

AFFORDABLE WISCONSIN AGENDA



Health And Housing Legislative Package

Affordable Healthcare

Less for Rx

Senate Bill 50: Eliminates all cost-sharing payments for prescription drugs under the Medical Assistance program (BadgerCare). Furthermore, creates a Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board, tasked with protecting Wisconsin from unnecessarily high drug costs.

- Nearly 60% of the public is concerned with the cost of prescription medications, and over 40% report not taking their medications as prescribed due to high costs. This financial burden is putting residents in danger and can be addressed by the legislature.

Cap the Cost of Insulin

Senate Bill 901: This bill prohibits every health insurance policy and governmental self-insured health plan that covers insulin and imposes cost sharing on prescription drugs from imposing cost sharing on insulin in an amount that exceeds \$35 for a one-month supply.

- In Wisconsin, over [470,000 residents are living with diabetes and roughly 28,000 people are diagnosed every year](#). This legislation would make Wisconsin the 30th state in the country to cap costs of insulin, and put millions of dollars every year back into the pockets of our state's residents.

Cap the Cost of Asthma Medication

Senate Bill 251: Requires health insurance plans that cover prescription drugs and related medical supplies meant to treat asthma, to cap cost-sharing for the medication at no more than \$25 per month and for related medical supplies at \$50 per month.

- Over 580,000 Wisconsinites live with asthma, and without the proper insurance the monthly costs for treatment can reach upwards of [\\$500 dollars and have dire consequences](#). This legislation would ensure that the over half a million residents of our state managing asthma would be able to afford the care they need.

No Tax on Over-the-Counter Medication

Senate Bill 1032: Creates a sales and use tax exemption for the sale of over-the-counter drugs.

- As the Trump administration has attacked the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, the medical care we rely on has gotten exponentially more expensive. By removing the 5% state sales tax from over-the-counter medication, this legislation would save millions of dollars for Wisconsin residents.

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Affordable Housing

Expand Homestead Tax Credit

Senate Bill 60: Increases the Homestead Tax Credit income limit from \$ 24,680 to \$ 35,000, meaning more people will be eligible. Additionally, it indexes the income limit to inflation, ensuring that inflation does not render people who are deserving of the credit ineligible.

- Data shows that over [20% of Wisconsin households earn less than \\$35,000 a year](#). As housing costs across the state continue to rise, expanding the Homestead Tax Credit will save these hardworking families money and go towards ensuring more Wisconsinites are able to afford to live in our state.

Ban Hedge Funds From Buying WI Homes

Senate Bill 208: Prohibits a hedge fund from acquiring single-family homes in Wisconsin.

- The effort to ban hedge funds from buying single family homes has the support of the Trump administration. Projections show that by the year 2030, institutions will own [40% of the single family rentals across the country](#). In Wisconsin, this will mean rent increases and lower housing stock. This legislation will put the possibility of homeownership back in the hands of Wisconsinites.

Improve Housing Stock

Senate Bill 943: Codifies a statement of intent for local zoning of cities and villages to “ensure that land is developed in a manner that supports healthy, livable communities; to foster the development of a range of housing types”.

- Wisconsin’s housing stock is the [12th oldest in the nation](#), all while homeownership becomes less and less possible for hardworking residents. While Senate Democrats are committed to lowering housing costs, we remain committed to making our state a desirable place to live for people of all ages and this requires improvements to the housing options that exist in our small towns, suburbs, and cities.

Ban Algorithmic Rent Hikes

Senate Bill 142: This bill prohibits the use of algorithmic software in setting rental rates or occupancy limits. Creates a penalty for landlords who continue the practice.

- The use of algorithms by property managers to raise rents is costing Wisconsin residents. This legislation would ensure property managers are raising rates based on the market and the people of Wisconsin, rather than an algorithm meant to drive profits.

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Families First Legislative Package

Accessible Child Care

Extend Child Care Counts

Senate Bill 322: Authorizes the DCF to establish a program for making monthly payments and monthly per-child payments to certified child care providers, licensed child care centers, and child care programs established or contracted for by a school board.

- Child care costs have continued to burden Wisconsin families, with the average per-year expense reaching just under [\\$17,000 in 2025](#). That exceeds the cost of attending an in-state university, around \$13,000. The state must step up to ensure that there is a wide variety of credentialed and safe child care options in Wisconsin. It is unreasonable and unsustainable to ask parents, who are working to strengthen our state, to pay these exorbitant rates.

More Affordable for More Families

Senate Bill 1074: Makes the Child and Dependent Tax Credit refundable. Under the bill, beginning with the 2026 tax year, if the additional child and dependent care credit exceeds a claimant's tax liability, the claimant will receive the difference as a refund.

Senate Bill 1011: Raises the threshold of eligibility for the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program, allowing more families to access aid. A prerequisite for participation in the program has been a family's income falling below 200% of the poverty line. This bill raises the threshold to 85% of the state's median income.

- Although the lack of supply is the root cause of the surge in child care costs, programs like the one outlined in [Senate Bill 322](#) take time and can leave gaps. Senate Democrats are committed to creative solutions that ensure families receive assistance with the exorbitant cost of child care.

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Reducing Energy Prices

Regulate Data Centers

[Senate Bill 729](#): Requires that Data centers cover the cost of all expansions to the grid that are necessitated by their operation, creates a “very large customer class” meant to regulate the rates Data centers receive, and mandates that 70% of the energy used be renewable.

- In communities across Wisconsin, people have made it clear that transparency and accountability are necessary to oversee major infrastructure projects like data centers. Senate Democrats are committed to ensuring regulations protect against rising prices and environmental damage.

Lower Average Utility Costs

[Senate Bill 869](#): Requires that utilities spend 2.4% of their annual operating revenues derived from sales on funding statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource programs, known as Focus on Energy.

[Senate Bill 45](#), [Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 2](#):

Increases emergency funding for low-income energy assistance programs from \$6 million to \$10.4 million per year.

- As utility prices increase, it creates one more source of stress for those already struggling to get by. Utility costs have [exceeded regional averages yearly](#) for the past two decades. [Senate Bill 869](#), introduced by Democrats, funds the construction of more efficient and cost-effective energy infrastructure. While [SA 1 to SSA 2 of SB45](#) eases the burden placed upon low-income households.

Incentivize Green Energy

[Senate Bill 870](#): Requires that the Focus on Energy program include measures that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy for low-income households that address energy needs and decrease the energy burden on low-income households.

- Senate Democrats recognize green energy as the economic boon and essential transition that it is for Wisconsin. Expanding our renewable grid will generate jobs for Wisconsin residents and protect the natural beauty of our state. Despite Trump and the Republican Congress’s slashing of green energy projects that would have [generated thousands of jobs](#), Senate Democrats are determined to refocus on the benefits renewables will provide for Wisconsin.

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Lower Food Prices

Free School Meals

Senate Bill 67: Provides additional state aid to public and private schools that grant access to free meals to all students. Providing the incentive and means for schools to ensure all students have access to two free meals per school day.

- A core value of good government and schooling is ensuring that no student has to go through their school day hungry. It's not just the ethical position; free school meals [improve the performance of students](#), many of whom may not qualify for income-based meals. This bill would save a family of four upwards of \$1,500 a year.

End Price Gouging

Senate Bill 1140: Restricts grocery stores' usage of personalized algorithmic pricing, which is used to generate fluctuating prices for consumers based on real-time consumer data. Under the bill, a grocery retailer that violates said restrictions is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation, and the fine must be at least \$1,000 and not more than \$2,000 for a knowing violation.

Assembly Bill 1027, Senate Senate Amendment 1: Prohibits retail dynamic price gouging of consumer goods. If a retail seller violates this prohibition, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection or the Department of Justice may issue a warning notice or commence an action against the retail seller for a civil forfeiture of up to \$10,000 or injunctive relief or both.

- A key element of a fair marketplace is that consumers should know they're being charged a consistent and transparent price for everyday goods. Increasingly, retailers implement algorithmic and dynamic pricing tools to adjust prices in real-time based on personal data, shopping habits, and live demand. These exploitative practices create an environment of distrust where one consumer can pay more for the same product, further targeting families already struggling with the cost of living.