



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.

Election Update

The 2025 Legislature will look significantly different following the November 5 elections. Following [court-mandated redistricting](#), Democrats [gained](#) ten seats in the Assembly and four seats in the Senate. There was also a larger than usual number of legislators who chose to retire rather than run for reelection, increasing the number of first-time legislators in both parties. UW-Madison will be represented in the Assembly by newcomer Renuka Mayadev, an employee of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, and Senator Kelda Roys, both Democrats who ran unopposed. PROFS has already met with Rep.-elect Mayadev, and has a longstanding relationship with Sen. Roys.

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Mark Pocan, who represents Madison, were both reelected, defeating their Republican challengers, and former President Donald Trump defeated Vice President Kamala Harris to win a second, non-consecutive term. Trump has named most of his Cabinet nominees, including Linda McMahon, former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, as his [nominee](#) for Education Secretary. While on the campaign trail, the President-elect said he would [eliminate](#) the Department of Education.

Legislative Council Study Committee on the Future of UW System

The study committee on UW System [voted](#) on 19 possible recommendations last month, including one that would split UW-Madison away from UW System by providing a separate appropriation and creating a separate governing board for UW-Madison. Late last month, the committee voted on a second round of recommendations.





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 of the recommendations. We want to engage with faculty members and others in the campus community to learn their thoughts and concerns about the recommendations that will be forwarded to the Legislature.

2025-27 State Budget

Governor Tony Evers is currently considering proposals from state agencies, including an \$855 million Universities of Wisconsin (UW System) [proposal](#), designed to move the UW to the median of our peers for revenue from state support and tuition (we are currently 43rd). Evers has [voiced](#) his support of the increase, but Assembly Speaker Robin Vos [said](#) such an increase is “probably not going to happen,” and the Republicans’ top priority is tax cuts.

The budget process generally stretches into mid-summer when the Legislature passes the budget and the Governor signs the bill with partial vetoes, but may go into the fall. Funding continues at current levels if a budget is not passed. PROFS is actively engaged throughout 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 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).

December 2, 2024