



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

## October 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 (November 5, 2024)

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 a hotly-contested race. Both races have already attracted national attention and [millions of dollars](#) in advertising revenue.

Voters in Wisconsin can register to vote online or by mail until October 16 or in person until November 1. 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. More information on voting in Wisconsin is here: [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov).

### Legislative Council Study Committee on the Future of UW System

Wisconsin is facing a shrinking population of college-aged adults and UW System is grappling with budget and enrollment challenges. A [legislative study committee](#) has been meeting since July to discuss those challenges and their recommendations are expected later this fall. Most of their discussion has centered on budgeting and governance, and some members have expressed support to [split UW-Madison from UW System](#). PROFS is urging members on the committee to include a proposal to return strong shared governance language to state statutes. We will continue to carefully follow the committee, especially with regard to how their recommendations may affect UW-Madison.

### 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 in August. 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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,  profsuwmadison.bsky.social, and  @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).

October 7, 2024