



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

## Legislative Update

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, is a non-profit advocacy organization of UW-Madison faculty. Formed by the Faculty Senate and governed by the University Committee, PROFS provides a voice to faculty, allowing them to communicate directly with the governor, legislators, and members of Congress.

### Fall Elections

Election Day is tomorrow, Tuesday, November 3. Polls are open in Wisconsin from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Anyone in line to vote at 8 p.m. can cast a vote. Unregistered voters may register at their polling place. More information on voting, including what types of photo identification are valid for voting is at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

The Madison area will have several new faces in the Wisconsin Legislature in 2021. State Senator Fred Risser (D-Madison) is retiring after a record 63 years in office, and Democrat Kelda Helen Roys has no opponent on the ballot. In the Assembly, Democrat Francesca Hong is the strong favorite to replace State Representative Chris Taylor, who chose not to run for re-election and became a Dane County Circuit Court judge. The eastside of Madison will also have new representation in the State Senate following the retirement of Senator Mark Miller, a Democrat from Monona. Rep. Melissa Sargent, with whom PROFS has a strong relationship, is heavily favored to win that seat.

### PROFS Statement on Policy Issues

PROFS recently released a statement on policy issues facing UW-Madison in 2020-21. This year, PROFS is focusing on issues related to the pandemic; efforts that maintain or improve access to voting, especially for students; a safe return to teaching and work on campus; a state budget that provides adequate resources to UW-Madison and UW System; and an improved UW System Presidential search process that includes faculty, staff and student participation. The full statement is on the PROFS website ([profs.wisc.edu](http://profs.wisc.edu)).

### COVID-19 and the State Budget

PROFS continues to carefully follow action on the state budget and advocate for the best possible outcome. Earlier this fall, a \$300 million state budget cut in the current fiscal year was announced. These cuts are in addition to the \$70 million cut taken last spring in the last quarter of the last fiscal year. The UW System portion of the new cut is \$45 million, \$24 million less than originally announced.

### UW System Update State Budget Proposal

The 2021-23 UW System operating budget proposal includes a 3.5 percent increase over the biennium and features ten key initiatives, including a system-wide free tuition program, the Wisconsin Tuition Promise, for Wisconsin families earning less than \$60,000 annually. The proposal extends Bucky's Tuition Promise, a UW-Madison program created in 2018, to all UW System universities. Other funding priorities include student loan forgiveness programs for state teachers, 20 new UW-Madison Division of Extension county-based agriculture positions, and support for the Freshwater Collaborative.

The 2021-23 capital budget includes two projects important to UW-Madison: a new engineering building to support increased growth in the College of Engineering and a new Letters & Science academic building to replace the aging Mosse Humanities Building.

### Join PROFS!

PROFS is funded entirely through modest monthly contributions from faculty and needs the support of all faculty to be most successful. Please use the membership form on the PROFS website ([profs.wisc.edu](http://profs.wisc.edu)) to join.

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