipal official? Our annual convention is filled with exciting opportunities to network with your peers, learn from experienced educators, become acquainted with state agency staff, and enjoy some time away. Mark your calendar and come spend some quality time with us this October!

Sunday October 12th

Registration will be open from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The exhibitor area will open at 1:00 p.m. Come meet, learn from, and build relationships with vendors and companies that provide products and services of interest to towns. Highlights of the afternoon will include projection of the Green Bay Packer game on the big screen in the Exhibitor Area along with complimentary beer, soda, and snacks during the game. If you are lucky, you might even win a prize at half-time! Dinner is on your own Sunday evening.

Sunday Evening

Curious about Clerk College? WTA Clerk Specialist Melissa Kono will be meeting with the current Clerk College participants and anyone interested in learning more about Clerk College and educational options for Town Clerks.

Monday October 13th

Breakfast will be served in the General Assembly Area from 6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. for those attendees who pre-registered for the buffet on their convention registration form. **The cost for breakfast is \$33.00 per person and is not included in the general convention registration fee.** Breakfast will include fresh cut fruit, muffins, breakfast breads, fruit-filled Danish, scrambled eggs, smoked bacon, turkey sausage links, breakfast potatoes, orange juice, apple juice, coffee, and tea.

There will be a general assembly from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. We'll be having two keynote speakers this year! First, Sam Toles, former Chief Content Officer of Bleacher Report and a former City Council Member, will present, **"From Chaos to Connection: Transforming Social Media In Your Town"**. This special presentation will transform the way you think about social media. Discover the secrets behind the data to unlocking a more positive, proactive communications approach. Learn how to handle your STPs—the "same ten or twenty people" who often stir up chaos for Towns like yours in the comments and community groups. Next, Paul Mellor, a Communications graduate of Western Carolina University, will present, **"Memory Power"**.

Continued...

In today's business world, having the ability to remember names and faces, beat absent-mindedness, and recall facts and figures puts you at the head of the pack. In this interactive session you'll learn time-tested techniques for recalling names, speaking without notes, and gaining control of your day without the fear of forgetting. When you're skilled in memory all your other skills get better. This program shows how!

Workshops will begin at 11:00 a.m. and run through 4:45 p.m. Join us for lunch at noon while we enjoy roasted pork loin, green beans, carrots and onions, new potatoes, and rolls.

Monday Afternoon Exhibitor Reception

There will be a reception in the exhibitor area with complimentary beer, soda, and snacks for all registered attendees. Note that the exhibitors will close down at the end of the day Monday and they will **not** be present on Tuesday. Be sure to visit the exhibitors on Sunday and Monday to complete the Scavenger Hunt game card which you will need in order to enter the prize drawings to be held on Monday night. Deposit your completed game card into one of the designated boxes in the Exhibitor Area by 5:00 p.m. Winners will be announced after the awards banquet.

Monday Evening Banquet

The annual banquet and awards ceremony will be held on Monday night of the convention with doors opening at 6:00 p.m.

Long-standing town officers will be recognized for their service. To receive this recognition, please mark your registration form accordingly and indicate you will be attending the banquet. We will also be awarding the WTA, Scott Construction, and Rural Mutual Insurance Scholarships to the essay contest winners.

The banquet is an optional event which will feature a buffet dinner at a cost of \$45 per person and this cost is not included in the general registration fee. The dinner buffet will feature roasted chicken and pot roast, salad, rolls, chef's vegetable, starch, and mini dessert buffet. (Spouses and guests are also welcome to attend the banquet at a cost of **\$45 per person**).

Monday Night Entertainment

All registered convention attendees are invited to join us for the "Neil Tribute and Nostalgia" show featuring tribute artist, Eric Diamond, following the banquet. Eric has been wowing crowds not only with his spot-on vocal performance of Neil Diamond's biggest hits, but also his tributes to artists like Johnny Cash, John Cougar Mellencamp, and the nostalgic "one-hit-wonders" of the 60s and 70s. So, grab a drink, find a seat, and listen to your favorites. Enjoy complimentary beer, soda, and snacks. You won't want to miss out on the FUN!

Visit the exhibitors on Sunday and Monday to complete your Scavenger Hunt game card which you will need to enter the Monday night prize drawing. Before the music starts, we'll be announcing the winners. Good luck!

Tuesday October 14th

On Tuesday morning breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. as an optional event for \$33.00 per person for those attendees who pre-registered on their convention registration form. The breakfast will consist of fresh-cut fruit, muffins, breakfast breads, fruit-filled Danish, orange juice, apple juice, coffee, tea, scrambled eggs, smoked bacon, turkey sausage links, and roasted red bliss potatoes. After you have enjoyed breakfast, get ready to learn with a variety of workshops that begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:00 noon in time for a taco buffet lunch featuring chips and salsa, ground beef, soft tortillas, borrracho beans, shredded cheese, chopped tomatoes, lettuce, and sour cream.

Tuesday BINGO

Registered spouses and guests are invited to join us for BINGO at 10:00am. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Workshop Schedule and Topics

Please Note: There will be a three-hour long election training class provided by the Wisconsin Elections Commission on Tuesday. Please indicate on the registration form if you plan to attend the **Election Training** so that we can accurately gauge the number of attendees and plan accordingly.

Workshops are scheduled for both Monday and Tuesday. Many have one hour time slots and will be repeated a second time. Some of the workshops will be presented only once, as noted.

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - Noon
(Repeated 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)

1. Clerk Cracker Barrel: Join us for an informal question and answer session on clerk topics. Presented by WTA Clerk Specialist Melissa Kono and other WTA Staff.

2. Taking Action: Adopting and Enforcing Local Ordinances: Ordinances can be used for a variety of purposes, and it's important for local government officials to understand the steps necessary to ensure that the local regulations they adopt will be fully legal and enforceable. This session will answer common questions about when and how ordinances can be used, how to draft and format ordinances, procedures required to adopt various types of ordinances, how ordinances can be amended or repealed, notice requirements related to ordinances, and how to set up a system for ordinance enforcement. Presented by WTA Legal Counsel Lara Carlson.

3. 2% Fire Dues Self-Certification: In this session, clerks will learn what the fire dues certification is and receive a live start to finish demo of the complete 2% Fire Dues self-certification process. Presented by Sarah Brown, Operations Program Associate & NFIRS State Program Manager and Aaron Andre, District 2 Fire Coordinator, Fire Prevention/Safety and Health Program, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

4. Does your community need a RESET in Planning for Large-Scale Renewable Energy Installations?: Over the past five years, Wisconsin has seen large-scale renewable energy and battery storage projects built or approved in 22 counties, and it is projected that large-scale renewable energy will occupy approximately 3% of Wisconsin's harvested cropland by 2050.

RESET (Renewable Energy Siting & Engagement for Tomorrow) is a UW-Madison Extension program that helps local governments and communities plan for large-scale renewable energy projects. RESET offers tools and resources to help communities understand and engage in the siting process based on community priorities, and develop agreements and ordinances based on community input. Although the Public Service Commission has the permitting authority for projects of 100 megawatts or larger, local governments and communities can still provide input during the process. Large renewable energy projects also provide a significant revenue stream for local governments. Join this session to learn how RESET's education and engagement can benefit your community! Presented by Jessy Bradish, MA/MBA, Renewable Energy Specialist, University of Wisconsin, Division of Extension, Victoria Solomon, Associate Professor, Community Development for University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension - Green County and Diane Mayerfield, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, UW-Madison Extension.

5. DSPS Delegation Program for Residential and Commercial Construction: This presentation will provide an overview of the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) delegation program. We will discuss which permitting, plan review, and inspection responsibilities the municipality has by default, and which are delegated to the municipality by DSPS. The presentation will include a walk-through of the delegation request process, requirements and conditions of a delegated municipality, and offer time for Q&A. Presented by Etta Strey, Industry Services, WI DSPS.

Monday 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Repeated 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. except for Leveraging Generative AI which is a two-hour session and will not be repeated)

1. Legal Cracker Barrel: Join WTA legal staff for an informal question and answer session on any town topic. This is always a popular session with convention attendees and we encourage you to bring your questions!

2. Local Government and Social Media: Social media's ability to efficiently communicate information to the public has prompted many towns and villages to create social media accounts. While this can make the work of local government easier, social media webpages can create many issues such as, public records retention, the creation of online public forums, etc. This session will explore these issues so that attendees will gain a better understanding of how to manage their social media pages. Towns and villages who are considering creating a social media page are encouraged to attend. Presented by: Jake Langenhahn, WTA Outreach Specialist.

3. Cemeteries Come to Life! Cemetery management has long been a challenge for Towns. It's a big responsibility. Not only are cemetery records often kept in old record books that may be falling apart or getting harder to read, but there are also questions such as how many burials are in a cemetery, who is buried where, or how many plots are still available for purchase? The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can assist in not only knowing where individual plots and grave sites are located but also help preserve records for years to come. This session will discuss and demonstrate the benefits of converting cemetery records into a GIS format and the capabilities that come with having an all-in-one system to search for records and help manage your Town's cemetery. Presented by Nicole Barbiaux, GIS Coordinator and Ken Jaworski, Director, Cedar Corporation.

4. Leveraging Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) for Local Government—A Practical Introduction: Economist Richard Baldwin, speaking at the 2023 World Economic Forum's Growth Summit, stated "AI won't take your job, it's somebody using AI that will take your job." This course will introduce government leaders and employees to practical uses of generative AI in their work to help them prepare for a future in which AI use is expected and integrated into our daily lives. We'll cover what generative AI is, how to use it responsibly, some common pitfalls to avoid, and gain hands-on experience using freely available commercial AI chatbots. This session will focus on the human-centered implications of AI, as articulated in the UW-Madison RISE AI initiative. This is a two-hour session. In the first hour (2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) we will cover understanding AI and responsible use of the technology and in the second hour (3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.) we will cover practical applications and provide hands-on practice. Presented by educators from Extension's Local Government Education Program, Extension's Office of Digital Solutions and from U.W.-Madison's Data Sciences Institute.

5. Recycling Rule Revision--Changes for Responsible Units (RUs): DNR staff have been working on revisions to the administrative code that oversees Responsible Units' (RUs) Effective Recycling Programs and other aspects of the Recycling program. After over three years of development, public comment and approvals, the rule revisions became effective on July 1, 2025. This session will go over changes for RUs as a result of the code revision including: RU education, collection requirements, recycling ordinance modifications/multi-family recycling, elimination of a pounds/person collection standard, changes for haulers and Material Recovery Facilities (MFRs) that affect RUs. Presented by Jennifer Semrau, Waste Reduction and Diversion Coordinator, WI DNR.

Monday 3:45 p.m. until conclusion

The Town Advocacy Council (TAC) will hold its Annual Meeting. Learn more about WTA's Town Advocacy Council and its efforts advocating for towns and villages in Madison. From listening sessions to Capitol Day, TAC has been essential in WTA's efforts to secure a plethora of recent legislative victories. The TAC annual meeting is your opportunity to engage with WTA's lobbying team and better understand how WTA navigates the legislative issues important to your community. TAC will also elect three board members to its Executive Board during this meeting. All town and village officials are welcome to attend the annual meeting, although voting will be limited to current TAC member towns and villages.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Election Training (Pre registration required, session will not be repeated)

Elections 2026: Preparing for the Year Ahead: This session will be a high-level overview of things to keep in mind in a general election year. From the basics like Photo ID vs. Proof of Residence to the more complex like the new judicial privacy law processes, WEC staff will cover a wide range of pertinent information to help clerks and other election officials get back in the election mindset. This session will count for 3 hours of recertification training for clerks.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (Repeated 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

1. Frequently Asked Questions About Roads: Managing your highway infrastructure is a core responsibility for town officials. Learn the basics and nuances of town road creation, abandonment, speed limits, and more. Presented by Joe Ruth, WTA Government Affairs Director.

2. WISLR 101--A Brief Overview: WISLR is a useful tool for decision making and managing roads. WisDOT staff will cover helpful features in WISLR for local governments and answer questions along the way.

3. Improving Highway Safety at Railroad Crossings: Participants will learn about the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads processes related to improving railroad safety across Wisconsin. The presentation will provide an overview of general railroad safety principles, the OCR's role and decision-making processes, and how towns, railroads, and state agencies share responsibilities at public railroad crossings. Attendees will hear about the top 5 safety issues inspectors find at railroad crossings while conducting routine inspections. Attendees will gain a better understanding of how to identify safety issues, navigate OCR processes, and collaborate effectively to improve crossings in their communities. Presented by staff from the Commissioner of Railroads office.

4. Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law: Wisconsin DNR staff will provide a brief introduction to Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law program. They will cover the program's intent, eligibility requirements, and the roles and responsibilities of landowners and other stakeholders, including municipalities. Presented by R.J. Wickham, Tax Law Section Chief and Ryan Conner, Tax Law Administration Coordinator.

Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (will not be repeated)

1. Simplify your PASER Ratings and Road Planning: Compiling PASER ratings and using the WISLR system can be an overwhelming task. This session will highlight what is important and how to simplify your job. We will focus on practical methods for decision making for road maintenance and how to maximize your road budgets. Presented by Jeff Delmore of Delmore Consulting LLC.

2. Innovation Grant Program: This session will provide information about the Innovation Grant (IG) program that was created under 2023 Wisconsin Act 12 and designed to provide funds to counties, municipalities, and tribes who completely transfer one or more of certain eligible services/duties to another county, municipality, tribe, nonprofit organization, or private entity to create cost savings. We will share IG stats, provide helpful IG filing tips, and explain the beneficial changes to the program that were included in the most recent state budget. Presented by Valeah Foy, State and Local Finance Administrator, WI Department of Revenue.

3. Highway to Harmony—Shared Roads to Shared Solutions: Through open dialogue and *shared responsibility*, farmers and officials are *paving the way* for rural road systems that work for everyone. Presented by a panel of guest speakers on behalf of Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin.

4. Slow the Flow: Opportunities to Increase Flood Resilience in Wisconsin Towns: This interactive session will highlight a collaboration between the WTA, WI Wetlands Association (WWA), and Trout Unlimited (TU) to help towns work proactively to reduce flood risks and damages to road infrastructure. Presenters will share examples of assessing the root causes of infrastructure risks and flood vulnerabilities and discuss natural flood management solutions that can be used by towns to protect and improve the resilience of culverts and bridges. This session will also highlight new programs and resources that can support assessment and implementation projects in your communities. Presented by Kyle Magyera, WWA; Atty. Larry Konopacki, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP; and Sara Strassman, TU (tentative).



From Inspiration to Implementation: Mastering Social Media as A Local Elected Official

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 1:00-3:30pm, Africa 10/20

After Sam Toles' high-energy keynote sets the stage, we invite you to join him for an exclusive add-on interactive workshop designed to turn inspiration into action. This special session is tailored for local elected officials who want to go beyond simply "having" social media and start leading conversations, shaping narratives, and building trust with their communities online.

Here's what you'll experience:

1. The Three Pillars of Social Media Success

- **Permission + Structure:** Struggling with resources to manage a modern social media program? Sam opens this training by sharing how you can identify and empower the natural storytellers within your town (both inside the government you lead, and beyond). This requires building a process that keeps your social media in the proper tone, safe to share with the community as a whole, and aligned with your goals as an elected official, and the organizations goals.
- **Culture of Content:** Discover how to inspire creativity, remove barriers, and model the kind of leadership that encourages town staff and others to proudly share the amazing story of your work.
- **Test & Learn:** Shift your mindset to one of experimentation and continuous improvement—because even Mr. Beast started with zero subscribers. Social media success comes from a smart, iterative process.

2. Lights, Camera... Action!

We'll get hands-on by filming some content. Sam will challenge members of the workshop to create their very own short, authentic video in the room - highlighting their work. **Uncomfortable on camera?** This process will help unblock those natural jitters? **Think it's too hard?** Sam will show you how small tweaks and tools (like the free CapCut app) can turn quick clips into ready-made social content in just a few minutes!

3. Turning Engagement into Opportunity

This portion is almost like group-therapy. We'll work through participants real-life examples of challenging social media comments and community group conversations. Learn how to spot the feedback worth acting on, avoid the "STP" (Same Ten People) trap, and keep social media from dominating your life and ruining your day!

4. Defining Your Voice

Your voice sets the tone for how your community experiences you online. Together, we'll create a voice profile for one lucky volunteer—live in the session—so you learn the process on defining the core of your own communications presence on social media.

Throughout this special, add-on workshop, Sam blends his experience as former Chief Content Officer at Bleacher Report, Head of Digital at MGM Studios, and founder of CiviSocial (whose transformed 17 local governments in 14 states with his revolutionary program) with practical, no-nonsense, easy to understand and implement ideas and tactics.

5. The AI Future Of Social Media

Sam will close this workshop with information on the latest AI tools that make social media creation even simpler and more manageable. And he'll explain how to use these tools appropriately, the coming risk of AI oversaturation of the feeds, and answer your questions about this emerging technology.

FREE GIFT: All add-on workshop participants will receive a complimentary, personally signed copy of Sam's brand-new book, *The Social Media Playbook for Local Elected Officials*, as his "thank you" for wanting to find a different way forward on social media.

\$25 Advance Registration - \$50 At The Door

Name _____

Office or Title _____

Name of Town/Village _____

County _____

Please return completed registration and payment to Wisconsin Towns Association, W7686 County Road MMM, Shawano, WI, 54166-6086 **by September 27, 2025**. Cancellations received 10 days or more in advance of the start of the convention will receive a full refund less a \$15.00 administrative fee.



2025 WTA Convention

Registration

Copy form for multiple registrations and return by September 27, 2025. Online registration available at www.wisctowns.com.

October 12th - 14th 2025, Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, WI Dells

Name _____ Office or Title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Name of Town/Village _____ County _____

Email: _____ Spouse or guest name (for name tag _____

Years of Service as a Town Officer _____ Were you recognized with a certificate at the 2022, 23 or 24 Convention? Yes / No

Full Convention Registration includes: Monday and Tuesday lunch, 2 exhibitor receptions, digital materials, Monday evening entertainment, all Workshops and General Assembly Admission.

Single Day Convention Registration includes: Monday OR Tuesday lunch, exhibitor receptions, digital materials, Monday evening entertainment, all Workshops and General Assembly Admission.

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Amount \$\$\$

_____ Town/Village Officer **\$210.00** _____

_____ Spouse or Guest **\$50.00** _____

_____ Election Training for Clerks
(Registered Officers only)

_____ Optional Officer Breakfast **\$33/day** _____
Mon. _____ Tues. _____

_____ Optional Spouse Breakfast **\$33/day** _____
Mon. _____ Tues. _____

_____ Optional Spouse Lunch **\$20/day** _____
Mon. _____ Tues. _____

_____ Optional Monday Evening Banquet _____
\$45.00 per person

TOTAL \$ Amount _____

SINGLE DAY: Monday _____ Tuesday _____

Amount \$\$\$

_____ Town/Village Officer **\$130.00** _____

_____ Spouse or Guest **\$50.00** _____

_____ Election Training for Clerks
(Registered Officers only)

_____ Optional Officer Breakfast **\$33/day** _____
Mon. _____ Tues. _____

_____ Optional Spouse Breakfast **\$33/day** _____
Mon. _____ Tues. _____

_____ Optional Spouse Lunch **\$20/day** _____
Mon. _____ Tues. _____

_____ Optional Monday Evening Banquet _____
\$45.00 per person

TOTAL \$ Amount _____

Spouse/Guest Registration includes: Exhibitor reception(s), Bingo, Monday night entertainment, General Assembly admission.
Meal tickets must be purchased separately.

Please return completed registration and payment to Wisconsin Towns Association, W7686 County Road MMM, Shawano, WI, 54166-6086 **by September 27, 2025**. Registrations received after that date will be \$15.00 per person higher for late registration fee.

Cancellations received 10 days or more in advance of the start of the convention will receive a full refund less a \$15.00 administrative fee. Cancellations received less than 10 days in advance of the start of the convention will be charged a \$15.00 administrative fee plus the cost of ALL meals. Refund requests submitted 30 or more days after the event will not be processed.

Convention Lodging

Sunday, October 12 - Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

Booking Information

Phone: 877-254-5466

Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50924325>

Rates: Single - \$129.00, Double, Triple or Quad - \$159.00

Room Rate Includes 1 Waterpark Pass per Registered Guest

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Bonding FAQs

Q. The outgoing clerk told me that the clerk and treasurer offices need to be bonded. Is this correct?

A. Yes. A public "official bond" is required for town clerks, town treasurers, deputy town clerks, deputy town treasurers, elected assessors and constables. Wis. Stat. § 60.31. The town board cannot waive an "official bond", and this type of bond is required to be executed and filed in order for the officials above to hold office.

Q. When and where do the bonds get filed?

A. For those offices that require one, an "official bond" must be filed with the town clerk before entering upon the duties of the office. See Wis. Stat. § 19.01(5). The town clerk's bond would be filed with the town treasurer before entering upon the duties of that office, Wis. Stat. § 19.01(4)(e).

Q. Who decides the amount of the bond and where does one go to get a bond?

A. The town board decides the amount of any "official bond" required under Wis. Stat. § 60.31(2). If the town board has not fixed the amount of the bond, the amount shall be the same as required of the last incumbent in office. If, at any time, the town board determines an official bond is insufficient, it may require an additional bond to be filed within 10 days in an amount fixed by the board.

The amount of the bond necessary for your town will vary depending on what sort of insurance coverages are in place. For example, a town with an existing policy that adequately insures against employee dishonesty (and will cover a loss that exceeds the official bond), could have a very low bond amount. On the other hand, a town with lacking coverage for public official theft, embezzlement, etc. would want to make sure it has a sufficient bond amount in place. For example, the board might decide that the official bond amount needs to cover the highest cash balance the town would have on hand at any point during the year, aside from tax collection. For many towns, cash balances peak in the fall when they receive their final state shared revenue and transportation aid payments. For a constable or assessor that does not have access to the town's bank accounts, a lesser bond amount would be appropriate.

Public official bonds are generally procured through your regular town insurance company. If your insurance company doesn't offer bonds itself, it will likely have relationships with other insurance companies that do offer bonds and they will search for a product that meets your needs. Unfortunately, sometimes no bonding company is willing to bond a particular individual.

Q. What happens if an official that needs a bond cannot be bonded?

A. Personal family situations like a divorce or bankruptcy can leave an individual with a poor credit history and an inability to be bonded. An officer's failure to execute and file the "official bond" as required, constitutes a refusal to serve in office, Wis. Stat. § 60.31(4). In turn, this would create a vacancy that would need to be filled by the town board pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 17.25. Again, no one that is required to have an official bond may serve in office if he or she is unable to obtain an official bond. Bonds required under Wis. Stat. § 60.31 cannot be waived by the board.

Q. I know that there is also a requirement for the treasurer to have a separate tax collection bond. What is the purpose of this bond and is there a required amount for the bond?

A. A "municipal treasurer's bond" is required for tax collection purposes. This bond is conditioned on the "faithful performance of the duties of the office and that the treasurer will account for and pay over according to law all taxes of any kind which are received, and which are required to be paid to the county treasurer." Wis. Stat. § 70.67. The amount of the bond must be *no less than the total amount of state and county taxes apportioned to the town*. Wis. Stat. § 70.67(1). The tax collection bond is filed with the county treasurer who would then give the town treasurer a receipt for the bond. Obviously, the tax collection bond should be filed before any tax payments are collected.

Q. Can the treasurer's tax collection bond be waived by the board?

A. Unlike an "official bond", the town board does have the option of waiving the tax collection bond by adopting an ordinance to that effect. See Wis. Stat. § 70.67(2). There is a sample ordinance in the *Wisconsin Town Law Forms* book. That said, it is generally not advisable to waive the tax collection bond because doing so obligates the town to pay all of the taxes of any kind required to be paid by such treasurer to the county treasurer should he or she fail to do so. How would the town do so? If the town has an employee dishonesty insurance policy with a high enough limit in place that it will cover a loss of the tax collections and/or the town has required an additional surety bond from the treasurer to cover tax collections as outlined under § 70.67(2), the board might determine that these alternatives replace the need for a separate tax collection bond. Also, if the town or village contracts with the county to perform all tax collections, waiving the town treasurer's tax collection bond likely makes sense since no taxes will actually pass through the local treasurer's hands.

Q. What if the treasurer cannot get a tax collection bond?

A. A treasurer that cannot obtain a required tax collection bond would be unable to collect the taxes, an essential function of the office. Yes, the town board could waive the tax collection bond by ordinance, but why do so when the risk of loss is so high that the person cannot be bonded? In such cases, the town would have two options: 1) ask for the treasurer's resignation; or 2) ask the treasurer to appoint a deputy who could be bonded to do the tax collections. Of course, the town would still be obligated to pay the treasurer his or her regular salary even though he or she did not perform a statutory function. If the treasurer won't resign, a removal action may be warranted. See Wis. Stat. § 17.16. The town would also have the option of appointing someone else, who can be bonded, to collect the taxes in the interim if there is no deputy for the office and the treasurer is absent or unable to do so. Wis. Stat. § 60.30(5).



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Town Law Conference

Friday, October 31, 2025 - Virtual Event

\$175 Attorneys • \$60 Non-Attorney Municipal Officials

Register at: www.wisctowns.com

AGENDA

8:55am Welcome

9:00am-10:30am Wisconsin Public Records Law:

This session will review the essential concepts of the state public records law and then explore the common questions that arise with regard to storage, retention, and access to electronic records. Presented by Assistant Attorney General Paul Ferguson from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Open Government.

10:30am-10:45am Break

10:45am-11:45am Making Waves and Harnessing the Wind:

Whether your town is thinking about regulating wake boats or wind turbines, it's important to understand the limits of your regulatory authority and bear in mind some best practice tips for drafting defensible ordinances on these controversial subjects. Presented by Atty. Remzy Bitar and Atty. Benjamin Crockett, Municipal Law and Litigation Group, S.C.

11:45am-1:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm-1:55pm Towns Under County Zoning --- and the Rezoning Process:

This session will review the rezoning process for towns under county zoning and provide in-depth analysis from a recent Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision which highlights the importance for towns under county zoning or town zoning to keep comprehensive plans and ordinances up to date to best preserve local decision making as part of the rezoning process. Presented by Atty. Rick Manthe, Stafford Rosenbaum, LLP.

1:55pm-2:00pm Break

2:00pm-3:00pm Room Tax Basics from Creation to Collection:

This presentation will outline the process for towns to establish a room tax, including the legal requirements and administration. It will detail the responsibilities of towns and lodging providers in collection and remittance. Finally, the presentation will explain the regulations governing the use of these funds. Presented by Atty. Sean P. Griffin and Atty. Andrew J. Adams, West and Dunn LLC.

***This program will be submitted to the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners for 5 CLE credits.**

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Hunting and Local Regulation of Firearms

Towns and villages are limited in their ability to regulate firearms. State law prescribes uniform firearm regulations and generally prohibits a local government from enacting more stringent regulations. Specifically, local governments may not regulate “the sale, purchase, purchase delay, transfer, ownership, use, keeping, possession, bearing, transportation, licensing, permitting, registration, or taxation of any knife or any firearm or part of a firearm, including ammunition and reloader components” unless the local regulation is the same as or similar to, and no more stringent than, a state statute. See Wis. Stat. § 66.0409(2). Simply put, most local firearm regulations are preempted by state law.

Hunting on Town/Village Land

A town or village may allow or prohibit hunting on its property at the discretion of the board. If the board does allow hunting, it should be sure allow equal access to all interested individuals. In other words, you may not allow friends or family to hunt on town/village property while excluding others arbitrarily. If the board does want to allow hunting on town/village property, it should first adopt a policy outlining when and where hunting will be permitted.

Restricting the Discharge of Firearms

Although state law preempts local firearm regulation, villages and towns with village powers are specifically authorized to adopt ordinances and resolutions that regulate the discharge of firearms. See Wis. Stat. § 66.0409(3)(b)1. Local restrictions on the discharge of firearms may not be enforced, however, when a firearm is discharged in self-defense or when the actor’s conduct is otherwise justified. See Wis. Stat. § 66.0409(3)(b)2.

Villages and towns with village powers may also regulate some firearm discharge through a noise ordinance or nuisance ordinance. A well drafted noise ordinance may prohibit firearm discharge in certain situations, but such an ordinance will also apply to other loud noises. A sample nuisance ordinance can be found in the Town Law Forms book.

Firearms in Town/Village Buildings

There are two forms of firearm possession as described in state law: open carry and concealed carry. The open carry of a firearm is generally allowed in Wisconsin by adults that are not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm. The concealed carry of a firearm, on the other hand, is only allowed by current and former law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid license to carry a concealed weapon. See Wis. Stat. § 941.23(2).

The open carry of firearms is prohibited in town or village buildings without a valid license to carry a concealed weapon. See Wis. Stat. § 941.235. Current and former law enforcement officers as well as certain military personnel are exempt from this prohibition. This means that without a license to carry a concealed weapon, no one may carry a firearm in a town/village building – even open carry. Individuals with a valid license to carry a concealed weapon, however, may carry firearms openly or concealed in town and village buildings unless restricted further by the local government.

If the board chooses to prohibit firearms further, it may do so by adopting an ordinance to that effect and posting signage near all entrances to town/village buildings. The board may prohibit the open and concealed carry of firearms, even by individuals with a valid license to carry a concealed weapon. Note, however, that local governments may not prohibit firearms in parking lots, parks, or other public lands. See Wis. Stat. § 943.13(1m)(c)2.

Towns and villages that do not prohibit firearms in their buildings are immune from any liability arising from that decision. See Wis. Stat. § 175.60(21)(b).

Firearms and Employees

The town or village, as an employer, may generally prohibit its employees from carrying a firearm in the course of their employment. You may not, however, prohibit an employee from keeping a firearm in their personal vehicle, even while in the course of employment. See Wis. Stat. § 175.60(15m).

If the board decides to prohibit employees from carrying firearms while at work, the board should adopt a formal policy and update its employee handbook accordingly. If the board decides not to prohibit employees from carrying firearms while at work, the town/village is immune from any liability arising from the decision to allow employees to carry firearms on the job. See Wis. Stat. § 175.60(21)(c).

Firearms at Polling Places

Firearms are not automatically prohibited at all polling places during an election. With that said, the board may implement policies to restrict firearms at polling places at its discretion. As discussed above, the open carry of firearms is prohibited under state law in town and village buildings except by licensed or otherwise qualified individuals. See Wis. Stat. § 941.235. If your polling place is located in a town or village building, therefore, the open carry of firearms is already prohibited except by licensed or otherwise qualified individuals. The board may choose to further restrict firearms at polling places by adopting an ordinance as discussed above and posting signs at each restricted location.

Polling places located in schools or other locations may have additional firearm restrictions under state or federal law. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has a memo regarding weapons and physical security laws as applicable to polling places available on its website.

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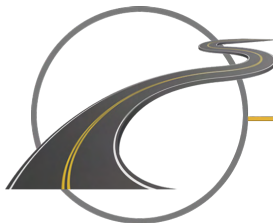
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Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations is a full-service electronics and materials lifecycle management provider—and a proud participant in the E-Cycle Wisconsin program. We help Wisconsin communities implement electronics recycling that is secure, compliant, and backed by manufacturer-funded support.

Though electronics recycling is required by law, Wisconsin county and municipal leaders see it as much more. It's a way to protect resources, build trust, and deliver services tailored to their communities.

To meet these needs, the E-Cycle Wisconsin program provides built-in support through manufacturer funding and flexible service models. With experienced partners like Dynamic, communities can simplify e-recycling with solutions tailored to local realities.



How the Program Works

Under Wisconsin law, electronics manufacturers help fund the responsible recycling of certain devices. This funding enables local governments to offer programs with:

- Minimal cost to local budgets
- Eligibility for household and school electronics
- Support for collection events, local pickups, and outreach

Finding the right partner is key to making the most of the program, ensuring it is implemented effectively, aligns with local priorities, and delivers real value to the community.

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*— Kyle Noonan, Taylor County
Zoning Administrator, WI*

Solutions for Local Needs

Communities need more than just a vendor; they need a reliable partner that understands local needs and can scale services accordingly. Look for providers that offer:

- In-state capabilities, with boots-on-the-ground service teams
- Box truck pickups and small-load collection options that fit your community size
- Event staffing and marketing support to drive participation

- Fast scheduling and a single point of contact for all your needs

Security You Can Count On

Recycling electronics isn't just about clearing out old equipment, it's about protecting your residents' data and your community reputation. The most secure programs work with certified processors who provide:

- In-house recycling and destruction (no third-party handoffs)
- R2v3 and e-Stewards certifications
- Protection against illegal export or improper disposal

Dynamic handles everything from secure destruction to reporting and logistics coordination, ensuring chain-of-custody and peace of mind every step of the way.



National Infrastructure. Local Commitment.

While some providers focus on volume and urban markets, Wisconsin communities need recyclers with both scale and responsiveness, delivering national-grade infrastructure with a commitment to serving communities with care.

Our integrated approach combines manufacturer partnerships, a certified processing facility, and boots-on-the-ground local service. This means fewer handoffs, faster service, and consistent quality for your municipality.



Lead Your Community with Confidence

The E-Cycle Wisconsin program exists to support municipalities. With the right provider, you can protect local resources, ease the burden on staff, and deliver a secure, compliant experience for residents.

How to Get Started:

1. Assess the current electronics recycling needs in your community.
2. Connect with Dynamic to explore approved service models.
3. Schedule a community collection event.

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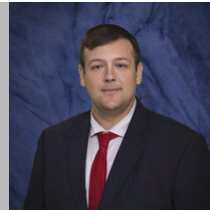
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Town Websites

Q. Why have a town website?

A. In the modern digital age, it can be beneficial for the town to have an online presence. Being able to post important announcements on the website can help the town communicate with its residents. It can also assist with providing certain legal notices electronically. For example, towns that have websites have the option to provide Open Meetings Law notices to the public by posting on their town website. See Wis. Stat. § 19.84(1)(b)(2). Similarly, towns that do not have official newspapers have the option of providing Ch. 985 notices by posting in lieu of publication. One of the posting methods is providing those notices via posting on their town website. See Wis. Stat. § 985.02(2)(c). Please review state statute to determine if stricter statutory requirements apply.

Towns can also benefit by making important documents available on the website. Greater accessibility to the public could lead to more efficient service delivery for the town. As an example, ordinances could be posted so that residents can reference them when needed. The town could also place applications for various licenses/permits on the website so that their residents can access them at any time.

Q. The WTA has encouraged towns who have websites to have website policies. Why is having a website policy important?

A. If your town board decides to establish a website, we strongly recommend adopting a policy for that site's use. The town board is ultimately responsible for the town website, as the board is in charge of all town property (which includes the town website). See Wis. Stat. § 60.22(1). Calling a town board meeting every time the website needs to be updated would be a cumbersome process. In addition, not specifying who can maintain the website can lead to uncomfortable disputes as to what content should be on the town website. A website policy can address both problems. A website policy can clarify who can decide what gets posted on the town's website, and the process for making that determination. Such a policy should list who will be authorized to make posts and act as administrator for the town's website and what content may be posted to the site. If your website has an option for the public to post information on the website, your policy could clarify that public comments will be turned off on your page to avoid members of the public posting misinformation or inappropriate remarks. Importantly, town website records (including posts) are considered public record, so your policy also needs to address how records will be preserved and retained in the town's files, consistent with the town's record retention policies.

Q. Are there any statutory requirements for town websites?

A. To be clear, there is no statutory requirement for towns to have a website. However, there are a handful of statutory requirements that impact towns that have websites. Please be sure to review state

statute to ensure all requirements are met. One example is that Wis. Stat. § 70.05(5)(b) requires that towns must publish a notice on their website before a property revaluation is conducted by a town assessor. If a town does not have a website, then the notice must be posted in at least 3 public places within the town. The notice must include that a revaluation will occur and the approximate dates of the property revaluation. It shall also describe the authority of an assessor, under Wis. Stat. §§ 943.13 and 943.15, to enter land.

Q. What are some things that the town board should be considering when entering into a contract with a website developer?

A. Firstly, the town should enter into a written contract with a website developer. Secondly, if the town is paying for the creation of a town website and paying for the annual fee to maintain the website address, it stands to reason that they should own the website address. Towns who do not own their website address may run into problems in the event the domain name is held by another entity. For example, a website design company may recommend that the domain name be owned by the website design company, as opposed to the town, so that they can pay the required annual fee to renew the domain name. That website company would then perpetually own the domain name (so long as they pay the annual maintenance fee), and the town may not have access to the domain in the event that they switch host companies. This could create future confusion if the town decided to switch companies since existing website information would have been connected to the old website address. Ultimately, the website address should move with the town if it switches host companies. If your town is considering creating a website, please be sure that this is clarified in a written contract with the website developer.

Furthermore, the town should clarify in the written contract that the town owns all content that is contained/posted on the website. The town may not be able to use the software that was used to create the town website, but it should be clarified that the town is able to claim the content that is written and created on behalf of the town. That way if the town chooses to go with a different website provider, the town can move the content to the new site. In addition, the town would control what content gets added or removed on their website.

Lastly, the town should be asking questions of the provider to ensure that the website is a good fit for the town. How much will the cost of the website be? What other additional fees are included in the contract (e.x. for posting content)? Where will the website be hosted? Will it be on a server or on a personal computer? What happens if the server goes down? Will the town's website be backed up? What type of security measures does the company use? What happens if someone tries to hack the company's server? Has the provider had any of their websites hacked? Who are your employees? How do I contact customer service if I need assistance? If the provider does not offer satisfactory answers to these questions, then the town should move on to working with a different provider. Do not settle for working with a provider that offers insufficient answers to your questions, even if that provider might be the cheapest on the market. Making the extra effort to find a good provider that will work well with the town, will help the town avoid future headaches.

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By: Melissa Kono, UW Ext./WTA Clerk Specialist

Now is the Time for Towns to Consider a .gov Email

Both the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), the federal agency charged with reducing cyber risk and the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) advise that municipal emails, especially those used for election related information and communications be easily identifiable as government entities. Yet less than half of towns in Wisconsin are currently using a .gov or wi.gov email address for their official communications. Admittedly, my town is one of them, with annual cost and how to migrate email being the biggest factors as to why we have not yet made the switch. However, with a busy election year looming ahead in 2026 and a subgrant available from WEC until December 1, 2025 to help defray the costs associated with obtaining an official .gov domain, there is perhaps no better time to consider making the upgrade to a more secure email system.

The importance of a .gov or wi.gov domain for towns

There are many benefits of an official .gov or wi.gov email for local governments including:

- Increased security and transparency for the town, its residents, and the agencies we interact with
- An easily recognizable email address decreases the risk of “spoofing”—a scam where an outside entity sets up an email address that mimics that of a legitimate address and uses it to extort money or information
- An official email address for the town instead of using personal email for official communications
- Having a uniform email address per office (e.g. clerk@yourtown.wi.gov, chair@yourtown.wi.gov, etc.) can help ensure a smooth transition and access to important town information when there is turnover within positions due to elections or vacancies,
- Access to systems such as WisVote that may require a .gov or wi.gov email in the future.

Overview of wi.gov and .gov email domains

The approval process for a .gov domain is administered by CISA while the Department of Enterprise Technology (DET) housed within the Wisconsin Department of Administration authorizes wi.gov and Wisconsin.gov domains. Both .gov and wi.gov domains are available at no cost and only to government organizations within the United States that are vetted through an approval process at each agency. The .gov domain request process through CISA requires a Login.gov account, and more information can be found at: <https://get.gov/>. For a wi.gov or Wisconsin.gov domain, it is a relatively straightforward process through DET:

- Create a WI Domain Request Authorization letter using the template provided, signed by a senior official (typically the Chair or Clerk)
- Complete the Domain Name System (DNS) Request Technical Form
- Email these forms to esdhelp@wisconsin.gov

This process and the required forms for a requesting a wi.gov or Wisconsin.gov domain can be found on DET website: https://det.wi.gov/Pages/WI_Domain_Service_Request.aspx.

DNS hosting and ongoing costs

Transitioning to a .gov or wi.gov email from a free provider such as Gmail or Yahoo may mean upgrading to a paid business account such as Microsoft Office 365 and Google Workspace, as the domain will need ongoing Domain Name System (DNS) hosting. These typically come with an annual subscription cost, so keep these recurring costs in mind when developing your annual budget. If the domain registration process, setting up a new email account, migrating existing emails over to the new .gov account, or adding additional security features are beyond your technical skills, hiring IT professionals to assist with this process may be your best bet. The good news is that there is currently funding available through the WEC .gov subgrant to help alleviate these transition costs, even for professional services.

Wisconsin Elections Commission \$600 subgrant available

The Wisconsin Elections Commission is currently offering a subgrant up to \$600 to assist municipalities in transitioning to a .gov or wi.gov email address. Costs must be incurred prior to the submission of the grant and applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on December 1, 2025, for those who have not yet received a .gov subgrant. Costs eligible for reimbursement include:

- Costs incurred for transitioning to wi.gov or .gov email for a clerk or municipal email account, including administrative costs like reprinting business cards with updated email addresses
- IT consultant fees associated with the transition to a wi.gov or gov email domain
- Monthly costs for email hosting if associated with a wi.gov or .gov domain

Please note that costs must be incurred within the project period of August 24, 2021, through December 1, 2025. Only actual costs incurred are eligible for reimbursement, not bids or estimates. In addition, towns may wish to consider pre-paying for future costs, such as subscription costs to maximize the award amount. Documentation of these costs should be retained until December 31, 2032. Reimbursement forms and more information on the WEC .gov subgrant can be found at: <https://elections.wi.gov/election-security-wigov-and-gov-domains>.

Obtaining a .gov email Lunch and Learn Webinar recording

Change can be daunting—especially when it comes to upgrading technology. For those who have not yet upgraded, I hope this information and the resources I have included are helpful in considering the transition to an official .gov or wi.gov email address for your town. If you would like more information, or a walk-through of this process, a recorded Lunch and Learn webinar on **Obtaining a .gov email address for towns** featuring panelists representing DOA Department of Enterprise Technology, the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and Sprinter Business is available on the Wisconsin Towns Association website at: <https://vimeo.com/1104123474/8232d11345?ts=0&share=copy>.

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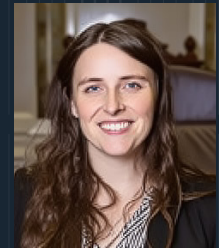
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WisDOT: Project Solicitations Announced for the Local Roads Improvement Program and the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (Round 1)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) recently released application materials for the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) 2026-2027 Program Cycle. Additionally, the department announced the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) 2026–2027 Round 1 project solicitation cycle, which opens on Monday, October 6, 2025.

LRIP is a reimbursement program that provides state funds to assist local units of government in improving seriously deteriorating town roads, city and village streets, and county highways. LRIP may pay up to a maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs for Entitlement and Discretionary projects, and up to 90% of eligible costs for Supplemental projects, with the balance funded by the local unit of government. All projects are advertised, awarded, managed, and the contractors are paid in full by the project sponsor prior to submittal of the reimbursement request to WisDOT.



Additional information about LRIP can be found on the [WisDOT LRIP Program Webpage](#).

WisDOT recently released an LRIP video tutorial on Monday, September 22, 2025. This training provided an overview of the LRIP program, including key changes and updates for the 2026–2027 Program Cycle. These updates include:

- A new requirement that sponsors must provide information for LRIP project let advertising to WisDOT at least seven (7) days prior to the first date of advertisement. The advertising information should be entered into the [LRIPWeb platform](#) at the same time that the advertisement is sent to the newspaper or is posted. If a municipality chooses to advertise a project in phases, advertising information must be provided for each phase.
- Clarifications to the process for contracting LRIP work. Updates are not limited to and include that:
 - Counties should not be submitting sealed bids in the LRIP project bidding process.
 - The entity that provides the sealed project cost estimate should not also be selected to perform the project design or construction work, to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Process updates for county LRIP-Supplemental projects using the Cost-Effectiveness Finding (CEF) requirement.

The deadline to submit an application to WisDOT for the LRIP 2026-2027 Program Cycle is **January 15, 2026**. The recording of the LRIP video tutorial can be accessed [here](#).

If you have any questions about LRIP, please contact LRIP Program Manager, John Moe at john.moe@dot.wi.gov or 608-267-0404.

ARIP is a segregated revenue (SEG) funded grant appropriation that was initially established in the 2023–2025 biennium. For the current 2026–2027 biennium, this program sets aside \$120 million to reimburse local governments to improve deteriorating Class B and weight restricted roads classified as local roads or minor collectors that restrict the ability of agricultural and forestry producers to transport full loads of goods. The highway, bridge, or culvert improved by the project must provide access to agricultural lands

or facilities used for the production of agricultural goods, including forest products, and the improved route or structure must be used by at least one producer.

ARIP is a reimbursement program, which may pay up to a maximum of 90% of total eligible project costs, with the balance of the eligible costs funded by the local unit of government. The program is housed under the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) statute, Wis. Stat. 86.31 (3o). More information about ARIP, including the full list of eligibility requirements, is available [here](#).

In the previous 2023–2025 biennium, WisDOT awarded ARIP funding to 91 projects totaling nearly \$150 million in state cost share.

The 2025 Round 1 ARIP solicitation period will distribute \$50 million in ARIP funding. Unsuccessful project applicants from Round 1 will have the opportunity to advance their application for award consideration in Round 2, which is anticipated in early calendar year 2026. Applications for Round 1 will be due to WisDOT by **5:00 PM on Monday, December 15**. Projects awarded in Round 1 are anticipated to be announced by late March 2026. The awards are selected by a statewide discretionary selection committee comprised of approximately 20 members from the agricultural sector, forestry/timber sector, and representatives from Wisconsin municipalities.

The department will be releasing a video tutorial for the Round 1 solicitation on the [WisDOT ARIP Program Webpage](#) in early October 2025.

If you have any questions about ARIP, please contact ARIP Program Manager Hillary Pelton at hillary.pelton@dot.wi.gov or 608-261-4443.

WisDOT will notify municipalities regarding the availability of additional LRIP and ARIP training opportunities in the future, along with any other important dates and deadlines.

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Town of Goodman, Marinette County Accepting Proposals for Town Assessor

The Town of Goodman, Marinette County, is requesting proposals for Town Assessor for 2026 tax year and future years. The town has an estimated population of 604 with a total assessed real estate value of \$62,299,100 (2024). Seeking a firm to provide sound assessment services-free from errors and defensible to Town officials and residents-in a timely and professional manner. Proposals to include services: maintaining the assessment roll and property classifications within 10% of equalized value, reevaluation in the future, open book and Board of Review. Please send your proposal along with a copy of the State of Wisconsin certification, proof of insurance, references and resume. Mark **ASSESSOR PROPOSAL** on the envelope, mail to P O Box 306, Goodman, WI 54125. Contact Clerk at clerk@goodmanwi.gov with questions. The Town Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Town of Perry, Dane County Dump Truck For Sale

The Town of Perry, Dane County, is offering for sale a 2013 Model Western Star Dump Truck, equipped with 11-foot Universal plow, 9-foot Universal side wing, a Swenson tailgate spreader with 9-inch auger and extreme discharge and heavy-duty hitchplate. 62,000 miles. Contact Town Patrolman at 608-444-6242 or eastman2012@hotmail.com. The Town of Perry reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Town.



Town of Longwood, Clark County Snow Plow For Sale

2010 International 7400 MaxxForce 10. 310 HP, Allison 3000 Transmission, Monroe 12' Snow Plow with 9' Wing, Stainless Steel Sander and Tarp. Still in Use. \$45k. Contact 715-613-0755 or 715-965-8072.



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