



Brad D. Schimel
Wisconsin Attorney General

P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AG Schimel Continues 72-County Tour to Discuss
Public Safety in Kenosha and Racine Counties**

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel continued his 72-county statewide tour to meet with local law enforcement and elected officials this week with stops in Kenosha and Racine counties on Tuesday, March 13.

“As one of our state’s most populous areas, Kenosha and Racine counties have unique public safety challenges,” said Attorney General Schimel. “These roundtable meetings furthered the discussion about ways the state can continue to partner with local agencies on robust enforcement of our state’s drug laws and stopping the flow of dangerous drugs into our communities.”

“It is a great time to be involved in any level of government when you have an Attorney General like Brad Schimel,” said Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth. “You can see immediately when he walks into a meeting his ultimate goal is to listen to the needs, respond to questions and then, work toward resolving problems. Kenosha is very lucky to have a Wisconsin Attorney General like Brad.”

Attorney General Schimel and the DOJ leadership team is meeting with law enforcement and local officials in every county to discuss public safety concerns specific to each county. The challenges faced by law enforcement leaders and the criminal justice system differ from county to county, even in neighboring communities, making it critical for DOJ to be responsive to public safety needs at the local level. DOJ is local communities’ partner in safety, and these meetings aim to discover what additional resources and expertise DOJ can provide to make Wisconsin safer and stronger.

DOJ financially supports a number of programs to help public safety officials keep the counties safe.

This year, Kenosha County and Racine County will each receive more than \$124,000 to enhance the county's alcohol and drug courts, which provide an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction.

Kenosha County will also receive \$25,000 from DOJ and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a pilot site in the CDC's Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program. The program aims to provide participating agencies with resources and support so they can develop plans for preventing overdoses.

The South East Area Drug Operations Group, which includes Kenosha and Racine counties, will receive nearly \$212,000 from U.S. DOJ and Wisconsin DOJ this year to help investigate drug distribution crimes in the area. This drug task force has also received \$190,000 since 2015 to fight heroin and methamphetamine, and funding will be available through 2018.

In 2018, the Kenosha and Racine Police Departments each received more than \$221,000 to fund beat patrol programs that support community engagement activities and reduce petty crime.

Organizations in Kenosha and Racine counties have also received funding, to be used through June 2018, to provide gang diversion and prevention services to at-risk or gang-involved youth. Kenosha County Human Services will receive more than \$96,000, Racine Police Department will receive more than \$63,000, and Racine Family YMCA will receive more than \$96,000, to decrease delinquent behavior and increase pro-social activities.

DOJ also financially supports Kenosha and Racine counties' crime victim services organizations, ensuring that crime victims are given guidance and counseling as they participate in the criminal justice system. Since 2015, through U.S. DOJ Victims of Crime Act grants, DOJ has distributed nearly \$630,000 to victim services providers in Racine County, and more than \$1.2 million to providers in Kenosha County.

To see what other counties the Attorney General has visited, and where he will going next, go to: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ag-roundtable-map>