



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

## November 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 Tomorrow

As many of you know, as the result of a Wisconsin Supreme Court [decision](#) last year, Wisconsin is no longer one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. The GOP has had a nearly veto-proof majority for almost a decade, but the composition of the Legislature is likely to be [dramatically different](#) in January and much closer to the 50-50 partisan split. Because of redistricting and retirements, there will also be several new legislators representing the greater Madison area. UW-Madison will be represented in the Assembly by newcomer [Renuka Mayadev](#), a Democrat who is unopposed on tomorrow's ballot. Mayadev works on campus in the School of Medicine and Public Health.

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 is facing Republican challenger Eric Hovde in a hotly-contested race.

### [Legislative Council Study Committee on the Future of UW System](#)

A legislative study committee has been meeting since July to discuss UW System's enrollment and budget challenges. The committee met for last time last month and voted on 19 proposed recommendations, and the [results](#) of their votes were made public on Thursday. The most significant recommendation approved by the committee is one that would [create](#) a separate governing board and provide separate state appropriations UW-Madison. PROFS worked with committee member Alex Joers (D-Middleton) to include a recommendation that would return [shared governance](#) to state statutes, but were disappointed that the recommendation failed passage. We will continue to work with Rep. Joers on similar legislation next session.

PROFS intends to study the implications of the recommendations over the next several months, and we plan to host a public forum to explore the possible effects splitting UW-Madison from UW System. We want to engage with faculty members and others in the campus community to learn their thoughts and concerns about such a significant proposal.





### 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, including a campus forum with legislators, budget experts, and other stakeholders in the spring.

### 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 continue our success. 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

258 Bascom Hall 500 Lincoln Drive Madison, WI 53706 608-263-9273 [www.profs.wisc.edu](http://www.profs.wisc.edu)