



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

The Wisconsin Partisan Primary was held August 9, determining who will be on the November 8 ballot. In the U.S. Senate race, Republican incumbent Ron Johnson will face Democratic Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes. In the gubernatorial race, Trump-backed business owner Tim Michels is challenging first-term Democratic Governor Tony Evers. Both races have attracted [national attention](#) with [pundits](#) suggesting the outcomes may predict the course of the 2024 elections. Regardless, the gubernatorial race has the potential to dramatically change the political landscape in the state. Should Gov. Evers lose, Republican leaders have an agenda they plan to implement, which includes [replacing most of the Board of Regents](#).

While [gerrymandering](#) all but guarantees Republicans will maintain a firm hold on their legislative majorities, there are several open seats in the area. West of Madison, State Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) and Mike Bare (D-Verona) are likely to replace retiring incumbents State Senator Jon Erpenbach and State Representative Sondy Pope, while Democrat Alex Joers is expected to be elected to the Assembly seat previously held by Hesselbein.

### How to Vote in Wisconsin

Voters in Wisconsin [can register](#) to vote online or by mail up to 20 days before an election or in person until the Friday before Election Day or while voting on Election Day. Proof of residency is required to register to vote, and a valid Wisconsin Driver's License or Wisconsin ID card is required for online registration. A UW-Madison ID, paystub, bank statement, credit card bill, or utility bill no more than 90 days old are valid for proof of residency.

### University of Wisconsin System

Milwaukee attorney Jay Rothman [became](#) UW System's 9<sup>th</sup> President in June. PROFS met with President Rothman earlier this year and discussed issues that are important UW-Madison faculty, including improved state funding for all System institutions, greater budget and management flexibilities, restoration of shared governance in state statutes, and support for improved recruitment and retention of faculty of color.

### UW System 2023-25 Budget Request

Led by Regent President Karen Walsh, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents [met and approved](#) its 2023-25 biennial budget request to the governor and state legislature on August 18. The budget calls for a \$115 million increase in the annual operating budget and full funding for 4% raises for all employees in each of the next two years. Regents also announced the 2023 launch of the [Wisconsin Tuition Promise](#), a financial aid program like [Bucky's Tuition Promise](#) at UW-Madison, and requested funding for year two of the program.

The [budget process](#) in Wisconsin is lengthy, it begins with the introduction of the governor's budget in late January or February and stretches into early summer when the legislature passes the budget, and the governor [has the ability to veto](#) all or portions of the bill. PROFS is actively engaged through every step of the process and communicates progress to faculty at key points.

### Stay in Touch

Stay on top of the issues facing UW-Madison by visiting our [website](#) or following PROFS:  [@PROFSUWMadison](#) or  [PROFSUWMadison](#).

### 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 to join. New members will receive a PROFS mug as a thank you (while supplies last).

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Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate University of Wisconsin–Madison

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