



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

University of Wisconsin System 2027-29 Budget Proposal

In August, the UW System Board of Regents [met and approved](#) a \$730 million budget described as “ongoing funding” for the System that focuses on affordability, the state’s workforce, and health-related research and improved access to health care.

Highlights include:

- \$190 million to allow UW System to freeze tuition in FY 28 and 29
- A commitment to limit tuition increases to the rate of inflation from 2029-31
- \$50 million for a new Work & Learn financial aid program
- \$70 million for faculty and staff compensation and recruitment and retention funds
- \$90 million to expand health care education capacity
- \$25 million for health-related research and partnerships

November 3 Elections

Former Democratic legislator and current Milwaukee County Executive [David Crowley](#) will face Republican Congressman and former state legislator [Tom Tiffany](#) of Minocqua in the race for governor. PROFS has asked each candidate to answer several questions about higher education and other important issues. We will post their replies as soon as they are received.

For the first time in many years, control of the legislature and governor's office is [up for grabs](#). New legislative maps have made many formerly gerrymandered districts more competitive, and the race for governor is without an incumbent. How UW-Madison fares in the state budget process will depend heavily on who is elected on November 3.

Executive Order Impacting National Institutes of Health Research Awards

Last month, the Trump administration [ordered](#) the Office of Management and Budget to draft new rules, in the form of an executive order, that would affect how the National Institutes of Health would make research awards. The proposal would create a committee that would have veto power over the scientific committee’s decisions about the granting of awards, and would politicize decisions about what science to fund, rather than base them in science. Several days later, the White House [indicated](#) it was moving away from the proposal after pushback from both Democratic and Republican members of Congress.

While the new rules were ultimately withdrawn, additional orders attacking scientific research are possible at any time. PROFS is in contact with members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation in Washington, urging them to stop the attacks on discovery, and we will continue to advocate for the advancement of knowledge free from ideological and political constraint. Our full statement is on the [PROFS website](#).

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 near the end of 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.

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