

Winter Road School Legislative Update-Dan Bahr

WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

www.wicounties.org





Legislative Composition Post Election 2022

- **Assembly: 64 Republicans, 35 Democrats (GOP Control)**
- **Senate: 21 Republicans, 11 Democrats, 1 Vacancy (GOP Control)**
- **US Congress**
 - **US Senate: 51 Democrats, 49 Republicans (Democratic Control)**
 - **US House of Representatives: 222 Republicans, 213 Democrats (GOP Control)**



WCHA/WCA Key Legislative Issues

- **General Transportation Aids**
- **Local Road Improvement Program Supplemental (LRIP-S)**
- **State Support for Routine Maintenance Agreements (RNA)**
- **Shared Revenue and Local Funding Reform**



General Transportation Aids



Background

- General Transportation Aids (GTA) are distributed to all counties and municipalities to assist in the maintenance, improvement, and construction of the county trunk highway system
- Payments are divided among all local governments based on either a percentage of eligible highway-related expenditures or a per-mile payment, whichever is greater
- GTA is often used to offset the cost of constructing roads, filling potholes, plowing snow, grading shoulders, marking pavement, and repairing curbs and other transportation services



Current Status

- Counties received an increase in annual GTA payments statewide from \$122.2 million in 2019-21 budget to \$127.1 million in the 2021-23 budget
- Counties will receive the full \$127.1 million in annual GTA distribution payments in 2023



Requested Action

- WCA requests additional funds be allocated to the county GTA appropriation to reflect the backlog of maintenance on the county trunk highway system. WCHA and WCA are requesting a 10% increase.





Local Road Improvement Program- Supplemental (LRIP-S)



Background

- In the 2019-21 biennial budget, the JCF established the Local Supplemental Transportation Program with a surplus in dollars available to the committee in the state budget
- The initial idea behind this concept was for the program to be a one-time infusion of state surplus revenue to be used to support local “shovel ready projects” as requested by counties, municipalities, and towns



Background

- Following the establishment of the Local Supplemental Transportation Program, the popularity of this program exploded, and Governor Evers appropriated \$100 million for this program in his 2021-23 biennial budget
- After two successful budget cycles, LRIP-S continues to be very popular and has supported local projects all around the state





Current Status

- The 2021-21 biennial budget included \$100 million in the LRIP-S



Requested Action

- With a \$6 billion state surplus, the WCA requests that \$200 million be appropriated for LRIP-S



The background of the slide is a composite image. The left side shows the exterior of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, a large neoclassical structure with a prominent dome and many columns. The right side shows the interior of the Capitol, specifically a grand hall with a high, arched ceiling and ornate architectural details. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Local Government Funding Reform



Background

- Counties serve as the service delivery arm of state government
- As such, Wisconsin counties rely on state support to a greater extent than counties in other states
- Subject to the nation's most strict property tax controls (levy limits), counties have little ability to raise revenue locally



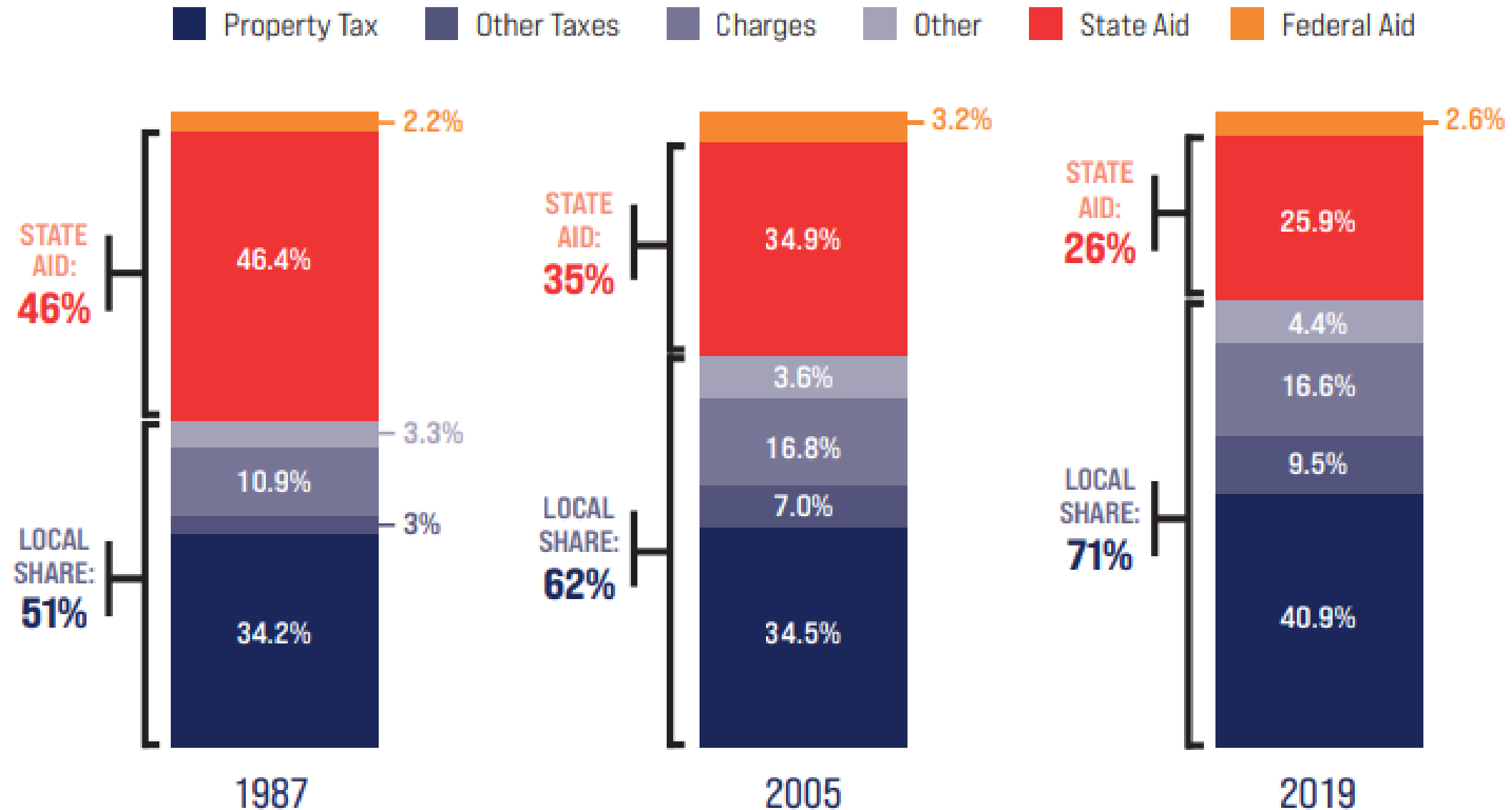


Current Status

- Counties are faced with rising costs due to increased service demands and rising inflation
- Absent new revenues, services will need to be further reduced or eliminated
- County funding challenges have been decades in the making



DECLINE IN STATE SHARE OF COUNTY FUNDING 1987 - 2019

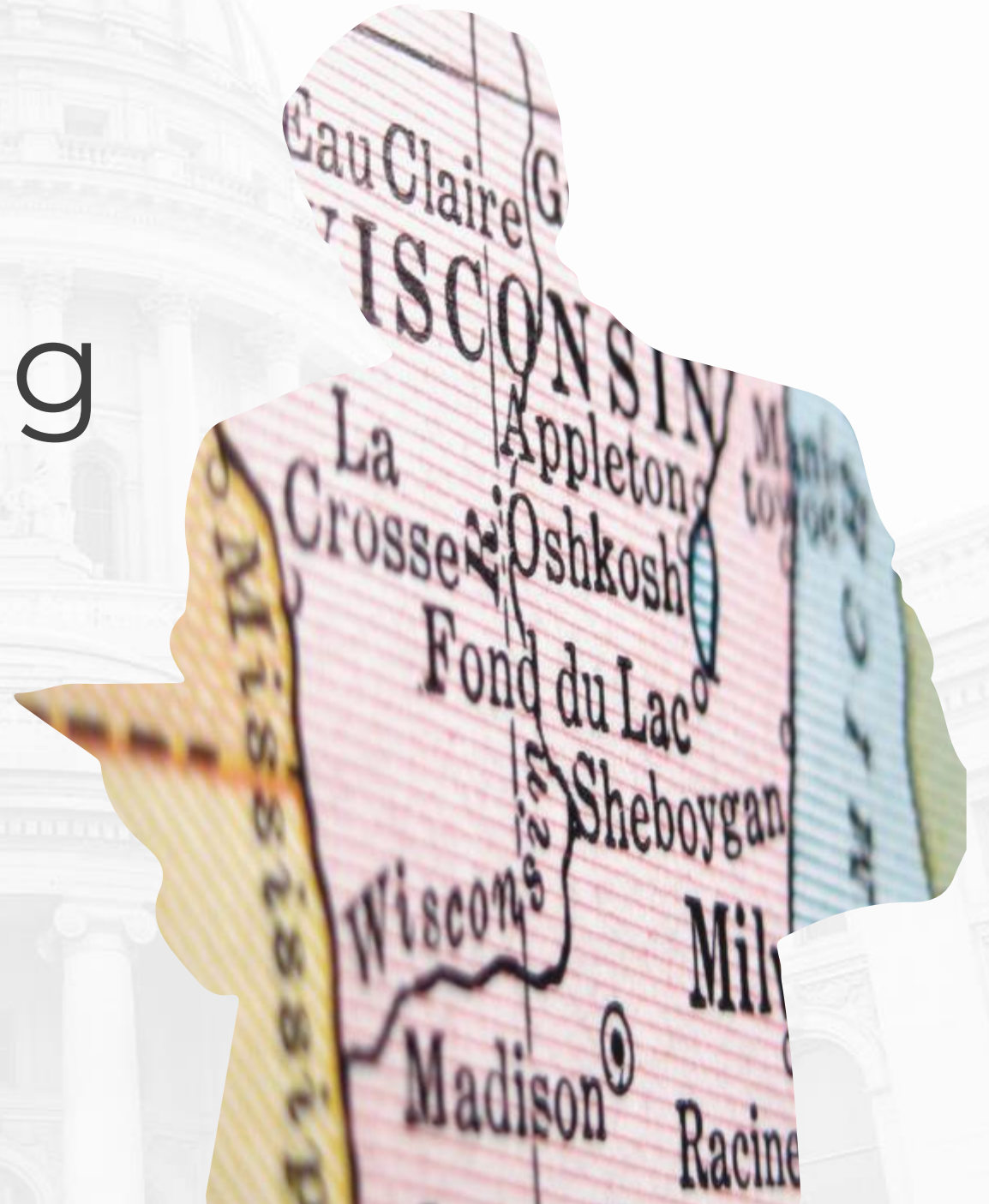


Requested Action

- Dedicate an amount equal to one penny of the state's five penny sales tax to local governments
- Replace shared revenue and personal property tax with the new funds
- Distribute remaining funds to local governments through a new formula and an incentive fund that encourages local government cooperation and consolidation



Communicating with Your Legislators



Meeting With Your Elected Officials



- Keep it simple
 - Provide key facts
 - It is OK if you do not know the answer to a question
 - Stay on message
 - Describe the problem
 - How does it impact your county?
 - Make the ask
 - Be sure to leave with your legislators and/or staff a copy of the issue papers





01 Questions? 03



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