



Welcome to the 7th Annual Aging Advocacy Day!

Tuesday, May 9, 2023



Welcome Advocates

- A quick review:
 - 230 advocates (approx. 200 in-person today)!
 - Representing 31 of the 33 Senate districts and approximately 2/3 of the 99 Assembly districts
 - Traveling from all directions
 - Supported by many volunteers and sponsors

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day, May 9, 2023

Thank You, Sponsors



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging



W isconsin
A ssociation of
N utrition
D irectors



Mission Statement:

*The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is a collaboration of organizations and individuals **working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy and improve the quality of life for older people.** WAAN advocates for all older adults by educating the community and policy makers on issues impacting older adults; mobilizing people on priority issues; and advocating for change.*



Core Members

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- **Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA)**
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)
- Wisconsin Senior Advocates
- Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA)
- Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

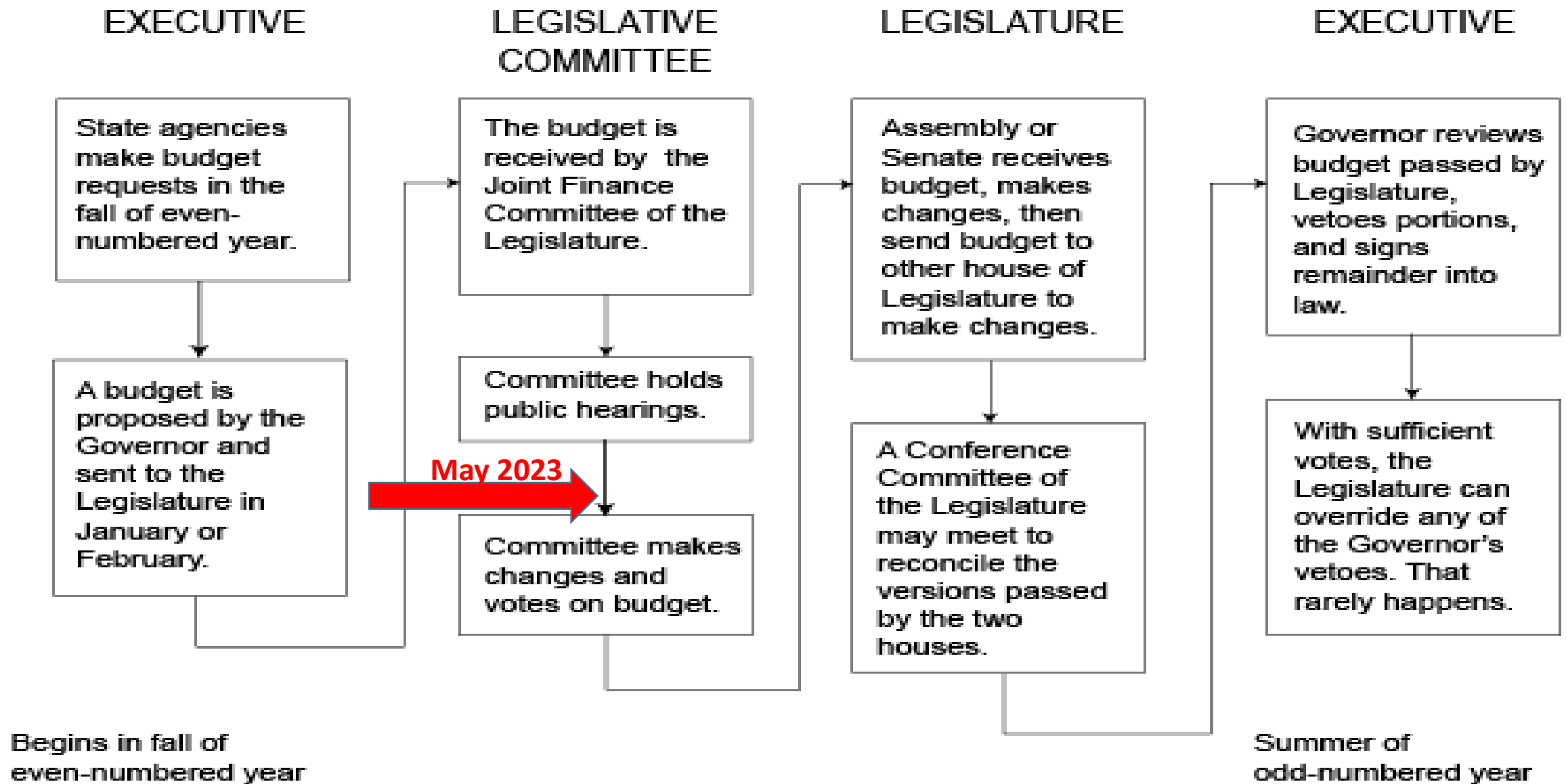
A blue arrow pointing to the left, with the text "Newest Member" inside it.

Newest Member

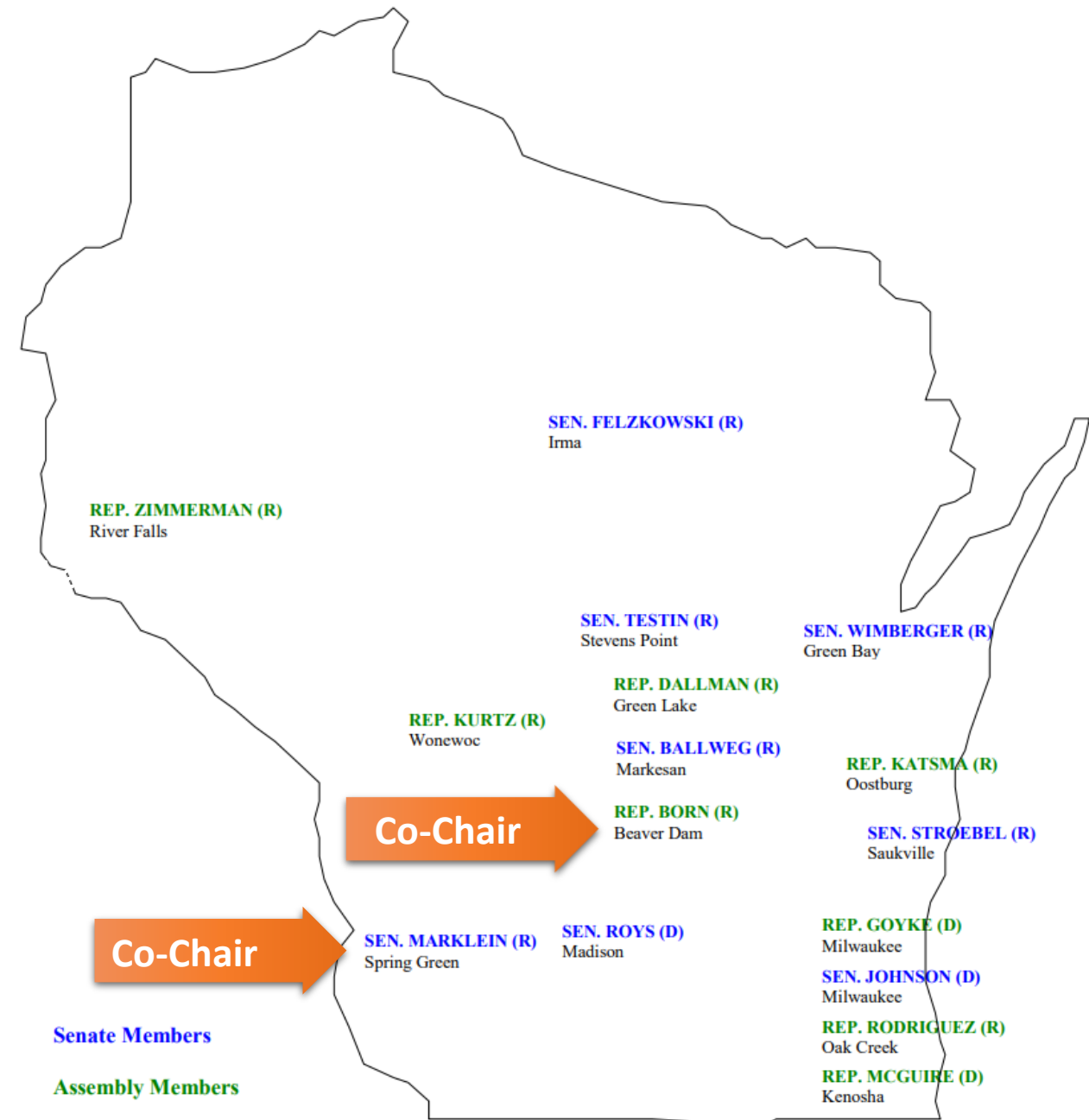
Profile of State Government

- Governor Tony Evers (D)
- State Senate
 - 8 newly elected Senators (seven of which have previous legislative experience)
 - 22 Republicans and 11 Democrats
- State Assembly
 - 24 Assembly Representatives are serving their first terms in the Assembly
 - 64 Republicans and 35 Democrats

The Budget Process in Wisconsin



Wisconsin State Legislature Joint Committee On Finance 2023-25



WAAN Budget Ask

#1. Invest in Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

The base allocation for ADRCs has not increased since 2006. Since then, the population of older adults and people with disabilities has grown, as has the number of recommended services included in the ADRCs state contract. In addition to population growth, a number of underfunded ADRCs do not have the resources to provide these additional critical services/programs to their growing number of customers.

These critical services/programs include:

- Full funding of the Elder Benefit Specialist program [§ 46.81(2)] which has not received a budget increase in over 20 years
- Expanding Caregiver Support and Programs
- Expanding Health Promotion Services
- Expanding Care Transition Services
- Full funding of Aging and Disability Resources in Tribes
- Full funding of Aging and Disability Resource Support Systems

**Every dollar
invested in
Wisconsin ADRCs
leads to a savings of
at least \$2.48**

WAAN's Position/Budget Request: Increase funding to Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) by \$32.4 million to equalize historical funding disparities, fully fund required contracted services for a growing customer base and provide an additional \$25 million to add critical services to all ADRC operations across the state.

WAAN Budget Ask

#2. Support for Caregivers: Paid & Unpaid



WAAN's Position: Caring for Wisconsin's family caregivers saves the state money, helps working caregivers remain in the workforce and provides the supports needed to help sustain them in their caregiving roles.

Budget Requests

- 1. Create a Wisconsin state tax credit for family caregivers (up to \$500) to ease the financial expenses of caregiving.** A Wisconsin income tax credit reimburses family caregivers for expenses—like assistive technology, adult day services and other needed equipment and services purchased for their loved ones. Caregivers spend an average of \$7,000 to meet their care needs of loved ones.
- 2. Increase Funding for Respite Service grants by \$200,000/year so more family caregivers can have access to respite opportunities and assistance to help pay for respite services.**
- 3. Create a Paid Family and Medical Leave program for Wisconsin to ensure those with access to family leave can afford to use it.** Paid leave is necessary for the long-term health, stability, and prosperity of our society, as it allows workers to care for themselves and their families during critical moments in their lives. Paid leave supports workers and businesses.
- 4. Establish and fund minimum provider reimbursement rates for home and community-based services** (residential, supportive home care, and personal care) in the Family Care and Family Care Partnership programs to help agencies recruit dedicated and qualified workers, reduce turnover, and be competitive in the market.

The items in blue have been removed by the Joint Finance Committee from further consideration in the 2023-2025 budget and will need stand-alone legislation to move forward.

WAAN Budget Ask

#3. Reinforce Home-Delivered Meal Services

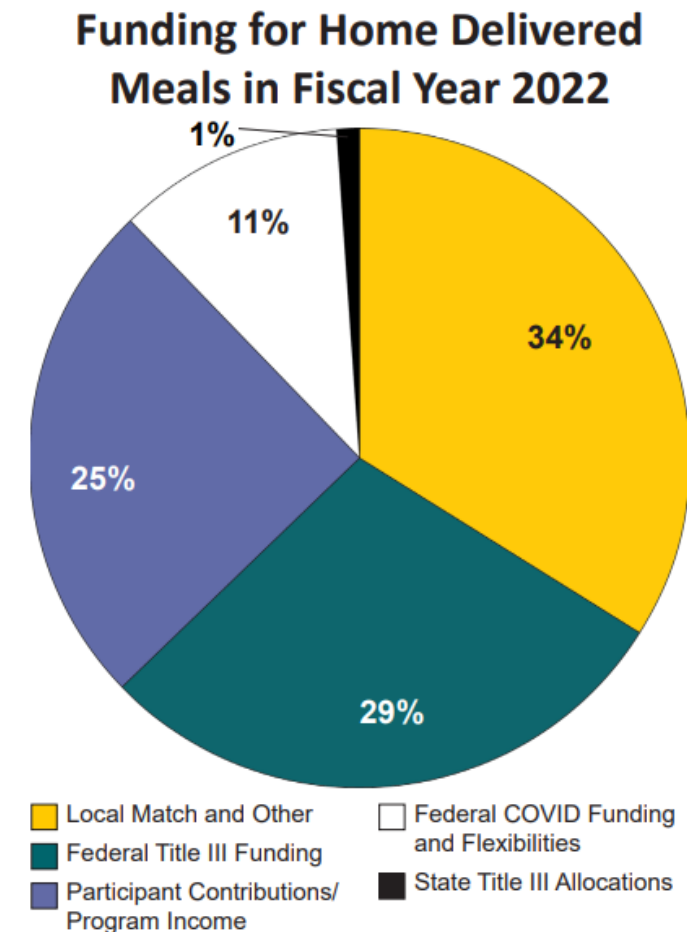
WAAN's Position: Senior hunger and isolation are growing critical social issues effectively combated by Older Americans Act Senior Nutrition Programs. These programs need support and fiscal backing to maintain access to these crucial services for the growing aging population of Wisconsin.

Budget Request

- **Protect vulnerable older adults by increasing the state contribution to Delivered Meal (HDM) Services from the current level of \$396,000 to \$5.95 million.**

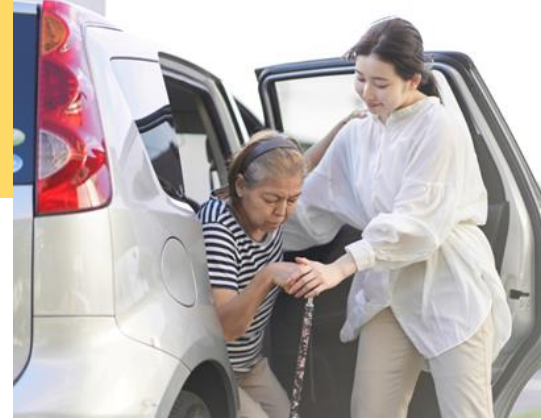
The program's accessibility is currently under threat statewide due to:

- Stagnant funding (**no increase in funding since program implementation in**
- a growing aging population accompanied by unprecedented levels of demand, and
- increased expenses driven by inflation and a lack of resources.



WAAN Budget Ask

#4. Transportation Support



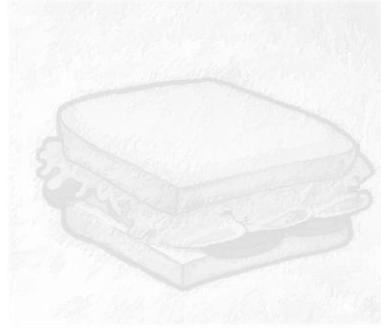
WAAN's Position: Support increased funding for public and specialized transportation and support policies incentivizing coordination of transportation services, encouraging volunteer driving, and authorizing local units of government to raise revenue for transportation services.

Budget Requests

- 1. Increase the capital and operation assistance program funding for specialized transportation (s.85.22) by 20% (\$192,000)** to assist with operations, replacement or acquisition of new transit vehicles and expand mobility management services needed to meet our needs as we age. Public transit and specialized transportation are critical infrastructure for the non-driving public, economic growth, and overall quality of life.
- 2. Incorporate annual inflationary increases for mass transit assistance and specialized transportation assistance for counties and tribes (s.85.20, s.85.21, and s.85.215 respectively) to ensure we can maintain our existing system and create and fund a dedicated specialized transportation fund to support voting related transportation needs (DMV, clerk's office, early voting locations, polling sites).**
- 3. Create a dedicated transportation funding source within the Family Care program for older adults and adults with disabilities.** Increasing targeted transportation funding for HCBS programs would ensure access to contracted transportation services for Manage Care Organizations (MCOs), improving MCOs capacity to supply participants (including those living in residential care facilities) with transportation services that meet their full needs as active and independent members of their communities.

Talking with your legislator

Building a “Sandwich”



1. Greeting and introduction (bread)
2. Why you are here – top concern(s) (condiments)
3. Why this issue is important to you (meat/protein)
4. Ask for what you want/need your elected official to do (more condiments)
5. Closing and thank you (other slice of bread)



Aging Advocacy Day 2018



Get a photo!

#WIAAD
#WIAgingAdvocacyDay23

Relationships – Legislators & Staff

- Today's visit is only step one
 - Opportunity to begin building a relationship with your legislators
 - Other issues you may want to discuss in future contacts
- Role of legislative staff
 - Gatekeepers
 - Knowledge/expertise
 - History and process experience
 - Communicate directly with the legislator



Getting Started

- Your booklet
- Legislative folders
- Planning meeting with members of your districts
 - Senate
 - Assembly
- Group photo
- ~~North Hearing Room~~
 - *Now 412 East
- In the Capitol



Follow-up: Today



- Complete your legislative feedback form and include any follow-up needed with your legislator(s). Leave forms in the Hearing Room.
- Send a “thank you” letter, email, Tweet or phone call to your state legislators. Contact your legislator to request an in-district meeting. **AARP Legislative lines will be available through Fri., May 12th**
 - **877-849-5012 (for your State Senator), and**
 - **877-606-5324 (for your State Assembly Representative**
- Turn in your completed evaluation to help us plan for future events.
- Tell your family, friends, and co-workers about your experience and encourage them to join you.

Follow-up: Future & Ongoing



- Schedule an in-district meeting with your legislator
- Attend one of your legislator's listening sessions or coffee with constituents
- Invite your legislator to an upcoming agency/organization event to see programs in action
- Sign-up to receive your legislators' newsletters and updates
- Vote and encourage others to vote
- Join a board or advisory council
- Speak out on local issues
- Sign up to receive advocacy alerts from the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network and respond to them



**This is what aging advocates
look like!!!**

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

Announcements

Questions?



Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

You are equipped and ready to step forward and ask for what is needed to support the older adults and caregivers of Wisconsin. !