



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

As the result of a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision last year, Wisconsin is no longer one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. Republicans in the Legislature have had nearly veto-proof majorities for almost a decade, but the court decision will dramatically change the composition of the Legislature in 2025. And because of redistricting and retirements, there will be several new members of Legislature representing the greater Madison area.

At the federal level, Wisconsin is one of a handful of swing states – fewer than 25,000 voters determined the winner in each of the past two presidential elections in the state. Wisconsin voters may also decide which party controls the U.S. Senate in 2025. Democratic incumbent Senator Tammy Baldwin will face Republican challenger Eric Hovde in in a hotly-contested race. Both races have already attracted national attention and millions of dollars in advertising revenue.

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.

Universities of Wisconsin (UWs)

The [Universities of Wisconsin](#) (formerly UW System) is led by President Jay Rothman, and Amy Blumenfeld Bogost is president of the Board of Regents. Wisconsin, like many states, is facing a shrinking population of college-aged adults and UWs is grappling with budget and enrollment challenges. The Legislature recently [created a study committee](#) to discuss those challenges and PROFS is meeting with legislators on the committee and carefully following their meetings. Recommendations are expected later this fall.





Universities of Wisconsin 2025-27 Budget Request

The Board of Regents [met and approved](#) its 2025-27 biennial budget request to Governor Tony Evers and the Legislature last week. The budget calls for a record \$855 million increase in the annual operating budget. President Rothman said the request reflects his desire to shift Wisconsin from its [43rd place ranking](#) of public funding for four-year colleges and universities and bring Wisconsin to the median. The budget also includes an 8% pay raise over the next two years for most state employees, including UW-Madison faculty.

2025-27 Wisconsin Biennial Budget

The [budget process](#) in Wisconsin is lengthy, it begins with the introduction of the governor's budget in late January or early 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](#),  [PROFSUWMadison](#),  [profsumadison.bsky.social](#), and  [@profsumadison](#).

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).

8/27/24

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

258 Bascom Hall 500 Lincoln Drive Madison, WI 53706 608-263-9273 www.profs.wisc.edu