



Legislative Update

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE | JULY 13, 2026

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Important Dates

Governor

Lt. Governor

Attorney General

Secretary of State

State Treasurer

State Assembly all 99 seats

State Senate (Odd # Districts)

Partisan Local Officials

August 1, 2026: Chris Taylor is sworn in to SCOWis

August 11, 2026: Partisan Primary Election

November 3, 2026: Partisan General Election

January 4, 2027: Inauguration Day

Governor's Race

- **GOP: Congressman Tom Tiffany vs. Andy Manske**
- Competitive primary on the Democrat side:
 - **Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez**
 - **Former Lt. Governor and US Senate Nominee Mandela Barnes**
 - ~~Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley~~ (endorsed Sara Rodriguez)
 - ~~Former WEDC Secretary Missy Hughes~~ (endorsed Sara Rodriguez)
 - **State Senator Kelda Roys**
 - **State Representative Francesca Hong**
 - **Former DOA Secretary Joel Brennan**
- Who stays in the race?
- What kind of alliances are created?
- What percentage do they need to win the primary?
- All names will be printed on ballots

State Constitutional Offices

Lt. Governor

- Secretary of State Sarah Godlweski (Dem)
- Will Martin (GOP)
- David Varnam (GOP)

Attorney General

- **Attorney General Josh Kaul (Dem)**
- Fond du Lac DA Eric Toney (GOP)
- Rematch from four years ago

Secretary of State

- Former State Rep JoCasta Zamarripa (Dem)
- Brayden Meyer (GOP)
- Nathan Pollnow (GOP)
- Jay Schroeder (GOP)
- Cindy Wener (GOP)
- Pete Karas (Green)

Secretary of State

- Dylan Helmenstine (Dem)
- Yee Leng Xiong (Dem)
- **John Leiber (GOP)**

State Senate

- Republicans currently have a 18-15 majority
- Competitive Senate Districts
 - District 17: Marklein (GOP)
 - District 5: ~~Hutton~~ (GOP)
 - District 21: ~~Wanggaard~~ (GOP)
 - District 31: Smith (Dem)
- Republicans need to win two of these seats to maintain control
- Democrats have a legitimate opportunity to take over the State Senate
- If Democrats are successful, won't be competitive until 2030
- 2028 Seats: Bradley, Dassler-Alfheim, Drake, Felzkowski, Feyen, Habush Sinykin, Johnson, Keyeski, Pfaff, Ratcliff, Roys, Stafsholt, Testin, Wall, Wimberger, and Wirch

Not Running

Rob Hutton

Devin LeMahieu

Steve Nass

Van Wanggaard

Jesse James

Andre Jacque

State Assembly

- Republicans currently have a 54-45 majority
- Can only lose four seats in order to maintain
- control Vulnerable members
 - Representative Pat Snyder (Wausau)
 - ~~Representative Jessie Rodriguez (Oak Creek)~~ (announced retirement)
 - Representative Shannon Zimmerman (Hudson)
 - Representative Ben Franklin (Green Bay)
 - Representative Bob Donovan (Milwaukee)
 - Representative Todd Novak (Dodgeville)
 - Representative Clint Moses (Menomonie)
 - ~~Dean Kaufert (Neenah)~~ (announced retirement)

Not Running

Robin Vos

Rob Brooks

Jerry O'Connor

Dave Murphy

Kevin Petersen

Rick Gundrum

Scott Allen

Jessie Rodriguez

Dean Kaufert

Robyn Vining (Hutton Seat)

Jenna Jacobson (Marklein Seat)

Francesca Hong (Governor)

WCA Summer/Fall

- Steering Committees (two between now and next session)
- Annual business meeting resolutions to impact WCA platform
- Planning for WCA Annual Conference in September
- Discussing 2027-28 Legislative Agenda
 - Republican vs. Democrat control
 - What's achievable
 - Most movement for least political capital
- Preparing for 2027-29 State Budget
 - What accounts are flush/where is there extra money?
 - Revenue increases/spending decreases?
- Continuing to build relationships with sitting legislators and strong candidates
- Health & Human Services Items

OMB Overhaul of Federal Grant Rules

3,069

3,069 counties will be
directly impacted

\$1.1T

\$1.1 trillion in federal
grants governed by this
rule annually

July 13

July 13 deadline to submit
comments

-
- Federal grant changes could impact reliability and flexibility of funding flowing to counties
 - Uniform Guidance could affect key county programs like HHS & Transportation

ADA Web Accessibility

The U.S DOJ final rule mandates websites and apps meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility standards.

This includes:

- Providing text alternatives for images and non-text content
- Ensuring keyboard navigability for users without mice
- Maintaining sufficient color contrast for readability
- Making content understandable and predictable
- Ensuring mobile responsiveness and accessible touch targets
- Making forms, buttons, and navigation clearly

State and local government size	Compliance date
0 to 49,999 persons	April 26, 2028
Special district governments	April 26, 2028
50,000 or more persons	April 26, 2027



Questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out!

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