



## JFC Budget Hearing Talking Points

### Shared Revenue

Due to inflationary pressure, a challenging recruitment and retention environment, and property tax fatigue, Wisconsin communities need additional support providing vital local services to our shared constituency.

Over the last 20 years, state aid for critical local services like police, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS) has steadily declined in real dollars, while inflation has caused average prices to increase by 51 percent. In 2003, the funding level for County and Municipal Aid was \$938.5 million. Today, it is \$753 million.

At the same time, state sales and income tax revenues have tripled in the last 30 years, but the share of those taxes going to support police, fire, EMS, and other critical local services has gone DOWN.

The state surplus provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a legacy change and to revitalize the state/local partnership modifying the way local government is funded in Wisconsin. This generational change will allow communities to flourish and the state's economy to grow.

Local governments need a growing, and sustainable source of revenue to diversify the local property tax and continue to deliver quality and timely police response, fire protection, and ambulance services now and into the future.

- The solution can be devoting **one cent of the state's five cent sales tax revenue** in a non-lapsable fund for local governments on an on-going, sustainable basis. Local governments would rise and fall with the state's economy.
- A Hold Harmless provision with where municipalities are today – ensuring that no one gets less than they are receiving today. Everyone would see additional funding and the new dollars will be attached to a sustainable, growing funding source for the future.

### Municipal PFAS Program

The discovery of PFAS in Wisconsin is rising and the remediation crisis is mounting. Some communities across the state are experiencing high levels of PFAS, and for communities that haven't identified the problem, it's only a matter of time before this emerging contaminant explodes across our state.

Wisconsin can be a national leader in addressing the PFAS problem. A municipal grant and revolving loan fund would ensure one-time startup funding to clean up PFAS in communities. The benefit of the revolving loan program is that it will continue to be self-sustaining in the years ahead and can be used specifically for all remediation associated with PFAS – drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, contaminated lands, biosolids, and solid waste leachate. A grant program could be utilized to defray costs associated with increased testing, not only for drinking and wastewater, but also transportation project and development dewatering test costs.



**Why Now?** Wisconsin implemented drinking water standards for the first time ahead of an EPA maximum contaminant level for two PFAS compounds on August 1, 2022. The 70 parts per trillion regulatory standard brought with it phased in quarterly testing. Wisconsin also passed a surface water quality standard on August 1, 2022. In addition, DNR continues to open site investigations for remediation of brownfield sites due to PFAS contamination. And in an additional financial blow to municipalities across the state EPA announced a 4 parts per trillion draft maximum contaminant level for six PFAS. That is a standard 17 times less than Wisconsin's standard and applies to six substances not two like Wisconsin's regulatory measures. If the draft rule becomes permanent, there will certainly be increased costs associated.

**Why are PFAS a problem?** Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been widely used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. PFAS are still used in a wide range of products (stain resistant carpet and fabric, nonstick cookware, firefighting foam, and fast-food packaging) and in industrial applications. Due to widescale use, PFAS can be found in surface water, groundwater, soil, and air—from remote rural areas to densely-populated city centers.

PFAS components break down very slowly and are persistent in the environment and the human body for long periods of time. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals. PFAS is persistent in the environment and the human body for long periods of time. Recent studies indicate that exposure to certain PFAS may have harmful health effects including certain types of cancers, low birth weight and infertility, and affect the immune system, the liver, kidneys, thyroid, and more. Fetuses and babies can be uniquely vulnerable.