



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

## Legislative Update

### State Budget

The 2021-23 biennial state budget was the focus of PROFS' lobbying efforts during the first half of the year. Governor Tony Evers [introduced](#) his 2021-23 budget proposal in February, but Republican legislative leaders [rejected](#) the plan and began anew in the Joint Finance Committee. Ultimately, the Joint Finance Committee plan was approved by the Legislature in late June, and Governor Evers signed the bill into law with a handful of vetoes a week later.

The final bill included a 2 percent pay plan in each of the next two years for all state employees, including UW System faculty and staff; an end to the 8-year tuition freeze; and \$8.25 million in earmarked funding for specific projects throughout UW System, including \$5 million for the Freshwater Collaborative, \$2 million for UW-Extension county co-op agents, and \$250,000 for a Nelson Institute collaborative program with the Department of Defense. PROFS lobbied hard in support of the pay plan and increased management flexibilities for the university.

### Covid-19

PROFS is strongly opposed to the action by the Legislature's Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) that requires UW System to submit Covid-19 related policies to the committee for approval as an emergency rule. Our statement is [here](#). UW System Interim President said he does not believe the committee has oversight and will not comply with JCRAR's order.

### Legislation

[Assembly Bill 177/Senate Bill 209](#) PROFS registered against these bills that limit the use of drop boxes for returning absentee ballots.

[Assembly Bill 192/Senate Bill 203](#) PROFS registered against these bills that place new restrictions on absentee ballots. SB 203 was vetoed by Governor Evers on August 10, 2021.

[Assembly Bill 201/Senate Bill 204](#) PROFS registered against these bills that make it harder to use absentee ballots and register to vote electronically. SB 204 was vetoed by Governor Evers on August 10, 2021.

PROFS is strongly opposed to legislation that makes voting more difficult for faculty, staff, and students. Our statement is [here](#).

[Assembly Bill 195/Senate Bill 323](#) PROFS registered against these bills that prohibit transgender women from participating in UW System and Wisconsin Technical College System intercollegiate, intramural, and club sports. Our statement on this legislation is [here](#).

[Assembly Bill 347/Senate Bill 375](#) PROFS registered against these bills that prohibit UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System from requiring testing for, or vaccination against, COVID-19.

[Assembly Bill 362/Senate Bill 359](#) PROFS registered in favor of these bills that restore previous shared governance language to state statutes.

[Assembly Bill 363/Senate Bill 360](#) PROFS registered in favor of these bills that restore previous tenure language to state statutes.

[Assembly Bill 370/Senate Bill 260](#) PROFS registered against these bills that prohibit UW System and UW Hospital and Clinics from, while in the scope of their employment, performing or assisting the performance of an abortion. This legislation could jeopardize the accreditation of the obstetrics and gynecology residency program.

[Assembly Bill 413/Senate Bill 409](#) PROFS is registered against these bills that ban instruction on systemic racism (referred to in the media as Critical Race Theory) at UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System when introduced.

[Assembly Bill 568/Senate Bill 557](#) PROFS is registered in favor of these bills that expands the type of revenue the university currently is allowed to invest to generate additional returns.

*LRB-4150* PROFS will register in favor of this legislation when introduced. The bill will provide funding \$180,000 in funding in each of the next two years for UW-Madison's Missing-in-Action Recovery Project.

October 4, 2021