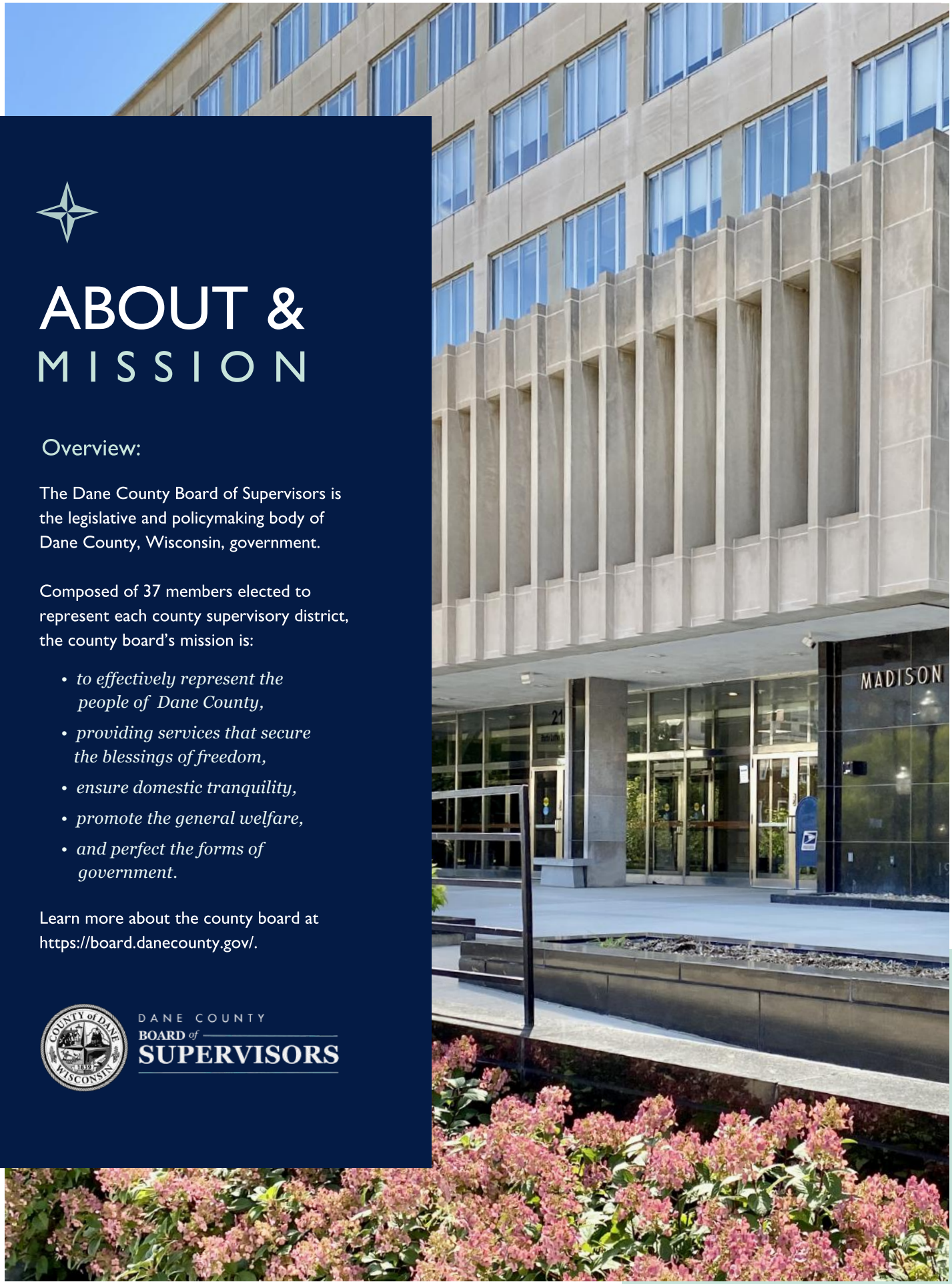
DANE COUNTY
BOARD of
SUPERVISORS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

OFFICE OF THE DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

board.danecounty.gov



ABOUT & MISSION

Overview:

The Dane County Board of Supervisors is the legislative and policymaking body of Dane County, Wisconsin, government.

Composed of 37 members elected to represent each county supervisory district, the county board's mission is:

- *to effectively represent the people of Dane County,*
- *providing services that secure the blessings of freedom,*
- *ensure domestic tranquility,*
- *promote the general welfare,*
- *and perfect the forms of government.*

Learn more about the county board at https://board.danecounty.gov/.

DANE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

A MESSAGE FROM CHAIR MILES

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the work the Dane County Board of Supervisors has accomplished on behalf of our residents, even as we navigated complex challenges and difficult decisions. County government is rarely simple, and this year required collaboration, compromise, and a clear focus on our shared values.

One of the board's most significant responsibilities is adopting a balanced budget that reflects community priorities. Through a thoughtful and at times challenging process, supervisors worked across differences to protect core services, invest in people and places, and position the county to remain fiscally responsible while meeting growing needs. That work required care and restraint, as well as a willingness to listen.

At the same time, we recognize that local governments are operating amid ongoing dysfunction and unpredictability at the federal level, along with limited support from the state. These realities make the work ahead more challenging, but they also underscore the importance of strong, responsive local leadership.

Looking forward, the county board remains committed to transparent decision-making, public engagement, and responsible governance. While the challenges ahead are real, so too is our resolve to meet them with integrity, collaboration, and a focus on the long-term well-being of Dane County.

Thank you to my fellow supervisors, county constitutional officers, staff, community partners, and residents for your continued engagement and trust. Together, we will continue to do the hard work required to move Dane County forward.

Patrick Miles
County Board Chair

County Board Office

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

The Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors is composed of seven full time staff. Staff's role is to support the work of the county board and facilitate the legislative branch of Dane County.

Cecely Castillo

CHIEF OF STAFF

Cecely has served as Chief of Staff since April 2024. As the nonpartisan head of the Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, she provides strategic guidance to the chair and supervisors, oversees office operations, and is the administrative director of the office. Cecely previously served as a county board supervisor (Dist. 7) and worked as a state legislative staffer and as a prosecutor. She brings a strong policy and legal background to this role.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Lauren Kuhl

MANAGER OF LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Lauren has served in this role since October 2024 and has worked in the county board office since 2015, previously serving as a policy analyst. She directly supervises two full-time staff members and oversees the Legislative Support Services Division, which provides comprehensive legislative support to supervisors, Dane County departments, and county board commissions and committees.

Kaileen Mayoh

LEGISLATIVE SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST/POLICY ANALYST

Kaileen joined the office in March 2025 after previously working for Public Health Madison & Dane County. She serves as the primary administrator for the Legistar system, providing training and technical support to county board members and county staff, troubleshooting technology-related issues, drafting meeting agendas, and supporting county board committees.

Josh Schroeder

CLERK III

Josh joined the office in 2019 and has served in his current role since December 2023. He provides administrative support to county board members and county board office staff, including reception, meeting preparation, payroll, onboarding and offboarding paperwork for staff and supervisors, and processing per diems.

POLICY, OUTREACH, AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Lisa MacKinnon

MANAGER OF POLICY, OUTREACH, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa has served in this role since May 2025. She oversees the Policy, Outreach, and Communications Division, directly supervising two full-time staff members. Lisa joined the county board office in 2012 and brings a strong legal background and broad experience across a range of policy-focused roles in Dane County. Most recently, she served as the office's sustainability and program evaluation coordinator.

Dylan Moffitt

POLICY, OUTREACH, AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Dylan joined the office in May 2025. He previously worked as a legislative staffer for the state legislature and as staff for the Village of Machesney Park, Illinois. Dylan develops and implements communications strategies for the county board, including press releases, advisories, press events, and coordinates the board's community engagement and outreach efforts.

Sarahi Garcia

POLICY ANALYST

Sarahi began this position in September 2025. She previously worked as a limited-term employee in the office, focusing on communications and policy tasks. Sarahi supports the county board by conducting policy research, drafting legislation, and working closely with the outreach and communications staff.

Policy, Outreach, and Communications

DIVISION YEAR IN REVIEW

UW-Madison UniverCity Alliance Intern Projects

In spring 2025, we welcomed UniverCity Alliance (UCA) interns, Ava Singh, Surya Sethi, and Brody Seaton, to the county board office to research and present findings and recommendations to the county board on *Pay for Success Social Impact Bonds, Opportunities* and *Best Practices for Winter Communal Gardening Programming and Spaces in Dane County,* and a *2024-2025 Water Recreation Study*. Each of these projects expanded on research done in earlier phases examining these topics and identified policies and models for potential application in Dane County.

In fall 2025, interns, Annie Heybl and John Hansen, worked closely with Lisa MacKinnon and Sarahi Garcia on research related to *Opioid Harm-Reduction Programs and Policies* and *An Overview of Hyperscale Data Centers in Wisconsin,* respectively. The opioid research was selected to provide an additional information resource for the incoming opioid settlement fund program coordinator, who will join Dane County's Department of Administration in 2026. Data from the overview of issues related to development of hyperscale data centers in Wisconsin will be shared with members of the county's newly-created Advisory Committee on Data Centers.

We are grateful for our interns' contributions in 2025 and excited to continue our partnership with UCA and welcoming new interns in 2026 to continue developing their policy research, writing, and analysis skills with the potential to inform board policy initiatives and budget investments for Dane County.

To view intern reports and presentations from 2025 and past years, go to: https://board.danecounty.gov/reports

Dec. 18, 2025: Fall 2025 UCA intern, Annie Heybl, presents her report to the Executive Committee.

May 7, 2025: Spring 2025 UCA intern, Brody Seaton, presents his report to the Lakes & Watershed Commission.

BY THE NUMBERS

26
Special matter resolutions

187
Resolutions

20
Ordinance amendments

10
Certificates of recognition

4
UniverCity Alliance intern policy reports

Sept. 24, 2025: County board recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month with Supervisor Kemp, Nydia Martinez (Latino Academy of Workforce Development), and former Supervisor Kigeya.

2025 Program Evaluation

The county board office's 2025 program evaluation was a comprehensive analysis of the Dane County Public Safety Communications Center's (PSC) scheduling policies and practices. The evaluation was conducted by Coleman Consulting Group from March through August 2025. Coleman worked with PSC management, Employee Group Representatives (EGR), and non-represented employees to gather diverse input regarding scheduling practices, staffing levels, and overtime.

They compiled their findings and made recommendations to the PSC for ways to maximize personnel for operational effectiveness—meeting or exceeding industry standards—while also providing the best work/life balance for those same personnel. A post-project check-in with PSC revealed that, although implementation of certain recommendations is on hold until PSC staffing levels increase and stabilize, the process of engaging all employees to provide detailed input on their challenges, preferred scheduling configurations, and priorities was informative and valuable to the department and the employees.

To view the program evaluation from 2025 and past years, go to: https://board.danecounty.gov/reports

Indigenous Art Dedication & Land Acknowledgment

In November 2025, the county board advanced its commitment to honoring Indigenous history and culture through a land acknowledgment and Indigenous art dedication ceremony at the City-County Building. The event marked the installation of a permanent land acknowledgment plaque, developed in consultation with members of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the unveiling of new artworks recognizing Indigenous history, resilience and leadership. The installations, located in the building's first-floor lobby, serve as lasting public reminders of the Indigenous peoples whose stewardship has shaped the region.

The land acknowledgement plaque reads:

"This land, which is now known and recognized as Dane County, Wisconsin, is at the same time the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary land of the Ho-Chunk, Sauk, and Kickapoo Nations. We acknowledge these First Nations Indigenous communities who have stewarded this land through many generations, recognize their contributions and the resilience of their people, and pay respect to their elders past and present."

"Cameryn Collins" by Tom Jones

"No More Stolen Sisters" by Gene Delcourt

BY THE NUMBERS

32
Press releases

200+
Mentions in local media

90K+
Social media post views

151
New Facebook followers

4
Press conferences

Nov. 4 2025: Press conference announcing a 2026 county budget compromise proposal alongside AFSCME members

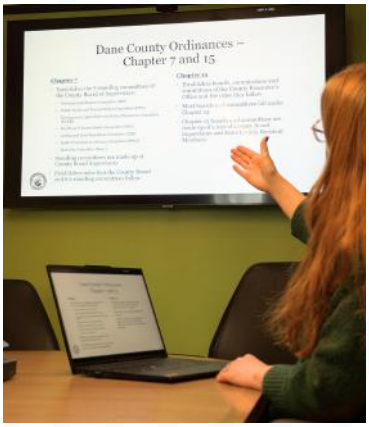
Nov. 26 2025: Press conference announcing the creation of the Dane County Advisory Committee on Data Centers

Legislative Support Services

DIVISION YEAR IN REVIEW

Training

In 2025, the county board office hosted 15 trainings for committee staff. These included regularly scheduled trainings on legislative process and Legistar, budget trainings, and trainings on an updated referrals process in Legistar that was implemented in September 2025.



The office also introduced a new training on hybrid meetings which launched in the summer of 2025. This training has occurred 3 times since then with a total of 22 participants and has obtained positive feedback from attendees.

Division Continuity

In 2025 the division prioritized continuity of legislative and administrative processes and procedures, including:

- Updating the county board office safety plan,
- Updating and developing a continuity of operations plan and IT security plan,
- Updating the Dane County Administrative Practices Manual sections relating to legislative process,
- Creating a two-year task and process mapping tool to reflect tasks and responsibilities of the division that occur on a regular or yearly basis,
- Creating a database of questions related to process and procedures that require additional research.

Process Revisions

Throughout the year, the division worked with staff in the county board office and across county government to revise processes aimed at improving efficiency and strengthening workflows. These efforts included clarifying guidance for closed sessions during hybrid meetings, refining Legistar file, agenda and minutes workflows, improving contract workflows related to legislative files, and enhancing interpretation services for hybrid meetings.

BY THE NUMBERS

17
Referrals process trainings

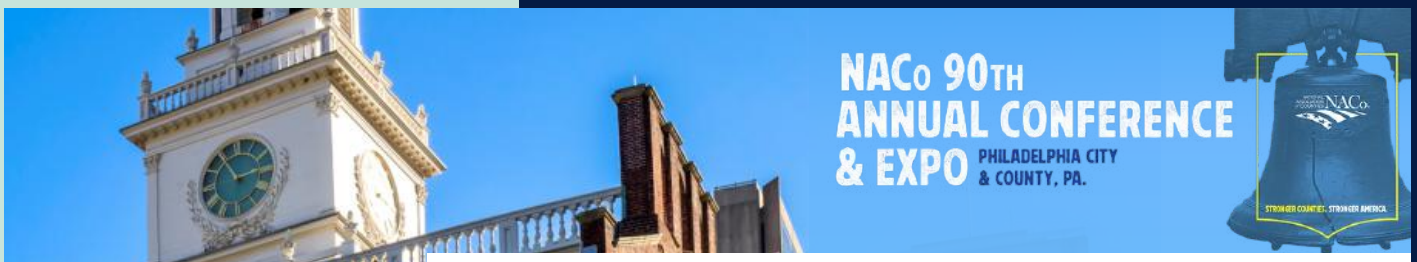
12
Standing committee budget trainings

79
Legislative Certificate Program participants

22
Hybrid meetings trainings

386
Committee meeting videos uploaded

June 12, 2025: County board meeting at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall following a tour of the AEC campus



NACo 2025

Conference & Exposition Lookback

The Dane County Board of Supervisors sent three members, Michelle Ritt, Tommy Rylander, and David Peterson, to the 2025 NACo Annual Conference & Exposition. The conference took place in Philadelphia in July and provided learning opportunities and engagement with colleagues from across the country. Following the conference, the members presented their engagement and key takeaways to the Executive Committee.

At the conference, NACo introduced a Workforce Modernization Act resolution intended to push Congress on immigration reform. While the Dane County supervisors supported the resolution's goal, it included dehumanizing language. The supervisors drafted an amendment and defended it in debate before 3,500 attendees, resulting in the removal of harmful language and recognition of the Dane County delegation for taking a principled stand.

Supervisor Ritt attended a juvenile justice reform session that detailed efforts by counties to address child mental health needs. She is currently coordinating with county board office staff regarding ideas that may be useful in Dane County.

Supervisor Rylander attended a session on fiscal outlooks that examined tax levies and the serious challenges faced by jurisdictions abolishing property taxes. He also participated in a field trip to the Broad Street Free Library and Community Center and a Children's Hospital of Philadelphia clinic, highlighting a successful public-private partnership and creative multi-use of resources.

Supervisor Peterson attended an emergency management session highlighting how HR1 has drastically reduced FEMA funding, leaving many counties, especially Western states facing wildfires and floods, to manage disasters largely on their own. He also attended a technology and AI insights session highlighting the need for counties to proceed thoughtfully and cautiously when considering large-scale AI applications.

Supervisors Barushok, Chawla, and Furman will represent Dane County at the 2026 NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in February.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo

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City-County Building, Room 362
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,
Madison, WI 53703

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