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

Fall Elections
Statewide elections will be held tomorrow, November 3. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm, and voters can register to vote at the polls with required documentation. Information on registration and voting is at myvote.wi.gov.

The race for governor is open for the first time in 8 years, and polls suggest that while Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley (Democrat) holds a narrow leader over Congressman Tom Tiffany (Republican), polling numbers are within the margin of error. PROFS asked both candidates to respond to a questionnaire on issues important to UW-Madison faculty. David Crowley's responses are on the PROFS website and Facebook page. Tom Tiffany did not respond to our request, but his positions below are linked to their sources.

UW Bonding Authority
Crowley: "open to working with university leaders and additional stakeholders to find a solution that will satisfy all parties."
Tiffany: "...I would not be willing to relinquish that authority" and "would have to see things change here at the UW, especially on the fiscal side."
UW Funding
Crowley: "...we have underinvested in our four-year universities for too long. I support increasing state funding for both (technical colleges)..."
Tiffany: "...I will implement a tuition freeze and restore accountability to our universities..."
Top Legislative Priorities
Crowley: "My priorities include property tax relief and stronger state support for public schools, including special education...Our support for public schools must extend to our world-class 2- and 4-year institutions."
Tiffany: "We're going to return all of this budget surplus to the people, every dollar of it."

2027-29 State Budget
The UW System Board of Regents 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

Join PROFS
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.

November 2, 2026