

Justice Reform & Marijuana Legalization

The **Badger Bounceback** Live Session on Justice Reform & Marijuana Legalization will cover topics such as addressing racial disparities in our justice system, legalizing medical and recreational marijuana, investing in treatment, rehabilitation, and other alternatives to incarceration, and programming to support safe community reentry.

This document provides a quick overview on how this agenda plans to address these topics.

Overhauling Juvenile Justice

Governor Evers is setting an ambitious goal of transforming Wisconsin's outdated juvenile justice system. To achieve that goal, the Badger Bounceback agenda includes an approximately **\$1 million** investment in statewide training and quality assurance to provide a baseline of knowledge and quality for youth justice agencies throughout the state, almost **\$9 million** for the community-based services grant program to allow counties to significantly elevate their case management practices and use of intensive, evidence-based treatment services, and over **\$1 million** for the residential services grant program, which enables out-of-home care providers to provide intensive services specifically for justice-involved youth who require treatment services in an out-of-home setting.

Governor Evers remains committed to closing Lincoln Hill and Copper Lake so we can get kids closer to home as soon as we safely and responsibly can. The governor proposes a practical way forward to accomplish that goal by creating smaller, community-based facilities in the face of legislative deferral. The governor's Badger Bounceback agenda also seeks to overhaul our juvenile justice system to keep our kids out of the correctional system. Governor Evers proposes aligning statutes with evidence, rethinking the use of detention, and making better use of existing justice system resources by eliminating automatic original adult court jurisdiction for youth under the age of 18, modifying the conditions under which youth under the age of 18 may be waived into adult court, and increasing the age of delinquency from 10 years of age to 12.

Investing in People, Not Prisons

We can keep our communities safe by holding violent offenders accountable, save money, and reform our justice system all at the same time. Governor Evers' Badger Bounceback agenda proposes harnessing science and evidence-based practices to help us make better decisions throughout the justice system. The governor proposes making significant investments and necessary reforms to our justice system, including establishing a sentencing review council to study and make recommendations on sentencing reform. The budget also invests **\$15 million** for the Treatment and Diversion Programs and more than **\$18 million** in investments for other key programs that have proven to be successful, such as the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success program, the Windows to Work program, and the Earned Release Program.

\$15 MILLION

IN TREATMENT & DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Banning the Box

The Badger Bounceback agenda also delivers on the governor's promise to "Ban the Box" by prohibiting requesting an applicant for employment to provide information regarding his or her conviction record, or otherwise considering the record, prior to selection for an interview.

Regulating Marijuana & Reinvestment

Governor Evers' 2021-23 budget proposes legalizing and taxing marijuana, much like we already do with alcohol. The governor believes it is time to join several other states across our country, including two of our neighbors, who have legalized recreational marijuana. Legalizing marijuana is expected to generate more than **\$165 million**, starting in 2022, for our state.

\$165 MILLION

**EXPECTED REVENUE FROM
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

And the Badger Bounceback agenda proposes reinvesting nearly **\$80 million** of the funds generated by taxing marijuana back into our communities through the community reinvestment fund and into sparsity aid to support our rural schools. The governor's budget proposal also provides a path for medical marijuana users to access the product without paying retail taxes. Importantly, the governor's proposal modifies criminal penalties for marijuana-related crimes to align with legalization and creates a process for individuals serving sentences or previously convicted of marijuana-related crimes to have an opportunity to repeal or reduce their sentences for nonviolent minor offenses.



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The Badger Bounceback Live Sessions series provides Governor Evers with opportunities to hear directly from Wisconsinites on the topics within the Governor's budget that impact them and their communities. Topics covered in these sessions include pressing issues facing Wisconsin families, including affordable healthcare, bolstering our state's economy, improving education for all Wisconsin students, and more. Wisconsinites can also share their questions about the Governor's budget on social media by posting using the “#BadgerBounceback” hashtag.

#BADGERBOUNCEBACK