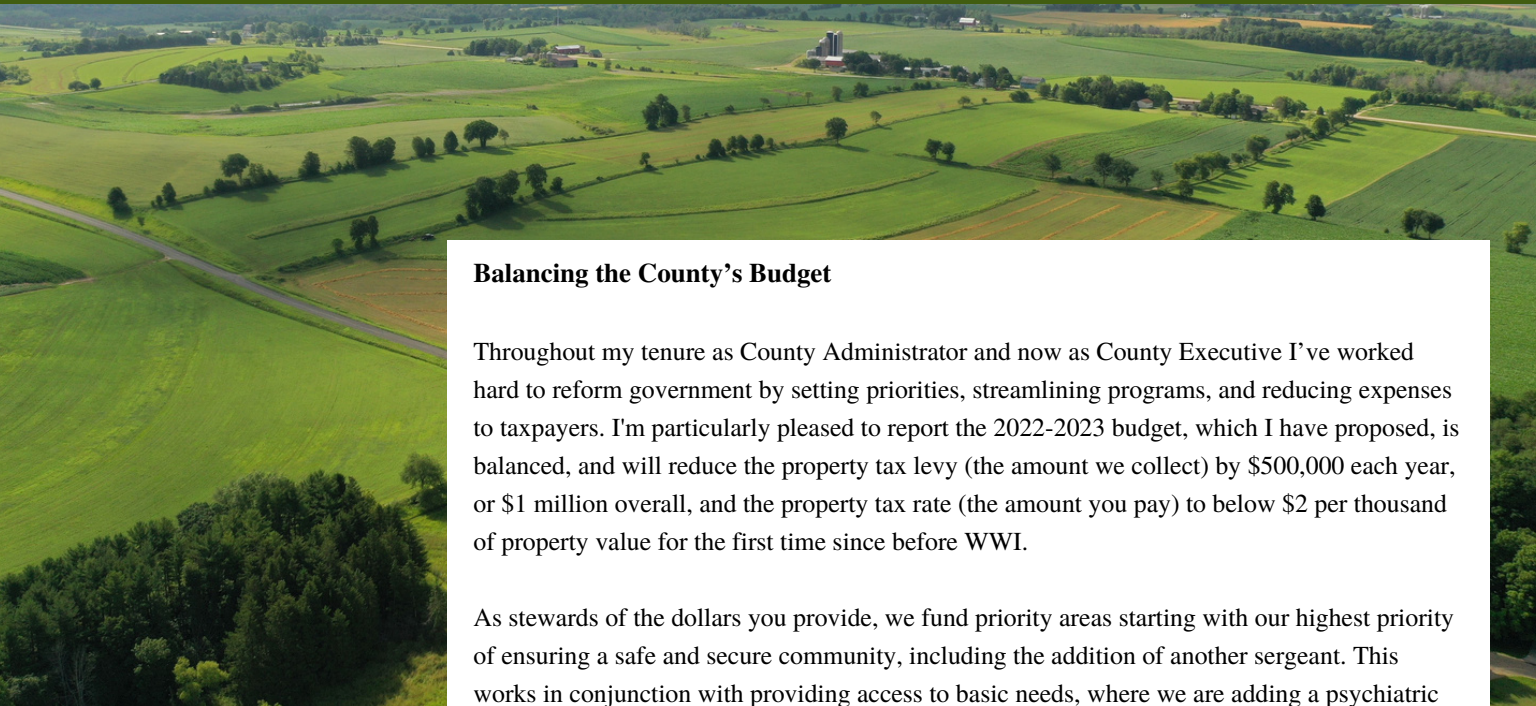


OUR GREAT COMMUNITY

Quarterly newsletter of Washington County, Wisconsin

DISCOVER.CONNECT.PROSPER.



Balancing the County's Budget

Throughout my tenure as County Administrator and now as County Executive I've worked hard to reform government by setting priorities, streamlining programs, and reducing expenses to taxpayers. I'm particularly pleased to report the 2022-2023 budget, which I have proposed, is balanced, and will reduce the property tax levy (the amount we collect) by \$500,000 each year, or \$1 million overall, and the property tax rate (the amount you pay) to below \$2 per thousand of property value for the first time since before WWI.

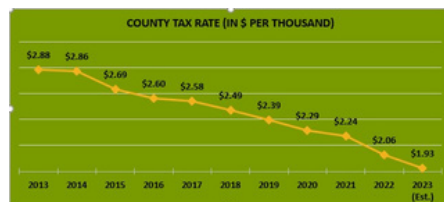
As stewards of the dollars you provide, we fund priority areas starting with our highest priority of ensuring a safe and secure community, including the addition of another sergeant. This works in conjunction with providing access to basic needs, where we are adding a psychiatric social worker to strengthen our families and reduce out-of-home placements. Next, as the only government in Wisconsin with a fully funded plan for our roads through 2050, we are proud to execute effective mobility and reliable infrastructure by extending the life of a record 21.1 miles of road through our chip sealing program.

Finally, this budget pursues economic growth and vitality by providing the human and financial resources necessary to fuel our next generation housing efforts, which will be driven by our kids and our businesses.

Cutting taxes and prioritizing spending to let people and businesses create prosperity...it's the Washington County Way!



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOSH SCHOEMANN**



	2021	2022	\$	%	2023*	\$	%
\$150K Home	\$335.66	\$308.78	\$(26.88)	-8.0%	\$289.76	\$(19.02)	-6.2%
\$225K Home	\$503.48	\$463.16	\$(40.32)	-8.0%	\$434.63	\$(28.53)	-6.2%
\$350K Home	\$783.20	\$720.48	\$(62.72)	-8.0%	\$676.10	\$(44.38)	-6.2%

A tax levy cut of \$500K is budgeted in 2023. The 2023 tax rate is estimated and will depend on the results of the Department of Revenue's equalized value report in 2022.



Rebecca T. Conde, along with her husband Ted, created the beautiful Washington County Courthouse mural (above), which is proudly displayed in the Justice Center lobby.

County Board's Corner - More on the Future of Samaritan

Don Kriefall, County Board Chairman

Washington County has been in the business of caring for our seniors since nearly its inception. With our existing facility near the end of its useful life, Medicaid reimbursing only a fraction of the cost of care and staffing challenges compounding throughout the healthcare industry, Washington County continues to move forward on the design plans for a new Senior Living Facility. The environment for senior care will change over the next ten years due to skyrocketing Medicaid expenses, changing personal living choices and even more complex staffing challenges to support different levels of care, making this a challenging decision for our great community.

Rest assured, we will continue to investigate all options that provide for our less fortunate seniors. We will also continue our due diligence in protecting taxpayer resources while fulfilling our moral obligations to our ever-growing senior populations. The discussion on whether the county decides to stay in the long-term care business will continue at the October Human Services Committee meeting and then by the County Board. In the end, we will seek direction from the citizens of Washington County.

Fall Harvest



Fun Facts

Wisconsin's agricultural industry provides \$104.8 billion to our state's economy playing a major role in our rural communities.

Cow

In 2019 Washington County had:

15,800 cows in
75 dairy herds

44,500 head of
cattle & calves

578 farms managed
126,146 acres
45.7% of all county land



For every bushel (56 lbs.) of corn harvested, it provides:

- 18 lbs of livestock feed
- 2.8 gallons of ethanol
- 14 lbs of corn gluten pellets
- 1.8 lbs of corn oil
- 17 lbs of carbon dioxide used for ice in the beverage industry

Our County's Rich Heritage

*Submitted by Shelly Mayer, Executive Director,
Professional Dairy Producers*

DYK: There are thousands of working moms in our great community who are on call 24/7. Each generates \$18,000 per year in economic activity. While they don't send their "kids" to schools, they contribute to the county's tax base and create jobs.

You may have guessed that these "moms" are not humans, but the 15,500 cows on Washington County dairy farms. These cows - and the dairy farmers who care for them - have been an important part of our communities, labor market and economy for generations, and continue to have a significant impact. Just like businesses, the dairy community has evolved. Technology is key, helping farmers meet their cows' needs better than ever before. Robotic milkers allow cows to be milked whenever she wants and tracking devices monitor her feed, activity, and health and send alerts, if needed.

The average dairy cow makes about 90 pounds, or about 10 gallons, of milk each day by eating crops that you and I can't digest, including the entire corn plant and alfalfa.

Wisconsin's dairy community is recognized for delivering top-quality milk and dairy products, with a focus on food safety, innovation and cow health. Statewide, dairy employs 157,000 Wisconsinites and contributes \$46 billion in economic activity each year.



The Positive Impact of DTC

As the opiate crisis continues to rage across the county, it is not surprising that according to "Demographic Draught," there were 800,000 opioid victims in 2015 alone in the U.S. Addiction leads to job loss and lower labor force participation. But for the past 18 months, Washington County Courts have implemented a plan to help those suffering get sober, get jobs, and get their lives back.

Washington County Drug Treatment Court (DTC) helps people charged with drug possession get access to treatment. It also holds them accountable via drug testing, curfews, supervision, and interactions with the DTC judge.

Many come to DTC as an alternative to going to prison. These are people who have lost their jobs, homes, and driver's licenses. They have often overdosed, lost custody of their children, and stolen from family members.

DTC takes a minimum of 15 months to complete. Participants stabilize themselves. They get into recovery. They regain custody of their children and the trust of their families. They get stable housing, receive promotions at work, reinstate their drivers' licenses and get insurance.

A participant's DTC journey ends in graduation. DTC graduates are sober and set up for long-term success.

Washington County Courts, in collaboration with the Human Services Department and the DTC team, are working hard to help people and their families overcome addiction and all its terrible consequences. For more information, contact todd.martens@wicourts.gov.



Fall Harvest Road Safety

Fall is a busy time for the nearly 600 farm operations in Washington County. It is important for all to consider the fact that our roads serve as links shared by numerous industries for product delivery and general day-to-day operations. This is especially true for agriculture, an industry on which many of our local communities were founded. Keeping our roads safe for both farmers and other motorists needs to be everyone's priority.

It is important that we show respect for our farmers and for everyone's safety. To reinforce the message, County Sheriff Martin Schulteis shares the following road safety tips:



- Slow down when you see farm equipment, which travels 15-20 mph.
- Be patient to safely pass. In Wisconsin, it's illegal to pass farm equipment in a no-passing zone.
- Remember, farm equipment makes wide turns.
- Harvest seems to amplify deer movement both day and night. Watch your speed and scan your surroundings as you drive.

The associated forfeitures (fines) reflect the severity of passing illegally. Drivers that illegally pass can face forfeitures ranging from \$213.10 to \$326.50 and have three demerit points assessed against their driver's license.

Since agriculture is an industry on which many of our local communities were founded, it's vital to keep our roads safe for our farmers.

For any questions, contact martin.schulteis@washcowisco.gov.

2022 REDISTRICTING

Next year provides the once-a-decade opportunity to rebalance the population in election districts and ensure fair representation. Like Congress and the state legislature, Washington County is working to update its district maps. In addition, the County is using this opportunity to reduce the size of its board from 26 to 21 supervisors.

Districts are based on populations. The county's population is 136,761, a 4,874 person increase from 2010. Each of the 21 new districts will contain an average of 6,512 people. The district size for the current 26 district plan was 5073 people.

Keeping municipalities whole and reducing the number of ballot styles for elections were prime considerations when drafting the proposed maps. An overarching goal was making sure the residents of cities, villages, and towns all have the opportunity for proportionate representation on the board. The current residence of current supervisors was not a consideration.

If your local district changes, you may vote at a different polling place. For many, your incumbent supervisor will be different from who it is now. Also, some voters may have two (or more) incumbents on your ballot vying for a single seat on the board. And for others, you may now live in a district with no incumbent, thereby creating an opportunity for someone new to serve. For more information, contact eric.damkot@washcowisco.gov.

Washington County Highway Department Project Update

Did you know Washington County is the **ONLY** government in the state to have a fully funded plan for all types of road maintenance through 2050, and we've done it together without raising taxes? We want you to know how your tax dollars are being invested into local infrastructure.

Below is an update on current and upcoming projects that may impact your travel plans:

Action	Roadway	Location	Duration	Notes
Bridge replacement	CTH H	1 mile east of US-45, Town of Kewaskum	7 months	Complete road closure in effect from November 2021 until June 2022. Traffic will be detoured to STH 28 as "Schaefer's Bridge" is replaced.
Reconstruction	CTH W	From STH 33 to STH 175, Town of Addison	early-November	Reconstruction is anticipated to be completed by early-November. Schedule is dependent on contractor schedule, weather, and other factors.
Concrete base patching	I-41	Various locations including CTH K northbound on ramp	late September-mid-October	Requires lane closures that often lead to traffic delays. Multi-day projects as work is conducted and concrete cures.

Please slow down in and near work zones and obey all warning signage so everyone gets home safely.

For more information on these projects, visit the Washington County Highway Department webpage at www.co.washington.wi.us/hwy or contact the department at (262)335-4435 or webhwy@washcowisco.gov.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we improve Washington County's roadways while striving for effective mobility and reliable infrastructure.

Yahr Beach Grand Opening

At right, on August 20th, local officials and community members came together to celebrate the grand opening of the beach expansion at Leonard J. Yahr County Park. In attendance at this event were members of the Yahr Family, Erler Family, and county officials and area dignitaries. Washington County Parks also recognized local sponsors who dedicated trees and contributed to the overall enhancement of the park. These include: Troop 10483 Hartford, Jim Morrison, Pam Konrath, Dianne & Jim Louden, In Memory of Doris Zoesch, and Bill & Donna Brummond Family.



Glacier Hills Tiny Cabins

Nestled away in the heart of Glacier Hills County Park and surrounded by a beautiful 140-acre forest, guests can cast technology aside and unwind in five newly-constructed, solar-powered tiny cabins. Each cabin sleeps 2-4, includes a private porch with wooded views, ample natural light and its own private fire pit. A portable restroom is located nearby and flush toilets and showers are available in the central area of the park. Each cabin will be available starting at \$75 per night. More details and booking information will be available this fall on www.washcowisco.gov.



Let's Talk Cybersecurity

With October being Cybersecurity month, it's the ideal time to discuss what you can do to help protect yourself online. Cybercrime is up 600% due to the pandemic. More devices are now connected to the Internet with people working from home, virtual classes, etc. Since all of these devices connect to the internet, they can be compromised by cybercrimes. Below are helpful tips to becoming more secure:

- ensure your operating system and applications are up to date, including antivirus software;
- use a strong password with at least 12 characters, upper/lower case, special characters and numbers; also recommend using different passwords for different sites or systems; and,
- enable multifactor authentication to make sure you have a secure remote working environment.

For more information, contact joel.woppert@washcowisco.gov.

BOOS & BREWS

FALL FUNDRAISER FOR THE UNITED WAY

SANDY KNOLL COUNTY PARK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH 11 AM - 5 PM

1840 BEER GARDEN • LIVE MUSIC • COOKOUT • GAMES •
TRICK OR TREAT • COSTUME CONTEST • PRIZES

Help support people in need right here in Washington County! Food, hygiene products and monetary donations to the United Way will be accepted throughout the entire event. Your support stays in our local community and is greatly appreciated.



OUR GREAT COMMUNITY

Several Opportunities to chat with County Executive Josh Schoemann

*Select
Tuesday's*

**Breakfast Conversations
Cheers and Chats
Community Town Halls**



For more details visit:

www.washcowisco.gov/departments/county_executive/events



HERBERT J. TENNIES GOVERNMENT CENTER
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WEST BEND, WI 53095



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