



LION Board Activity Report

October 1, 2025 – February 13, 2026

By-law and LION board position descriptions

The board prepared and recommended a bylaw update to better align our bylaws with the way LION currently functions. In addition, we developed position descriptions for each of the LION board positions to help recruit new board members.

www.wlion.org

The LION website is generously maintained by Tim Confare and Dane County. The domain registration, last renewed in 2025, expires on 4/28/27. Using the remaining funds collected in 2025 and his personal donation, Bret Budrow recently renewed the domain privacy and protection plan. The new expiration date for privacy and protection is 2/20/27. If LION wishes to maintain a distinct web presence, we will need to collect donations of about \$140 at the 2027 annual conference to cover another 2-year renewal. In 2026, the LION Board plans to review whether a unique web presence is still important.

2025 Wisconsin Act 68 (AKA AB452/SB479) – Subdivision Approval Process

Among other changes, the Act requires the opportunity for an informal meeting prior to the submittal of a preliminary/final plat, modifies conditions that can be placed on plat approval, and requires the clerk to certify the approved final plat is eligible for recording within 10 days of receiving the request. The LION Board monitored this proposal.

AB216/SB218 - Real Estate Transfer Fee

The significant WLIP related items in the proposal:

- \$0.40 of the RETF would go into the WLIP
- Increases base budget eligibility to \$175,000
- Increases training and education grants to \$5,000
- Creates a contribution-based grant with 46% of the WLIP funds collected through the RETF
- Requirement to establish a real property recording notification system to be administered by the county's register of deeds.

The proposal passed the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate on 10/8/25 and the Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry on 10/23/2025. There has been no activity in either chamber since October. The LION Board continues to support this proposal.

AB445/SB449 – Relating to the Register of Deeds

The proposal clarifies recording requirements, increases the fee to record a transportation plat from \$25 to \$30, provides a penalty for anyone who knowingly provides to the Register of Deeds for recording any false or forged document, and other statutory clean-up related to the Register of Deeds office. The LION Board is monitoring this proposal.

AB530/SB519 – Operation of Drones over School Property

The bill, as amended, would prohibit the operation of drones over schools when school is open or holding an event except for specific law enforcement purposes. There does not appear to be exemptions for

government or commercial operations. This bill passed the Assembly on 11/19/25. The LION Board is monitoring this proposal.

AB768/SB766 – Operation of Drones over Utility Infrastructure

This bill would prohibit the noncommercial use of drones at an altitude of less than 300 feet over or within 500 feet of a parcel on which certain water reclamation, power, telecommunications, and water system facilities are located. The penalty is the same as the current penalty for flying over a correctional institution. The bill appears to exempt out government and commercial pilots that is operating consistently with all FAA rules and regulations. The LION Board is monitoring this proposal

AB831/SB813 - BFI Clean-up Legislation

2023 Act 12 exempted personal property from assessment and taxes. Items, previously categorized as personal property and determined to still be taxable, were added to the real estate assessment roll on Jan 1, 2024. The current bill provides clarification and cleanup to the buildings, fixtures, and improvements law. The bill requires the assessor or real property lister to create a separate tax parcel for property tax purposes for the FFI, requires property tax assessment rolls to contain descriptions of parcels that are based on the latest records of the office of the register of deeds, and authorizes real property listers to enter those descriptions on assessment rolls. The bill also authorizes the RPL to verify, before recording, the accuracy of declarations in BFI conveyance documents and specifies that legal conveyance must include all statutory requirements. The LION Board is monitoring this proposal.

Submitted by,
Eric Damkot, LION Chair