



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: 262-236-2941
Fax: 262-242-9655

www.cityofmequonwi.gov

Office of the City Administrator

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

5:00 PM

North Conference Room

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes
Action requested: review and approve
 - a. June Meeting Minutes
- 3) Ordinances
Action requested: review and recommend approval
 - a. **ORDINANCE 2025-1683** An Ordinance Amending Section 62-10(d)(4) of the Mequon Municipal Code Related to Common Council Approval of Signs on Public Property
- 4) Discussion
 - a. Campaign Finance Reform
 - b. Community Survey Update
 - c. Speed Deterrence/Traffic Calming
- 5) Adjourn

Dated: August 12, 2025

/s/ Dale Mayr, Chair

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of other governmental bodies may be present at this meeting to present, discuss and/or gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility, although they will not take formal action thereto at this meeting.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914, twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

Any questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Administrator's Office at 262-236-2941, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM



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Office of the City Administrator

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

5:30 PM

Lower Conference Room

Minutes

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Present:

Alderman Gregg Bach
Alderman Brian Parrish
Chair Dale Mayr - **Absent**

Also Present: Assistant City Administrator Schoenemann, Alderman Gebhardt, Executive Assistant Enea, Charley Hanney (*New- Graphic Reporter*)

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Public Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**
MOVED BY: Alderman Parrish
SECONDED BY: Alderman Bach

AYES:	Bach, Parrish
ABSENT:	Mayr

3) Discussion Items

a. Community Survey Update

Executive Assistant Enea gave the Committee an update on the progress of the Community Survey that was continuing through the end of the month. The City sent out 2,500 paper surveys to the statistical sample and 10,615 postcards to all households. On May 27, 380 surveys were completed, 765 as of June 3, and 1,314 as of June 9. ETC Institute is very pleased with the community participation from the numerous means used to get the word out, including social media, the weekly bulletin, the electronic sign, yard signs, the website, and

Attachment: PWC Minutes - June 10, 2025 (10549 : June Meeting Minutes)

News-Graphic articles. An initial summary of the report will be shared at the August Public Welfare Committee meeting, and a full report will be given by ETC Consultant Robert Heacock at the September Committee of the Whole Meeting.

b. Community-Wide Wildlife Habitats Designation

Assistant City Administrator Schoenemann shared with the Committee how a resident contacted the City in March and requested that it look into obtaining a Community-Wide Wildlife Habitats Designation. Currently, the City has Bird City, Bee City, and Tree City designations in conjunction with the Mequon Nature Preserve, which oversees local compliance with the programs' specified criteria. Residents can seek to have their residences and/or properties individually certified as wildlife habitats by meeting certain requirements. For a community to become certified, 250 property owners would be needed to reach the program's threshold. It would also require administrative outreach and ongoing staff time. The Committee discussed the suggestion, and decided to support public education and awareness of the program's existence. Accordingly, they recommended publicizing it as an option for residents to pursue on their own within the City's Weekly Bulletin.

c. Speed Bumps

RESULT: Tabled [Unanimous]
MOVED BY: Alderman Bach
SECONDED BY: Alderman Parrish

AYES:	Bach, Parrish
ABSENT:	Mayr

4) Work Calendar

At the next meeting, the Committee will be provided with initial Community Survey results and will discuss speed bumps in more detail.

5) Adjourn

Alderman Parrish moved to adjourn at 5:56 PM and Alderman Bach seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Enea
Executive Assistant



www.cityofmequonwi.gov

11333 N. Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092-1930
Phone: 262-242-3100
Fax: 262-242-9655

Office of City Attorney

TO: Public Welfare Committee
FROM: Brian Sajdak, City Attorney
DATE: August 4, 2025
SUBJECT: ORDINANCE 2025-1683 An Ordinance Amending Section 62-10(d)(4) of the Mequon Municipal Code Related to Common Council Approval of Signs on Public Property

Background

Following the Council's recent adoption of the revised sign code, one issue has presented itself related to whether Council approval is required for certain signs. Specifically, signs related to certain community events have created questions about the code.

Presently, Section 62-10(d)(2) of the Code authorizes, as government speech (that is, speech which is made by the City itself), the city administrator to approve messages on the Gateway electronic message board related "events and programs organized or funded by the city." Section 62-10(d)(4)n, on the other hand, excepts from the sign regulations government speech on signs that promote "programs and initiatives organized or funded by the city, provided that such promotion is approved by the common council prior to the signs being installed." There are some concerns that this language is slightly conflicting which created questions. For example, is the administrator's authority related to approving message board signs limited by the second provision which requires council approval of the specific promotion?

The second issue that arose is signs for things that the Council would likely approve for a community event for which there is no time to get council approval prior to the event. For example, Arbor Day events, Fun before the Fourth, and the Taste of Mequon. Each presented unique questions when they were ready to be installed.

As a result of these concerns, the proposed ordinance makes two changes. First, it eliminates the provision of Section 62-10(d)(4)n to eliminate the slight redundancy and inconsistency it created. To the extent that there was a slight difference between this section and the provisions of Section 62-10(d)(2), provisions of sub. (4) were added to sub. (2). Second, it clarifies that the city administrator has the authority to approve signs for city events and non-commercial community events. Council approval would still be required for other activities of city government or to express positions of the city.

Recommendation

Such action as the Committee deems appropriate.

COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF MEQUON

ORDINANCE 2025-1683

An Ordinance Amending Section 62-10(d)(4) of the Mequon Municipal Code Related to
Common Council Approval of Signs on Public Property

RECITALS

A. The Common Council previous adopted Section 62-10 of the Mequon Municipal Code related to the placement of signs on public property.

B. The Common Council finds that the regulation of the placement of signs so as to ensure the safety of pedestrians, traffic, and occupants of buildings remains a critical and necessary component of preserving the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

C. The Common Council finds Chapter 62 reflects current trends and demands for signs while being narrowly tailored to the public's compelling interest in such regulation in a manner which is the least restrictive method of reaching those interests.

D. The Common Council wishes to provide additional guidance and authority within the Code as it relates to governmental speech.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING RECITALS, the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION I

Section 62-10(d) of the Mequon Municipal Code is amended to read as follows (NOTE: Deleted text is ~~struck through~~; Added text is **bold underlined**):

(d) *Other public property.*

(1) This subsection (d) shall not apply to the following:

a. Signs on properties owned or controlled by any governmental entity other than the city. Monument, wall and directional signage on such properties shall be regulated to the extent allowed by law by provisions of this chapter 62 other than this section. Those entities shall

regulate signs, including signs installed by third-parties, under their own authority.

b. Signs on properties leased from the city under a long term written lease of more than one year (e.g., the lease with Mequon Nature Preserve), but not including special event leases or licenses. Monument, wall and directional signage on such properties shall be regulated to the extent allowed by law by provisions of this chapter 62 other than this section. Subject to restrictions in their leases, tenants under such leases shall regulate signs, including signs installed by third-parties, under their own authority.

(2) The city has the right to engage in government speech and to promote on public property the events, initiatives, and programs the city organizes or funds, other activities of the city government and positions taken by the city. Accordingly, the city may promote such events, initiatives, programs, activities and positions on the electronic message board adjacent to the Mequon-Thiensville Gateway Monument and by installing, or permitting the installation of, signs elsewhere on public property including without limitation in any park, all publicly owned areas around any city building or in any right-of-way subject to the following conditions:

a. No such sign may promote any candidate for public office, referendum on any ballot or political party.

b. The city administrator or his or her designee may authorize messages on the electronic message board adjacent to the Mequon-Thiensville Gateway Monument or signs installed elsewhere on public property provided that the messages are limited to (i) the current date and time; and (ii) the name, date, time and/or place of events and programs organized, sponsored, or funded by the city, county, school district, or community-service based non-profit organization provided that such non-city events or programs are for a non-commercial purpose. The city administrator may not authorize signs for non-city events or programs to be placed in road right-of-way.

c. The common council may specifically authorize messages on the electronic message board adjacent to the Mequon-Thiensville Gateway Monument or signs installed elsewhere on public property provided that they relate to (a) the events and programs the city organizes,

sponsors, or funds, or similar events or programs organized, sponsored, or funded by the county, school district, or a community-service based non-profit organization; (b) other activities of the city government; and (c) positions taken by the city as approved by the common council.

(3) The Frank L. Weyenberg Library may display messages on the electronic message board outside of the library subject to the following conditions:

a. No such sign may promote any candidate for public office, referendum on any ballot or political party or advocate any political or public policy position.

b. Messages on the electronic message board shall be limited to (i) the operating policies of the library approved by the Frank L. Weyenberg Library Board of Trustees; (ii) the name, date, time and/or place of library-related events and programs organized or funded by the library or the library foundation; (iii) the books, materials and electronic offerings of the library; and (iv) books and materials sold by the library.

(4) Subject to the preceding paragraphs, no signs shall be installed on any public property, including without limitation in any park, all publicly owned areas around any city building or in any right-of-way except for the following, each of which the city expressly permits as an expression of government speech:

a. Any sign described in subsection (c)(1) of this section, other than the signs in part f. of such section, including any such described sign located on public property outside of a street reserved area.

b. The American flag, the flag of the State of Wisconsin and the flag, if any, of the city.

c. Outside of a public building or park, one or more signs specifying the name or address, or both, of the building or park. Such a sign may contain the city logo or the logo for the city's park system.

d. Signs installed by the city on the day of or evening before an election day stating nothing more than "vote here" and giving the hours of voting. Such signs shall be removed at the conclusion of voting or on the following day.

e. A sign on the outside of city hall designating the city's drop box.

f. Signs approved by the common council or a committee designated by the common council recognizing donors and contributors toward an improvement to which the sign is attached or adjacent.

g. Signs required by government or quasi-governmental authorities other than the city as a condition of funding of improvements.

h. Signs specifying the city's rules and regulations for the property or facility.

i. Advertising signs at public athletic fields provided that the advertiser has paid an annual fee for the sign.

j. Words, logos and depictions on tombstones in any cemetery.

k. Directional signs, maps and signs identifying features of interest on city property.

l. The following signs that have been installed prior to the date of the enactment of this division:

[1] The Mequon-Thiensville sign on the Gateway Monument at the corner of Mequon and Cedarburg Roads; and

[2] the four historic signs around such monument.

m. Monuments, memorials and artwork that is either commissioned by the common council or accepted by the common council pursuant to its inherent right to government speech prior to installation.

~~n. Signs promoting events, programs and initiatives organized or funded by the city, provided that such promotion is approved by the common council prior to such signs being installed.~~

SECTION II

The terms and provision of this ordinance are severable. Should any term of provision of this ordinance be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION III

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in contravention to this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and on the day after its publication.

Approved by: Andrew Nerbun, Mayor

Date Approved: August 12, 2025

I certify that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, at a meeting held on August 12, 2025.

Caroline Fochs, City Clerk

Published: _____



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 Fax: 262-242-9655

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Office of Administration

TO: Public Welfare Committee
FROM: Brian Sajdak, City Attorney
DATE: August 7, 2025
SUBJECT: Campaign Finance Reform

Background

At the May Common Council meeting, Mequon resident Kim Ebinger spoke during the citizen comment portion of the meeting to ask the Council to consider adopting a resolution related to a Constitutional amendment related to campaign finance reform. Based upon this request, the topic was considered at the Committee of the Whole meeting in June. At that time, there appeared to be general consensus about the existence of the problem and a desire for some action. However, there was significant debate about whether it was something that elected City Officials should act upon as an action of the City (as opposed to individual elected officials taking their own personal action). Based upon this debate, the topic was referred to the Public Welfare Committee for further discussion and consideration.

Discussion

Ms. Ebinger's presentation included information obtained from an organization called Wisconsin United to Amend. This organization "is a cross-partisan state network of concerned citizens dedicated to restoring our representative democracy." The goal of the organization is to amend the Constitution to effectively overturn the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. More specifically, the organization is seeking to have local governments adopt a resolution in favor of a Constitutional amendment in general, and to specifically support the current Joint Resolution pending in both houses of the Wisconsin legislature. That Joint Resolution calls for the placing of the following question on the November 2026 ballot:

"The U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in *Citizens United* and related cases allow unlimited spending to influence local, state, and federal elections. To allow all Americans to have an equal say in our democracy, shall Wisconsin's congressional delegation support, and the Wisconsin Legislature ratify, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating:

1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights-not corporations, unions, nonprofit organizations, or other artificial entities; and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech?"

This memo will next address some of the questions raised during the Council's consideration of this topic.

A. What is Citizens United?

Citizens United is a 2010 Supreme Court case that struck down the 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (commonly known as the McCain-Feingold Act). The McCain-Feingold Act generally prohibited “electioneering communications” by corporations. The decision held that the McCain-Feingold Act had the effect of limiting political speech of corporations and, accordingly, the Act was unconstitutional. The decision effectively allowed for unlimited election spending by organizations including corporations and unions. The decision was followed by subsequent cases which resulted in the creation of super PACs and the elimination of the limits on individual donations to national political parties and candidate committees.

B. How is the Constitution amended?

Article V of the Constitution provides that the Constitution can be amended in two ways. First, two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature can propose an amendment. Second, the legislatures of two thirds of the States can call for a Constitutional Convention for proposing amendments. In either case, the proposed amendment is not effective until it is approved by the legislature or a convention in three fourths of the States.

C. Is it ok for the Council to take a position on behalf of the City?

Legally, yes. The Courts have long recognized the ability for government to engage in its own speech:

The Free Speech Clause restricts government regulation of private speech; it does not regulate government speech. *See Johanns v. Livestock Marketing Assn.*, 544 U.S. 550, 553, 125 S. Ct. 2055, 161 L. Ed. 2d 896 (2005) (“[T]he Government’s own speech . . . is exempt from First Amendment scrutiny”); *Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Democratic National Committee*, 412 U.S. 94, 139, n. 7, 93 S. Ct. 2080, 36 L. Ed. 2d 772 (1973) (Stewart, J., concurring) (“Government is not restrained by the First Amendment from controlling its own expression”). A government entity has the right to “speak for itself.” *Board of Regents of Univ. of Wis. System v. Southworth*, 529 U.S. 217, 229, 120 S. Ct. 1346, 146 L. Ed. 2d 193 (2000). “[I]t is entitled to say what it wishes,” *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va.*, 515 U.S. 819, 833, 115 S. Ct. 2510, 132 L. Ed. 2d 700 (1995), and to select the views that it wants to express, *see Rust v. Sullivan*, 500 U.S. 173, 194, 111 S. Ct. 1759, 114 L. Ed. 2d 233 (1991); *National Endowment for Arts v. Finley*, 524 U.S. 569, 598, 118 S. Ct. 2168, 141 L. Ed. 2d 500 (1998) (Scalia, J., concurring in judgment) (“It is the very business of government to favor and disfavor points of view”). Indeed, it is not easy to imagine how government could function if it lacked this freedom. “If every citizen were to have a right to insist that no one paid by public funds express a view with which he disagreed, debate over issues of great concern to the public would be limited to those in the private sector, and the process of government as we know it radically transformed.” *Keller v. State Bar of Cal.*, 496 U.S. 1, 12-13, 110 S. Ct. 2228, 110 L. Ed. 2d 1 (1990). *See also Johanns*, 544 U.S., at 574, 125 S. Ct. 2055, 161 L. Ed. 2d 896 (Souter, J., dissenting) (“To govern, government has to say something, and a First Amendment heckler’s veto

of any forced contribution to raising the government's voice in the 'marketplace of ideas' would be out of the question" (footnote omitted))

Pleasant Grove City v. Summum, 555 U.S. 460, 467-68, 129 S. Ct. 1125, 1131, 172 L.Ed.2d 853, 861 (2009).

While the First Amendment does not limit the right of the government to engage in speech, there are limits. “For example, government speech must comport with the Establishment Clause. The involvement of public officials in advocacy may be limited by law, regulation, or practice. And of course, a government entity is ultimately “accountable to the electorate and the political process for its advocacy.” “If the citizenry objects, newly elected officials later could espouse some different or contrary position.” *Ibid.*” *Id.* at 468-69, 129 S. Ct. at 1131-32, 172 L.Ed.2d at 862 (2009)(quoting *Southworth*, 529 U.S., at 235, 120 S. Ct. 1346, 146 L. Ed. 2d 193.). Ultimately, “The Constitution therefore relies first and foremost on the ballot box, not on rules against viewpoint discrimination, to check the government when it speaks.” *Shurtleff v. City of Bos.*, 596 U.S. 243, 251-52, 142 S. Ct. 1583, 1589, 212 L.Ed.2d 621, 628 (2022)(citing *Board of Regents of Univ. of Wis. System v. Southworth*, 529 U. S. 217, 235, 120 S. Ct. 1346, 146 L. Ed. 2d 193 (2000)).

D. Can’t the City just hold an advisory referendum to put the question to the voters?

No. In 2023, the Legislature adopted Wis. Stat. § 66.0144 which provides that “No city, village, or town may conduct a referendum for advisory purposes, except as provided under s. 66.0305 (6), 66.0307 (4) (e), 66.0420 (12) (b) 2., 66.0422 (3) (b), or 196.204 (2m) (b) 2. or for an advisory referendum regarding capital expenditures proposed to be funded by the property tax levy of the city, village, or town.”

Attachments:

Campaign Finance Reform (PDF)

Throughout our State and Country, citizens are expressing their displeasure with the current state of affairs when it comes to money in politics. In a recent PEW survey, where participants were asked their opinions about important national economic issues, the role of money in politics was number one. Citizens across the country are imploring their legislators to take action.

Voters want Congress and the president to address the influence of money in elections, and they overwhelmingly support the proposal and ratification of the ***For Our Freedom Amendment***.

The ***For Our Freedom Amendment*** returns power from wealthy elites to American voters by empowering the States and Congress to set reasonable limits on political spending, ensuring every American voice counts. We believe that each generation has a responsibility to ensure that the promise of self-government is open to all Americans. However, the corrupting influence of excessive money in politics has distorted representation in American by concentrating power in the elite donor class. The influence of money in politics isn't just a political challenge -it's a constitutional one. This Amendment provides States with the authority to regulate campaign financing.

The movement for a constitutional amendment is, at its core, a grassroots effort driven by very real concerns about challenges to our democracy that reverberate in each and every community. Many of the improvements to the constitution came by way of citizens forcing change. Each time the citizens demanded change, the politicians acted only when enough people spoke out. Only when the citizen voice was big enough did the politicians create a constitutional amendment. Our nation was founded on the principle that "We, the People" are to govern ourselves as a democratic republic.

Proposed Text of the Amendment to the Constitution

Section 1. We the People have compelling sovereign interests in the freedom of speech, representative self-government, federalism, the integrity of the electoral process, and the political equality of natural persons.

Section 2. Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to forbid Congress or the States, within their respective jurisdictions, from reasonably regulating and limiting contributions and spending in campaigns, elections, or ballot measures.

Section 3. ~~Congress and the States shall have the power to implement and enforce this article~~ by appropriate legislation and may distinguish between natural persons and artificial entities, including by prohibiting artificial entities from raising and spending money in campaigns, elections, or ballot measures.

To date, 23 States – Red and Blue - have called on Congress to propose the Amendment so far. 12 States, including Wisconsin, are considering resolutions in 2025. The number of Wisconsin Communities that have called for an Amendment is now at 179. Our ask today is for you to make Mequon number 180.

We want Wisconsin to become the 24th State to pass a Resolution calling for Congress to act. At this moment, Senate Joint Resolution 121 is moving through our State legislature with bipartisan support –

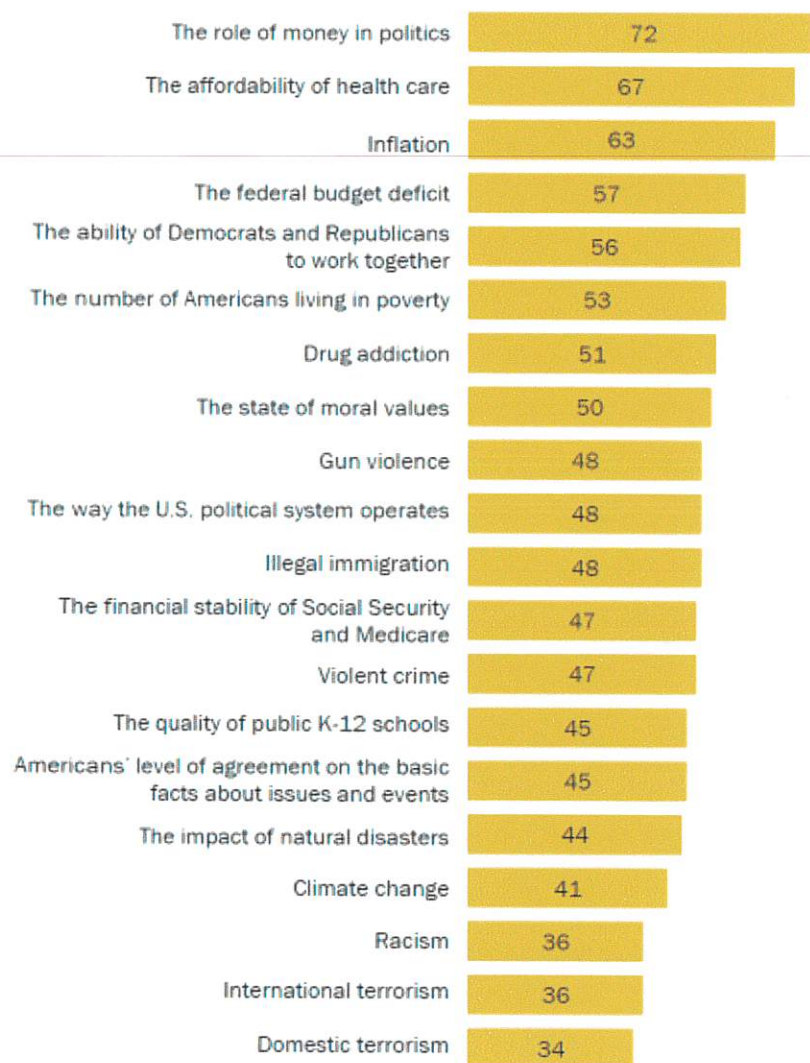
Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the Wisconsin Legislature, on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, declares its support for a constitutional amendment to clarify that states may regulate the spending of money to influence federal elections, and that in doing so, the states and Congress may distinguish between natural persons and legally recognized entities such as corporations, unions, and government authorities; and, be it further

Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and submitted to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate, and each member of the Wisconsin congressional delegation.

We are working to get as many municipalities in our State to pass a Resolution supporting this so that our State legislators see how important it is to their constituents. Our request is for the Mequon Common Council to support this by passing a Resolution already passed in 179 municipalities in Wisconsin.

Economic issues top the public's list of national concerns – including the role of money in politics

% who say ___ is a *very big problem* in the country today



Note: Refer to the topline for a full list of items.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 27-Feb. 2, 2025.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Wisconsin Communities that have Called for an Amendment

1. City of Madison – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2011, with 84% approval.
2. Dane County – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2011, with 78% approval.
3. City of West Allis – petition referendum on ballot April 3, 2012, with 70% approval.
4. Town of Westport – board passed resolution May 7, 2012.
5. Dunn County – board passed resolution July 25, 2012. Then put on ballot and passed 72% on Nov 4, 2014.
6. Eau Claire County – board placed referendum on ballot Nov. 6, 2012, with 71% approval.
7. Chippewa County – board placed referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 68% approval.
8. City of Fort Atkinson – petition forced referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 77% approval.
9. City of Whitewater – petition referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 84% approval.
10. Douglas County – board of supervisors unanimously approved resolution June 20, 2013.
11. Town of Exeter – town board unanimously approved resolution July 8, 2013.
12. Jefferson County – board of supervisors voted 23-5 to approve resolution July 9, 2013.
13. Town of Koshkonong – town board approved resolution with a July 10, 2013 80% ballot approval.
14. Town of Oakland – town board unanimously approved resolution July 16, 2013.
15. City of Kenosha – city council voted 13-2 to approve resolution August 5, 2013.
16. Town of Sumner – town board unanimously approved resolution August 12, 2013.
17. Town of Watertown – town board unanimously approved resolution August 12, 2013.
18. Kenosha County – board voted 19-4 to approve resolution August 20, 2013.
19. Town of Jefferson – town board voted 4-1 to approve resolution September 5, 2013.
20. Town of Farmington – town board unanimously approved resolution September 5, 2013.
21. Town of Spring Valley – town board unanimously approved resolution September 9, 2013.
22. Town of Lake Mills – town board unanimously approved resolution September 10, 2013.
23. Town of Richmond – town board unanimously approved resolution September 17, 2013.
24. Town of Cross Plains – town board unanimously approved resolution November 11, 2013.
25. Town of Avon – town board unanimously approved resolution December 2, 2013.
26. Town of Porter – town board voted 2 for and 1 abstaining to approve resolution December 16, 2013.
27. Town of Plymouth – town board unanimously approved resolution January 14, 2014.
28. Town of Newark – town board unanimously approved resolution February 10, 2014.
29. City of Waukesha – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 69% approval.
30. City of Wauwatosa – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 64% approval.
31. City of Edgerton – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 87% approval.
32. City of Elkhorn – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 69% approval.
33. City of Delavan – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 76% approval.
34. City of Lake Mills – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 73% approval.
35. Village of Belleville – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 85% approval.
36. Village of Shorewood – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 76% approval.
37. Village of Whitefish Bay – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 65% approval.
38. Village of Waunakee – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 79% approval.
39. Village of DeForest – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 70% approval.
40. Town of Windsor – town board approved resolution with an April 1, 2014 71% ballot approval.
41. Town of Waterloo – board placed referendum on ballot April 1, 2014 61% ballot approval.
42. Town of Viroqua – town board approved resolution per citizen unanimous vote April 20, 2014.
43. Town of Janesville – town board unanimously approved resolution July 7, 2014.
44. Town of Dunn – town board unanimously approved resolution Aug 28, 2014.
45. Milwaukee County – board placed referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 70% approval.
46. City of Green Bay – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 77% approval.
47. City of Appleton – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 74% approval.

48. City of Fond du Lac – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 73% approval.
49. City of Neenah – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
50. City of Menasha – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 80% approval.
51. City of Ripon – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
52. City of Wausau – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 77% approval.
53. City of Stoughton – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 82% approval.
54. Village of Oregon – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
55. Village of Park Ridge – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 83% approval.
56. City of Watertown – petition referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with a 69% approval.
57. City of Evansville – petition referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with an 80% approval.
58. Town of Reedsburg – board placed referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with a 63% ballot approval.
59. Town of Ellington – town board approved resolution April 21, 2015.
60. City of Mauston – city council unanimously approved a resolution June 23, 2015.
61. City of New Lisbon - city council unanimously approved a resolution July 20, 2015.
62. Town of Greenville – town board voted 3-2 to approve resolution October 12, 2015.
63. Village of Belmont – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 88% approval.
64. City of Beloit – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with a 74% approval.
65. City of Brodhead – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 85% approval.
66. Town of Clamo – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 85% ballot approval.
67. City of Darlington – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 81% approval.
68. City of Janesville – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 84% approval.
69. City of Lancaster – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 85% approval.
70. City of New London – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 81% approval.
71. City of Monroe – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 82% approval.
72. City of Platteville – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 84% approval.
73. Town of York – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 86% ballot approval.
74. Town of Fountain – town board approved resolution per citizen vote (8-1-1) April 20, 2016.
75. Town of Mt. Pleasant – unanimous board approval May 16, 2016. Referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
76. City of Milton – city council unanimously approved resolution August 16, 2016.
77. Town of Marion – town board unanimously approved resolution September 8, 2016.
78. Rock County – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
79. City of Reedsburg – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
80. City of Manitowoc – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 81% approval.
81. City of Delafield – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 79% approval.
82. Village of Neshkoro – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
83. Village of New Glarus – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
84. Village of Spring Valley – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 91% approval.
85. Village of Osceola – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
86. Village of Mount Horeb – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 84% approval.
87. Village of Monticello – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
88. Village of Clayton – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
89. Town of New Glarus – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 83% approval.
90. Town of Harris – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 65% approval.
91. Town of Springdale – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
92. Town of Decatur – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 89% approval.
93. Town of Cadiz – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 87% approval.
94. Town of Lake Tomahawk – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 91% approval.
95. Town of West Point – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 67% approval.
96. Town of Clayton – town board unanimously approved resolution January 18, 2017.
97. City of Sturgeon Bay – council unanimously approved resolution March 21, 2017.
98. City of Racine - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 81% approval.
99. City of Monona - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 91% approval.
100. Village of Fox Crossing - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 81% approval.
101. Village of Blue Mounds - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 88% approval.
102. Town of Blue Mounds - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 84% approval.
103. Town of Jordan - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 71% approval.

104. Town of Crystal Lake - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 79% approval.
105. Town of Caledonia - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 70% approval.
106. Town of Bailey's Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution June 12, 2017.
107. Town of Egg Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution June 19, 2017.
108. Town of Liberty Grove – board unanimously approved resolution July 5, 2017.
109. Village of Egg Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution July 10, 2017.
110. Village of Ephraim – board unanimously approved resolution July 11, 2017.
111. City of Merrill – board voted 7-1 to approve resolution July 11, 2017.
112. Town of Forestville – board unanimously approved resolution July 18, 2017.
113. Town of Gibraltar – board voted 4-1 to approve resolution August 2, 2017.
114. Town of Sturgeon Bay – board unanimously approved resolution September 4, 2017.
115. Town of Jacksonport – board unanimously approved resolution September 26, 2017.
116. Town of Brussels – board unanimously approved resolution November 8, 2017.
117. Village of Forestville – board unanimously approved resolution November 21, 2017.
118. Town of Clay Banks – board unanimously approved resolution December 14, 2017.
119. Town of Nasewaupee – board unanimously approved resolution December 15, 2017.
120. Town of Union – board unanimously approved resolution February 14, 2018.
121. Green County – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 78% approval.
122. St. Croix County – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 77% approval.
123. City of La Crosse – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 88% approval.
124. City of Marshfield – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 81% approval.
125. City of Sun Prairie – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 83% approval.
126. City of Rice Lake – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 81% approval.
127. Village of McFarland – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 79% approval.
128. Village of Wittenberg – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 83% approval.
129. Town of Sand Creek – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 77% approval.
130. Town of Gardner – board unanimously approved resolution April 17, 2018.
131. Door County – board of supervisors voted 19-2 to approve resolution April 17, 2018.
132. Village of Sister Bay – board unanimously approved resolution May 24, 2018.
133. City of Black River Falls – board approved resolution 7-0 in support of the Jackson County referendum August 7, 2018.
134. Jackson County – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 69% approval.
135. Sauk County – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 72% approval.
136. Wood County – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 80% approval.
137. Village of Readstown – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 91% approval.
138. Village of Westfield – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 87% approval.
139. Village of Weston – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 83% approval.
140. Town of Kickapoo – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 85% approval.
141. Town of Rib Mountain – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 78% approval.
142. Town of Vermont – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 86% approval.
143. City of Shawano – board voted 5-1 to approve resolution December 12, 2018.
144. City of Richland Center – board voted 6-1-1 to approve resolution December 18, 2018.
145. City of Phillips – board voted unanimously to approve resolution October 1, 2019.
146. City of Park Falls – board voted unanimously to approve resolution October 14, 2019.
147. City of Rhinelander - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 89% approval.
148. City of Eagle River - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 87% approval.
149. Town of Wescott - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.
150. Town of Newbold - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 87% approval.
151. Town of Crescent - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 83% approval.
152. Town of Pelican - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 85% approval.
153. Town of Woodruff - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 85% approval.
154. Town of Pine Lake - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.
155. Town of Hazelhurst - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.
156. Town of Arbor Vitae - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 87% approval.
157. Town of Presque Isle - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 79% approval.
158. Town of Winchester - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 79% approval.
159. Town of Boulder Junction - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.

160. Town of Phelps - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 81% approval.
161. Town of Lac du Flambeau - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 85% approval.
162. Town of Plum Lake - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 82% approval.
163. Town of Manitowish Waters - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 77% approval.
164. Lafayette County – board voted unanimously to approve resolution May 19, 2020.
165. Winnebago County – ballot referendum passed November 3, 2020 with a 76% approval.
166. Town of Land O' Lakes – ballot referendum passed November 3, 2020 with a 84% approval.
167. Town of Red Springs – ballot referendum passed April 5, 2022 with a 89% approval.
168. Town of Bartelme – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2022 with a 88% approval.
169. Brown County – board voted 22-2-1 to approve resolution December 21, 2022.
170. City of Viroqua – ballot referendum passed April 4, 2023 with a 91% approval.
171. Town of Dale – board voted unanimously to approve resolution November 13, 2023.
172. Town of Grand Chute – board voted unanimously to approve resolution December 5, 2023.
173. Town of Roxbury – board voted unanimously to approve resolution February 19, 2024.
174. City of Oshkosh – board voted unanimously to approve resolution March 12, 2024.
175. City of Middleton – board voted unanimously to approve resolution May 7, 2024.
176. Town of Middleton – board voted unanimously to approve resolution May 20, 2024.
177. City of Eau Claire – board voted unanimously to approve resolution August 27, 2024.
178. Village of Rockdale – board voted unanimously to approve resolution November 18, 2024.

De Pere

Average "Yes" votes of all communities where citizens voted on a ballot = **81%**

In total, 3.5 million people (62% of Wisconsinites) live in jurisdictions that have called for the United To Amend Amendment. Nationwide, over **840 communities** have passed resolutions and **22 states** have called for an amendment.

States that have Called for an Amendment

1. Hawaii (April 28, 2010)
2. Maryland (January 19, 2012)
3. New Mexico (February 7, 2012)
4. Vermont (April 19, 2012)
5. Rhode Island (May 30, 2012)
6. California (July 5, 2012)
7. Massachusetts (July 31, 2012)
8. Connecticut (September 12, 2012)
9. New Jersey (Oct. 18, 2012)
10. Montana (November 6, 2012)
11. Colorado (November 6, 2012)
12. West Virginia (April 10, 2013)
13. Maine (April 30, 2013)
14. Illinois (May 31, 2013)
15. Delaware (June 10, 2013)
16. Oregon (July 1, 2013)
17. New York (June 15, 2016)
18. Washington (November 8, 2016)
19. Nevada (May 25, 2017)
20. New Hampshire (June 6, 2019)
21. Alaska (November 3, 2020)
22. Virginia (January 28, 2021)

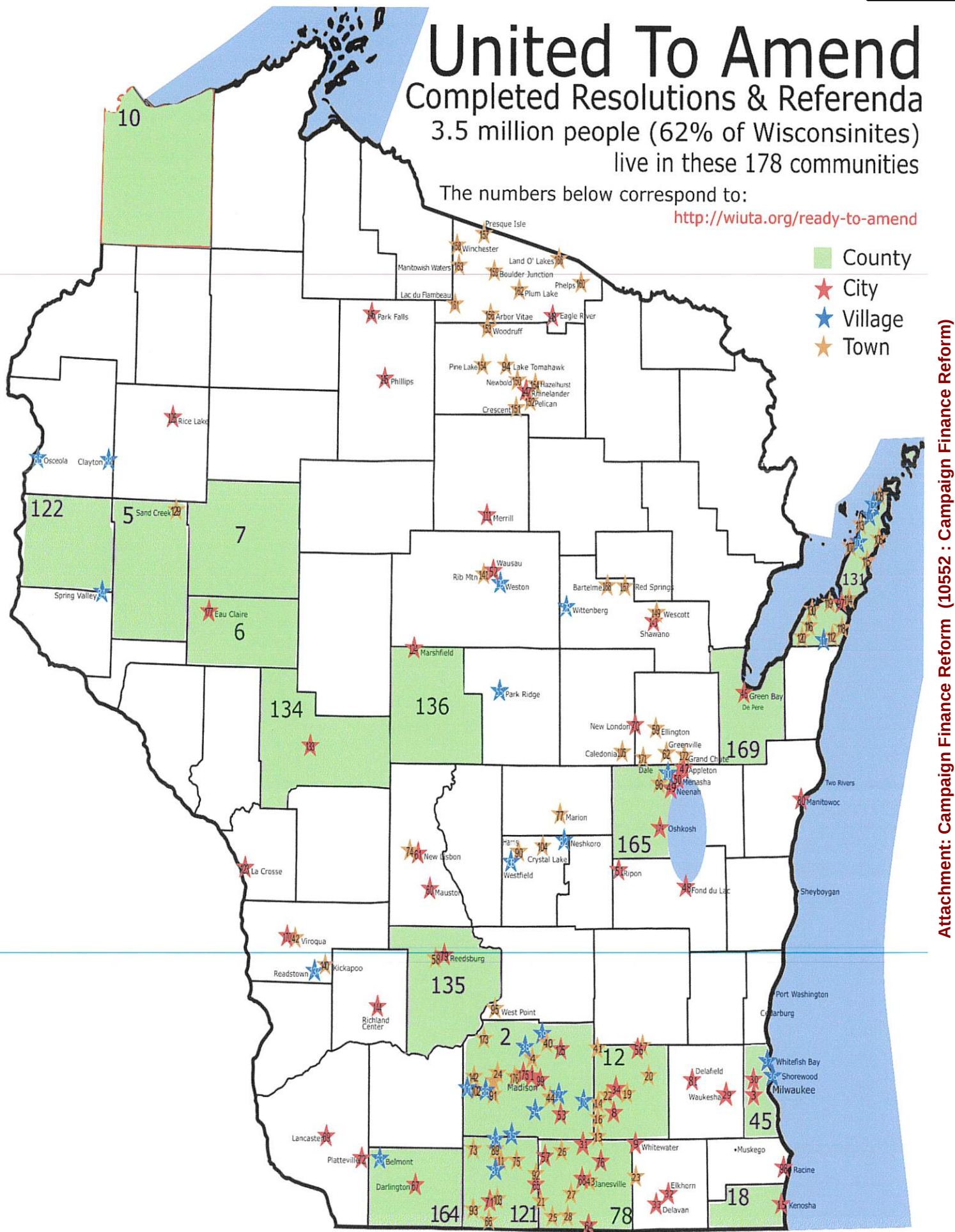
23. Utah

United To Amend

Completed Resolutions & Referenda
3.5 million people (62% of Wisconsinites)
live in these 178 communities

The numbers below correspond to:

<http://wiuta.org/ready-to-amend>



RESOLUTION
By the City of De Pere
Supporting a Constitutional Amendment

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

Whereas, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states, and;

Whereas, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has long denied We the People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and;

Whereas, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*. The untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and;

Whereas, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore,

Resolved, that "We the People" of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unlimited political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. **Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights — not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and**
2. **Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.**

APPROVED by the Council of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin, [Date].

By: _____

[NAME]
[TITLE]

This approval section is a place holder. The City likely has their own approval format.



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
 Mequon, WI 53092-1930
 Phone: 262-242-3100
 Fax: 262-242-9655

www.cityofmequonwi.gov

Office of Administration

TO: Public Welfare Committee
FROM: Carrie Enea, Executive Assistant
DATE: August 7, 2025
SUBJECT: Community Survey Update

Background

ETC Institute administered a community survey for the City of Mequon during May and June of 2025. The survey was conducted as part of the City's effort to gather resident opinions and feedback on programs and services. The results of the survey will be used to help the City improve existing programs and determine future needs of residents in the City. This is the first community survey ETC Institute has administered for the City of Mequon.

Methodology

A six-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout the City of Mequon. The mailed survey included a postage-paid return envelope and a cover letter. The cover letter explained the purpose of the survey, encouraged residents to return their surveys in the mail, and provided a link to an online survey for those who preferred to complete the survey over the internet. After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Mequon from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected from the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

The goal was to receive at least 400 completed surveys. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 705 households responding to the survey. The results for the random sample of 705 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 3.7%.

Overall Ratings of Mequon

Nearly all (99%) of the residents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, rated the City of Mequon as an "excellent" or "good" place to live; 98% rated the City as an "excellent" or "good" place to raise children, and 93% gave the City "excellent" or "good" ratings as a place they are proud to call home.

Satisfaction with Major Categories of City Services

The categories of City services that had the highest levels of satisfaction, based upon the combined percentage of "very satisfied" and "satisfied" responses among residents *who had an opinion*, were: Election Services/Voter Registration (94%), Police Response Times (93%), Overall Quality of Fire/EMS Services (91%), Fire/EMS Response Times (91%), Park Cleanliness and Upkeep (90%), Overall Quality of Police Services (90%) and Overall City Hall Customer Service (88%).

Support for Development

Nearly two-thirds (66%) of the residents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, indicated they are “very supportive” or “supportive” of residential development. A lesser number were supportive of industrial development with forty-six percent (46%) of residents surveyed indicating they support the City making infrastructure improvements as an economic development tool to promote industrial use. On the other hand, eighty-three percent (83%) of the residents surveyed, *who had an opinion*, indicated they are “very supportive” or “supportive” of commercial development of casual dining restaurants in the Port Washington Corridor between Highland Road and County Line Road, with slightly less support for other categories of businesses.

Next Steps

These results, plus a more detailed breakdown of each question by Aldermanic District, will be shared at the September Committee of the Whole Meeting. Robert Heacock from ETC Institute will appear in-person to present the survey findings. He will also share how Mequon compares to other communities’ survey results.



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
 Mequon, WI 53092-1930
 Phone: 262-242-3100
 Fax: 262-242-9655

www.cityofmequonwi.gov

Office of Engineering

TO: Public Welfare Committee
FROM: Kristen Lundeen, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
DATE: August 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Speed Deterrence/Traffic Calming

Background

Department of Public Works (DPW) staff understands that the Public Welfare Committee is interested in discussing speed bumps, or more likely speed tables. However, before there can be a discussion on the appropriate installation or effectiveness of speed bumps, DPW staff requires further discussion regarding the problem that the committee is looking to solve.

If this is truly a conversation regarding speed reduction (traffic calming), then the discussion and analysis should not be limited to speed bumps. There are thousands of studies on speeding and the solutions are as complex as the conditions under which the speeding occurs. Trying to solve all speed related problems with speed bumps would not be impactful or effective.

DPW staff will attend the Public Welfare meeting to obtain feedback and further understand the request. At this stage, Staff is assuming that the concern is with speeding, and what options can be considered for speed reduction.

Analysis

Generally speaking, the first step should always be data gathering. Before potential solutions are reviewed, the extent of issue must be discovered. On a short cul-de-sac or to pedestrians walking on a thoroughfare being passed by a car driving 25mph can seem fast, but not be a violation of the law. Likewise a motorist traveling at 47mph on a road posted 35mph can seem fast, and is a violation of the law. Both or any of those may require traffic calming, but the solution to effectively reduce the traveling speed of a motorist is different. After collecting data including the actual speeds and average daily volume of traffic, an analysis of the options for appropriate solutions can be examined.

If the concern is speeding, then the options for a solution should explore the road geometry, design speed, speed limit and location, among other conditions.

Another issue is clarifying what is "too fast". Often when a speed issue is reported, Engineering staff responds by dispatching the traffic cables, which collect data on both speed and traffic type and volume. That data is then used to determine the 85% of the speeds on the roads, an engineering standard when determining the appropriate speed limit on a street and for analyzing the need for traffic calming measures. For roads posted with a 25 mph speed limit, traffic is often within acceptable limits of the posted speed limit. However, it may seem too fast to be safe

to the residents living there. Therefore the specific situation should be analyzed and a specific metric utilized to define whether traffic calming is required.

Staff acknowledges that motorists, residents and elected officials are looking for solutions, specifically a reduction in speed. Staff's caution against speed bumps typically relates to the concern that the particular application would not be effective. Installing speed bumps and hoping that the speed will be reduced is not effective. Aside from the expense and maintenance issues, there would then be a speed bump and motorists still driving too fast.

After previous discussions regarding speed enforcement and traffic calming, the Common Council authorized the purchase of temporary speed radar feedback signs to be utilized for traffic calming. The outline of the process is available on the City's website:

<https://www.cityofinequonwi.gov/police/page/implementation-temporary-speed-radar-signs-speeding-concerns-residential-areas>.

Many residents find that the speed radar feedback signs are effective when installed, but as they are temporary, speeds may increase when they are not in place. This is similar to when the Police Department conducts directed speed enforcement.

In the past, Staff requested funding for the installation of permanent speed radar feedback signs, which were not funded. However, even if funded, Staff would recommend that there be policy analysis as to where and how frequently they should be installed. Installing speed radar feedback signs everywhere minimizes their effectiveness. Staff originally suggested that they be installed in School Zones, but the discussion never reached the stage of policy analysis.

Over the years, Staff has presented, discussed, analyzed and even debated this discussion topic at various committees and with numerous residents. Staff has contemplated requesting a standard operating procedure on how to respond to reports of speeding. Unfortunately, as this memo is intended to show, speeding is a complex issue that cannot fit easily into a standard. Other municipalities do have various programs and initiatives that could be reviewed.

Recommendation

Absent the background of the request for this to be a topic on an agenda, Staff assumes that the concern is not specifically about speed bumps, but rather about speeding or options for speed deterrence. If that is valid, then there should be an analysis of whether there is speeding, the specific road conditions, and if there is a need for action, a determination as to what the most effective, impactful traffic calming method would be. Traffic calming is not one size fits all and neither are speed bumps/ humps/ tables.

Staff recognizes that motorists, residents and elected officials may be looking for validation and the ability to "do something", rather than have staff analyze data and respond that there is no issue, the issue is not bad enough, or that nothing can be done to solve the issue. To be clear, that is never the intention of staff. However, since many traffic calming measures cause secondary issues related to restrictions for pedestrians or bicyclists, ongoing maintenance issues, impacts to emergency response time or simply budget and cost, Staff is simply trying to ensure that the issue is properly examined and a solution carefully selected.

As noted, Staff will attend the August meeting to gather feedback from the Public Welfare Committee to clarify what the issue is that is trying to be solved, so that staff can respond with the appropriate documentation.