



# GOV. EVERS IS DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR WISCONSINITES.

## Fully Funding Our Public Schools

As a former educator, principal, superintendent, and state superintendent, Gov. Evers knows that what's best for our kids is what's best for our state, and what's best for our kids is making sure every kid has the tools and resources to be successful both in and outside the classroom.

Gov. Evers has made historic investments in education at every level, including public schools, special education, mental health, sparsity aid, and school transportation costs.

### GOVERNOR EVERS IS DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR KIDS

- ✓ Largest increase in general school aids in more than a decade
- ✓ Largest increase in special education funding in state history
- ✓ Restored two-thirds funding for public schools

Through two biennial budgets and his federal investments, Gov. Evers has increased per pupil aid for our schools by more than \$300 per student during his time in office. Now, our schools have returned to the top 10 in the country after falling to 17th in 2017 under the previous administration.

### GOVERNOR EVERS' K-12 EDUCATION BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Increase allowable spending for schools while holding the line on property taxes by significantly increasing revenue limits and per pupil aid
- Increase special education reimbursement rates to 60 percent by the second year of the budget
- Provide \$20 million in new investments to improve reading and literacy outcomes
- Expand access to student mental health services and school nutrition
- Provide financial literacy and out-of-school programming
- Address the staffing shortages to help keep class sizes small

While Gov. Evers has made unprecedented investments in education over the past four years, the pandemic has exacerbated challenges facing our kids and our schools, and it's not fair to our educators or kids to keep asking them to do more with less.

**Budgets are about priorities, and that's why building the biennial budget begins as it always does for Gov. Evers with doing what's best for our kids.**

## Funding Higher Education

Gov. Evers believes higher education should be accessible, affordable, and attainable to all those who choose to pursue it.

After the Legislature ended the longstanding in-state tuition freeze, Gov. Evers directed \$25 million in federal pandemic relief funds toward the UW System, enabling the UW Board of Regents to continue the freeze.

The Board of Regents also recently announced the Wisconsin Tuition Promise program, which Gov. Evers proposed supporting in his 2021-23 state budget. The program will provide up to four years of tuition and fees at any UW school for first year and transfer students from families earning less than \$62,000 annually.

## Building an Economy That Works for Everyone

Under Gov. Evers' leadership, Wisconsin's unemployment rate has dropped to record lows, our labor force participation rate is outpacing the national average, and our state is in the best fiscal position in state history with a more than \$6 billion projected surplus at the end of this fiscal year and the largest 'rainy day' fund ever.

But Gov. Evers knows Wisconsin families have been through a lot over the past few years and that many Wisconsinites are still worried about making ends meet. That's why he's taken several steps to put hundreds of dollars back in Wisconsinites' pockets:

- **Gov. Evers signed one of the largest tax cuts in state history.** In total, 86 percent of Wisconsin taxpayers will see a 15 percent income tax cut.
- **Gov. Evers directed changes to withholding tax tables.** Because of Gov. Evers' changes and his previous tax cuts, a single filer making \$50,000 saw \$551 more in their paycheck over the course of the year, and a married couple each earning \$50,000 saw over \$1,200 more combined for their household.
- **Gov. Evers tackled rising gas prices.** He signed an executive order to prohibit price gouging on gas and diesel in Wisconsin and called on Congress to suspend the federal gas tax through the end of the year.

### GOVERNOR EVERS' PLAN FOR WORKING FAMILIES

- ✓ 10% Tax Cut for Working Families
- ✓ Immediately Lower Prices at the Gas Pump
- ✓ Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Families
- ✓ Restore the Homestead Credit
- ✓ Cap Insulin Copays at \$35
- ✓ Make Childcare and Caregiving More Affordable

**\$600 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF**

This summer, Gov. Evers unveiled a new plan to use the state's historic projected surplus to address national inflation and lower costs for working families, including a targeted tax cut for working families.

Republicans have yet to take up the governor's plan—or any plan—to get help to working families who've needed support to deal with rising costs. With a more than \$6 billion projected surplus, there's no reason these dollars should sit in Madison when folks could use relief now, as well as long-term support into the future. Gov. Evers will continue to fight for tax cuts targeted to help middle-class families, not tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.

### GOVERNOR EVERS SUPPORTS WISCONSIN APPRENTICESHIPS

- ✓ Gov. Evers increased funding for Wisconsin's apprenticeship programs in both budgets.
- ✓ Wisconsin surpassed 15,000 participants in the Registered Apprenticeship program this year—the highest participation rate in the program in two decades.
- ✓ Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship program reached a record 6,412 participants working at a record 4,478 employers.

## Bolstering Our Workforce

Gov. Evers is investing in retaining and recruiting talented workers, making sure our kids have career opportunities, and reducing barriers for Wisconsinites who want to join our workforce.

Gov. Evers has invested **more than \$150 million in workforce solutions across Wisconsin** to encourage regional and local communities to develop long-term solutions to their unique workforce challenges and subsidize skills training opportunities with local employers.

Wisconsin is not alone in facing workforce challenges, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. That's why the governor believes it's important that we invest in solutions created by and for local communities rather than tell communities how to fix their problems.

## Supporting Small Businesses

As a share of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aid received by states and directed by Gov. Evers, Wisconsin is the top state in the country for aid directed to small businesses and economic development. To date, **more than 7,300 small businesses and nonprofits** have been approved for Gov. Evers' Main Street Bounceback Grant Program to fill empty storefronts in all 72 counties throughout Wisconsin.

## Protecting and Expanding Healthcare Access

Gov. Evers believes every Wisconsinite should have access to quality, affordable healthcare, including access to safe, legal abortion.

- **Gov. Evers removed Wisconsin from the multi-state GOP lawsuit** against the Affordable Care Act, which would have threatened healthcare for thousands of Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions.
- **Gov. Evers has fought tirelessly to expand BadgerCare**, which would expand affordable healthcare to tens of thousands of Wisconsinites and realize an estimated over \$1 billion in cost savings for the state. He also called the Legislature into a special session, but Republicans gaveled in and out without taking any action.
- **Gov. Evers created the Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grant Program** with federal ARPA funds to increase healthcare access across the state and support projects to build new clinics and increase access to mental healthcare.

Gov. Evers believes every single Wisconsinite should have the right to consult their family, their faith, and their doctor to make a reproductive healthcare decision that is right for them, without interference from politicians.

### GOVERNOR EVERS' ACTIONS TO DEFEND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

- ✓ Called a special session to repeal Wisconsin's 1800s-era criminal abortion ban, which has no exceptions for rape or incest
- ✓ Led a coalition of 17 governors to call on Congress to codify *Roe v. Wade*
- ✓ Filed an ongoing lawsuit to challenge Wisconsin's criminal abortion ban
- ✓ Called another special session to create a pathway for voters to repeal Wisconsin's 1800s-era criminal abortion ban through a statewide referendum
- ✓ Vetoed every one of Republican lawmakers' bills to restrict access to reproductive healthcare

## Increasing Mental and Behavioral Healthcare Access

Gov. Evers has worked to enhance mental health programs and resources for kids in need and expand access to mental and behavioral healthcare and substance use treatment and prevention for all Wisconsinites.

Gov. Evers has also taken several steps to combat the opioid epidemic, including implementing a "Hub and Spoke" model of care to better serve those affected and investing \$47 million of ARPA funding to increase community-level supports.

### GOVERNOR EVERS' INVESTMENTS IN WISCONSIN'S MENTAL HEALTH

**\$5 MILLION**

to expand telehealth services and make mental health supports more accessible

**\$30 MILLION**

for our Get Kids Ahead initiative to support increased mental health services in schools

**\$9.5 MILLION**

to support mental health services for veterans and members of the National Guard

## Advancing Health Equity

Gov. Evers has made it a priority to address racial disparities and build healthier communities.

- **Gov. Evers created the Governor's Health Equity Council** and the first-ever Office of Health Equity at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
- **Gov. Evers proposed a nearly \$30 million "Healthy Women, Healthy Babies"** initiative in both budgets to target Wisconsin's severe racial disparities in maternal and birth outcomes.
- **Gov. Evers has proposed additional investments in health equity**, including community-based health equity grants, efforts to address social determinants of health and childhood lead poisoning, and increasing access to dental services.

## Supporting the Healthcare Workforce

Gov. Evers has consistently supported increasing funding for our direct care workforce and has led in addressing the needs of our caregivers.

- **Gov. Evers created the Governor's Taskforce on Caregiving** to generate concrete solutions for our caregiving workforce and the people they serve.
- **Gov. Evers increased funding for the direct care workforce** by more than \$330 million between his first two budgets.
- **Gov. Evers increased reimbursement rates** for long-term care facilities and home- and community-based services to support Wisconsin's direct care workforce.

During the height of the pandemic, Gov. Evers also provided \$40 million to Wisconsin hospitals and over \$75 million to nursing homes in direct provider payments.



## Investing in a Strong Transportation System

Gov. Evers has made historic investments in local road and state highway improvement projects, including directing the largest dedication of new, ongoing revenue to transportation in a generation and increasing transportation funding to municipalities in both budgets.

Gov. Evers has also proposed more than \$20 million in both budgets to invest in our mass transit systems statewide and to transition state-owned vehicles to clean energy and electric vehicles, as well as provisions to increase bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across the state. After Republicans slashed funding for public transit in the state's largest municipalities by 50 percent, Gov. Evers directed \$25 million in ARPA funding to bolster transit services and keep folks connected.

**SINCE 2019, THE EVERS ADMINISTRATION HAS IMPROVED MORE THAN 4,600 MILES OF HIGHWAYS AND LOCAL ROADS, REPAIRED NEARLY 1,500 BRIDGES, AND PROVIDED MORE THAN 387,000 HOMES AND BUSINESSES WITH HIGH-QUALITY, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET.**

## Connecting Folks to High-Speed Internet

Gov. Evers knows that broadband is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. Gov. Evers created the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access to guide the state's work to expand high-speed internet access and has made **record investments in Wisconsin's broadband access.**

Gov. Evers' first budget invested \$48 million into broadband across our state, which at the time was the largest state investment in broadband in state history. In his second budget, he beat his own record, investing \$129 million, and he has directed \$105 million in federal funds toward expanding high-speed internet.

With these investments, more business owners can get their products online, more seniors can stay connected to their families and communities, and more kids can get their homework done at home.



## Creating Safer, More Just Communities

Over the last year, Gov. Evers has invested more than \$100 million in violence prevention and community safety across the state, including funding for additional public defender support, support for crime victims, and summer youth programming and job training opportunities.

Gov. Evers also believes we can improve outcomes, reduce disparities, lessen reliance on prisons, keep communities safe, and reduce recidivism all at the same time by refocusing Wisconsin's justice system on evidence-based practices and investing in communities.

Gov. Evers believes in forgiveness and the power of redemption, which is why he reactivated the Pardon Advisory Board in 2019 after nine years of dormancy. So far, Gov. Evers has granted a total of more than 600 pardons, which is more pardons during his first term in office than any governor in recent history.

## Increasing Funding For Local Communities

For almost a decade, local communities have been asked to do more with less as state aid has been cut or held flat. That's why Gov. Evers has proposed increasing shared revenue—the state aid that goes to local communities to help fund essential services—in both of his previous budgets and will again propose an increase in his upcoming budget proposal.

Gov. Evers has already announced that he will propose a more than \$100 million investment to increase shared revenue to help local governments fund essential services, including an additional \$10 million investment to help support services like EMS, fire departments, and public safety to help keep our communities safe.

## Legalizing Marijuana

Gov. Evers believes it's long past time for Wisconsin to join other states in legalizing and taxing marijuana, much like we already do with alcohol, so we can continue to compete for talented workers to come to our state, expand access to medical treatment, and have more resources to invest in our communities.

Gov. Evers believes "the will of the people is the law of the land." According to a Marquette Law School Poll from August, nearly 70 percent of Wisconsinites support legalizing marijuana, including a majority of Republicans and Independents, yet Republicans in the Legislature have refused to legalize it. Gov. Evers proposed fully legalizing marijuana in his last budget and he will again propose it in his upcoming proposal.



## Tackling Climate Change and Advancing Clean Energy and Water

Gov. Evers has taken an enterprise-wide approach to combat the climate crisis and protect our air, water, and natural spaces.

During his first year in office, Gov. Evers committed to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, created the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, and created the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change.

Gov. Evers also released Wisconsin's first-ever Clean Energy Plan, providing a roadmap to meet the state's goal of 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2050 and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Gov. Evers is also working to ensure every Wisconsinite has access to clean, safe drinking water—whether it's replacing lead pipes and infrastructure, addressing manure and nitrate contaminants on farms, or tackling 'forever chemicals' like PFAS.

### GOVERNOR EVERS HAS TAKEN BOLD ACTION ON PFAS

- ✓ Created the PFAS Action Council
- ✓ Filed a lawsuit to hold PFAS polluters accountable
- ✓ Implemented drinking water standards
- ✓ Sampled nearly 160 municipal water systems
- ✓ Cleaning up more than 1,000 private wells

Gov. Evers also created an Office of Environmental Justice, which will promote strategies and policies to prevent disparate environmental outcomes in communities across the state. The Office will include a director of environmental justice and a chief resilience officer. Wisconsin is the **first state** in the Midwest to create a state-level chief resilience officer.

**WE DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND GOOD-PAYING JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—WITH GOV. EVERS' CLEAN ENERGY PLAN, WE CAN AND WILL DO BOTH.**