



**WISCONSIN TOWNS
ASSOCIATION**

Empowering Town Officials

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Wisconsin Towns Association Initial Statement on Governor's Budget Proposal

The Wisconsin Towns Association thanks Governor Evers for his continued investment in infrastructure and local government. WTA supports multiple aspects of the Governor's budget proposal and looks forward to working with the administration, Joint Committee on Finance, and legislature to ensure that the 2021-23 budget enhances the ability of town governments to provide quality foundational services that support citizens and businesses throughout the 95% of Wisconsin in which town officials provide leadership.

- Keeps the foot on the gas pedal of hard infrastructure improvements.
 - ✓ The Governor proposes an increase to General Transportation Aids of 2% in 2021-22 followed by an additional 2% in 2022-23.
 - ✓ The Governor proposes a continuation of the Local Road Improvement Program – Supplement (LRIP-S) through a Multimodal Local Supplement Program at a funding level of \$75 million.
 - ✓ The Governor proposes a \$15 million Local Roads Critical Infrastructure pilot program to proactively address known problem areas impacted by persistent flooding.
- Makes critical investments in broadband with \$151.7 million for Broadband Expansion Grants; creates technical assistance and grant writing opportunities that towns can take advantage of to help them access the funding; and, increases reporting requirements from Internet Service Providers so better maps can be produced and taxpayer investments used most efficiently and effectively.
- Recognizes the importance of providing life saving emergency medical services with the same funding mechanisms as fire protection by empowering towns with the ability to fund EMS through fees, the same way in which fire can now be funded.
- Increases County and Municipal Aids by 2% in 2021-22 followed by an additional 2% in 2022-23, reversing a decade's long trend of both real and nominal cuts in shared revenue.

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- Allows for a 2% or net new construction increase in levy, recognizing that often towns do not enjoy much, if any, net new construction. Due to the current levy limits, for many towns this has resulted in years of little or no nominal increases in revenue and even decreases in real ability to fund core services citizens expect.
- Reimburses towns for certain special elections costs and allows clerks to canvass absentee ballots on the day before an election.

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