



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

December 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.

A Divided Fall Election

As expected, results from several of last month's elections were close, but not quite as close as those in 2020. Democratic Governor Tony Evers [defeated](#) Republican challenger Tim Michels by a comfortable margin, but Republican Senator Ron Johnson [held off](#) Democratic challenger Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes with a smaller margin of victory. In another closely watched federal race, Republican Derrick Van Orden [defeated](#) State Senator Brad Pfaff (D-La Crosse) by more than 3 points in a closely watched congressional race. Van Orden, a strong supporter of former President Trump, flipped the formerly Democratic seat and helped contribute to the narrow Republican majority in the next Congress.

As a result of extreme gerrymandering, Republicans in the statehouse will continue to have large margins over Democrats despite the nearly even statewide partisan split (64-35 in the Assembly and 21-11 in the Senate, with a vacancy due to the [retirement of State Senator Alberta Darling](#)). Democrats managed to [hold off](#) a veto-proof majority, but Republicans are likely to have a supermajority in the State Senate following an [April 8 election](#) in Darling's heavily Republican district. That [supermajority](#) will allow the GOP to expedite legislation and impeach elected state officials other than legislators and officials appointed by the governor including cabinet secretaries.

2023-25 State Budget

Governor Tony Evers [will deliver](#) his State of the State address on February 7 and while the governor is required by state law to deliver his budget address by January 31, Evers has asked the Legislature to allow him to deliver his budget address on February 28 or March 7. Evers has requested more time to allow more time to update the state budget figures. The state is in an enviable financial position with a projected [budget surplus](#) of more than \$6.6 billion by the end of the fiscal year.



Once introduced, the Republican-led Legislature could choose to start the budget process with their own bill, essentially throwing out Evers' plan as they [have done](#) the last two budget cycles under Evers. The governor, however, can still make significant changes to a Republican budget through his expansive [veto authority](#).

While Governor Evers has not said much about his budget plans for UW System, the Board of Regents [budget request](#) sent to the governor includes 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 is lengthy and stretches into early summer when the legislature passes the budget. PROFS is actively engaged through every step of the process and will communicate progress to faculty at key points over the next six to seven months.

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).

 @PROFSUWMadison  PROFSUWMadison

December 5, 2022

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