



Dodgeville Community Assembly — Summary Overview

What We Are Proposing

The City of Dodgeville and Dodgeville School District are being invited to co-sponsor a Community Assembly which is a structured, facilitated process that brings together everyday residents to learn, deliberate, and develop consensus recommendations on a pressing community question. This is not a town hall or a public comment session. It is a proven process that reaches past the loudest voices to hear from a representative cross-section of the community.

The Question We Are Exploring

"How do we focus our resources to best address the local housing crisis and declining school enrollment?"

Why This Matters for Dodgeville

Dodgeville is feeling pressure from multiple directions such as rising housing costs, low housing inventory, and a school enrollment decline that threatens both the district's financial sustainability and the community's long-term vitality. These challenges are connected, and solving them requires more than expert analysis. It requires community voice, shared understanding, and public will.

How It Works

Community assemblies convene a small, representative group of residents to spend time together learning about the issue, deliberating across different perspectives, and reaching rough consensus on recommendations. The process has a strong track record.

UW-Madison's La Follette School of Public Affairs (LFS), in partnership with Leadership Wisconsin and UW-Madison's Division of Extension, is supporting several assemblies on housing across the state in Fall 2026 as part of the school's Main Street Agenda program. Under the guidance of Dr. Amber Wichowsky, Associate Professor of Public Affairs, LFS will support recruitment, participant compensation, and event logistics (food and refreshments).

Event Details

- **Proposed Date:** October 10, 2026
- **Proposed Location:** Dodgeville High School
- **Proposed Sponsors:** City of Dodgeville and Dodgeville School District
- **Partners:** Leadership Wisconsin's Community Leadership 2.0 Program and the University of Wisconsin's La Follette School of Public Affairs and Division of Extension
- **Co-facilitators:** Ben Gruber and Meghan Sohns (Community Leadership 2.0 Program) and Blake Roberts (Community Economic Development specialist, UW-Madison's Division of Extension)

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