



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2025

CONTACT:

Rep. Jerry O'Connor (608) 237-9160

Rep. Rob Brooks (608) 237-9159

Rep. Dave Armstrong (608) 237-9167

Rep. Todd Novak (608) 237-9151

Sen. Cory Tomczyk (608) 266-2502

Legislators Introduce Bill to Raise Thresholds for “Request For Proposal” Bids

Proposal raises outdated thresholds for roads and public works projects not adjusted for inflation.

MADISON – Today, State Representatives Jerry L. O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac), Rob Brooks (R- Saukville), Dave Armstrong (R- Rice Lake), and Todd Novak (R- Dodgeville) and State Senator Cory Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) introduced a new bill to raise thresholds for “Request For Proposal” (RFP) bidding:

“This isn’t sexy legislation, but it is useful and necessary to help our local government units operate more efficiently,” said O’Connor. “This type of bill is critical for serving our communities.”

“One critical but not well-known way our government operates is through RFP bidding,” continued O’Connor. “This can include everything from fixing a road to purchasing a new ambulance.”

RFP bids ensure that government contracts are awarded through a competitive process, helping to prevent waste, fraud, and corruption with taxpayer dollars. By requiring businesses to submit detailed proposals for projects above a certain monetary threshold, RFPs promote transparency and allow the government to select the best services or products at the best value, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently on projects that improve our communities.

However, RFPs are less useful when bidding thresholds are severely outdated. Wisconsin's thresholds for roads and public works projects have been locked at \$10,000 and \$25,000 since 1999, over 25 years ago. The current threshold of \$25,000 for both projects was established in 1999. The value of \$25,000 in 1999 has nearly doubled to \$48,000 in 2025.

This bill raises the 26-year-old “Request for Proposal” (RFP) statutory bidding thresholds for local government use. This brings the bidding thresholds current and applies an inflation escalator clause every five years to ensure they keep pace with inflation.

“One of the biggest complaints the public has about government is that it isn’t efficient and moves so slow. Well, this bill should help at the local level. Times have changed since 1999, and unfortunately, money doesn’t spend like it used to,” said Tomczyk. “Raising these bidding thresholds will allow local governments to cut some red tape and operate more efficiently. They won’t get much fanfare, but they have the ability to make good changes.”

“RFPs ensure government contracts are awarded through the competitive bidding process, reduce waste, fraud and abuse, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent prudently,” said Brooks. “I strongly support this bill and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.”

“I’m glad to help update these RFP amounts to better reflect the current market and to provide a mechanism to keep them in line with inflation,” said Armstrong.

Every town, county, and municipality that deals with these outdated requirements has asked for statutory changes to reflect current market costs. This bill is good for both local government and taxpayers.

LRB-2694/1 will do the following:

1. Raise an outdated ~~\$5,000~~ to \$10,000 for small contracts managed with governing body approval
2. Bids between \$10,000 and \$50,000 can be addressed with an existing Class 1 notice under Ch. 985
3. Raise the outdated threshold number from ~~\$25,000~~ to \$50,000 before an RFP is required

For more information please contact the offices of:

- State Representative Jerry O’Connor at Rep.O'Connor@legis.wi.gov or (608) 237-9160
- State Representative Rob Brooks at Rep.Rob.Brooks@legis.wi.gov or (608) 237-9159
- State Representative Dave Armstrong at Rep.Armstrong@legis.wi.gov or (608) 237-9167
- State Representative Todd Novak at Rep.Novak@legis.wi.gov or (608) 237-9151
- State Senator Cory Tomczyk at Sen.Tomczyk@legis.wi.gov or (608) 266-2502.

####