



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

May 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 50 years ago, PROFS provides a voice to faculty, allowing them to communicate directly with the governor, legislators, and members of Congress.

Wednesday, May 6: What is the Path Forward for Public Higher Education?

PROFS will host a campus forum on how public higher education can chart a path forward after many years of declining public opinion, political attacks and interference, and a call to refocus on a liberal arts curriculum in light of the AI boom.

The forum will be held at noon on Wednesday in Room 159 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall. Our panel has experience in higher education, politics, and marketing communications:

- State Representative Angela Stroud (D-Ashland), member of the Colleges & Universities Committee, former Northland College professor.
- Greg Summers, Senior Advisor, BVK Agency and Emeritus Provost, UW-Stevens Point. BVK is partnering with CASE on a national higher education campaign, The Proud Sponsor Campaign.
- Raymond Taffora, Emeritus Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, UW-Madison, former Wisconsin Deputy Attorney General, and Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Tommy Thompson.

Legislative Update

The Legislature has concluded its last regular session, but Governor Tony Evers called a special session on partisan gerrymandering last month. No action has been taken, but the session remains open. The governor and Republican legislative leaders are also thought to be negotiating an agreement to provide property tax relief and additional K-12 funding using a portion of the state's projected \$2.5 billion budget surplus.

Fall Elections

Candidates wishing to run for statewide or legislative races in Wisconsin must file valid nomination papers by June 1, and the fall primary election is Tuesday, August 11. After the adoption of newly-drawn legislative maps and more than 15 Republican legislators choosing to not run again, both parties have a chance of gaining control of the Assembly or Senate, or both. While eight Democrats are currently running for governor, Republicans have put their support behind Congressman Tom Tiffany of Minocqua.

PROFS plans to host one or more candidate forums in Dane County area legislative districts this summer. We will also reach out to the gubernatorial candidates to learn more about their positions on higher education and related issues.

Join PROFS

In 1976, a handful of UW-Madison faculty worked with the Faculty Senate to create PROFS with the requirement that at least half the faculty join PROFS as a condition of its creation. In recent years, PROFS membership has dipped below that threshold. As we mark our 50th anniversary, please consider joining PROFS if you are not already a member. Contributions are modest (one-tenth of one percent of your pay) and easy (a payroll deduction taken each pay period). New members will receive a PROFS mug as a small token of appreciation.

May 4, 2026

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