

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: CHAPTER 1, GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE

FIRST CONSIDERATION: July 16, 2026

FINAL CONSIDERATION: August 20, 2026

ORDINANCE # 232 – 8/26 PUBLICATION DATE

The County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County does ordain as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1 "GENERAL GOVERNMENT"
OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ANALYSIS

Most of the amendments in Chapter 1 have been made to correct or clarify inconsistencies with other ordinances or State Statute. Some sections are amended or repealed because of changes in practice or policy. Specific changes include:

1. Changes have been made to the "appointed officials" table and to the PRD committee section to reflect the changes in the organizational structure of the Land Services Department.
2. Changes to the Health and Human Services Board more accurately reflect the statutory provisions for an HHS Board in Counties that have a County Administrator or Executive.
3. The changes to the citizen representative on the PRD committee reflect a recent change in State Statute.
4. The Farmland Preservation Committee was formed for the sole purpose of reviewing and making recommendations regarding the PACE program (Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements). The PACE program was created by the State in 2009 and provided money to Counties to help landowners voluntarily protect high-quality farmland through permanent conservation easements. The State rescinded that funding in 2011 and the committee has been dormant since that time. This amendment removes (repeals) the creation of the committee.
5. The section that enumerates "Other Organizational Appointments" is also being repealed. These are organizations that, by State Statute or their own bylaws, require the appointment of a County Board Supervisor. It is not necessary for them to be listed in our ordinance as this ordinance does not create the position. The repealing of these sections does not affect the enumerated organizations.

INFORMATION:

County Board Rules: Governing Body s. 2.02(8) states, in part: Ordinances are drafted by the Corporation Counsel. After the ordinance has been reviewed by a standing committee, each Supervisor will be given a copy of the ordinance showing the deleted language (grayed) and the new language (underlined) and an analysis of the intent of the ordinance. After introduction to the County Board, the ordinance shall be referred to the next monthly meeting unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the Supervisors present and a public hearing may be held if requested by a Supervisor. An amendment may be introduced and debated at either the original or the referred meeting. Copies of the ordinances of the County of La Crosse in their entirety are available with Corporation Counsel, County Clerk, or www.lacrossecounty.org

(rev. 3/26)

ORDINANCE # 232 – 8/26

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CH. 1 ENTITLED "GENERAL GOVERNMENT" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The County Board of supervisors of the County of La Crosse does hereby ordain as follows:

Chapter 1 of the General Code of La Crosse County is amended to read as follows:

Section 1

1.01 APPOINTED OFFICIALS. The following shall be appointed officials:

Official	Appointing Authority	Removal*
Auditor/Finance Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Corporation Counsel	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.42(1)(b)
County Surveyor	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
County Administrator	County Board	Pursuant to 59.18(7) and employment contract
Emergency Services Administrator	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Facilities Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Family Court Commissioner	Circuit Court Judges	Pursuant to 17.10(4)
Health Officer	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Highway Commissioner	County Administrator	Indefinite
Human Services Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Human Resources Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
IT Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Land Conservation Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Library Director	Library Board	Per terms of library board
Long Term Care, Executive Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Mediation and Family Court Services Director	Circuit Court Judges	Pursuant to 17.10(4)
Medical Examiner	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Solid Waste Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Veteran's Services Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)
Land Services Director	County Administrator	Pursuant to 59.18(2)(b)

*Unless otherwise noted, references are to Wisconsin Statutes.

1.02 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (1) Membership. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the County Board Chair, the 2 Vice Chairs, and the Chair of each Standing Committee. The County Board Chair shall be the chair of the Executive Committee. The County Board Chair

may appoint additional Supervisors to the Executive Committee to maintain the membership at 9 Supervisors. In addition, the immediate past County Board Chair may serve as a member of the Executive Committee for 1 year from the last date that they held office as County Board Chair provided that they continue to be a Supervisor.

- (2) The Executive Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
 - (a) County Administrator;
 - (b) Corporation Counsel;
 - (c) County Clerk;
 - (d) Finance;
 - (e) Information Technology;
 - (f) Human Resources; and
 - (g) Treasurer.
- (3) Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee:
 - (a) Assists the County Board as well as the County Board Chair in the operation of county government.
 - (b) Reviews and recommends action on the annual budget prepared by the County Administrator for submission to the County Board.
 - (c) Provides supervision and liaison with the County Administrator. The Committee shall recommend to the County Board all matters pertaining to the employment of the County Administrator.
 - (d) Handles all other matters not specifically delegated to any other committee.
 - (e) Sets parameters and goals and gives directions to the County Administrator and Human Resources Director on County personnel policies and procedures.
 - (f) Approves any proposed union contracts and contract changes where applicable for submission to the County Board for approval. The total percentage resulting from the proposed union contract shall be listed in the fiscal note.
 - (g) Provides oversight for all routine County financial matters, approves County audit reports, oversees County investments, monitors County insurance policies, monitors County bonding, manages the annual contingency funds, approves, and recommends all budget amendments to the County Board.
 - (h) Examines claims against the County brought to the Committee by Corporation Counsel.
 - (i) Monitors, approves, and recommends all expenditures in excess of the County Administrator's authority.
 - (j) Exercises jurisdiction over all County personnel matters, including the following:
 - 1. Review and recommend actions to the full Board as are deemed necessary to implement, amend or add to the employee classification and compensation plan.
 - 2. Review and approve positions as set forth in Ch. 3 of this Code [Position Administration].
 - 3. Review any changes to the County Employment Handbook that would result in a fiscal impact and recommend action to the full board.
- (4) Special Committees, Boards and Commissions. The Executive Committee shall be

responsible for interaction and recommendations to the County Board with respect to following: Library Board, Board of Harbor Commissioners, Economic Development Advisory Committee, La Crosse County Housing Authority, Aviation Board, La Crosse Area Development Corp. (LADCO), La Crosse County Agricultural Society, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC), Winding Rivers Library System, and Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association.

STANDING COMMITTEES

1.03 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD.

(1) Membership.

- (a) The Health & Human Services Board shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the County Administrator and subject to the confirmation by the County Board including 6 Supervisors and 3 citizen members who are not Supervisors or employees of the County.
- (b) The citizen members shall have a demonstrated interest or competence in human services, public health or community health and at least 1 of the 3 citizen members shall be an individual who receives or has received human services or shall be a family member of such an individual.
- (c) A good faith effort shall be made to appoint a registered nurse and a physician and the Health & Human Services Board shall reflect the diversity of the community.
- (d) No public or private provider of services may be appointed to the Health & Human Services Board.
- (e) The above membership provisions are required by Wis. Stat. §§46.23(4)(a) and 251.03(1).

(2) Terms.

- (a) Members of the Health & Human Services Board shall serve for 3 year staggered terms.
- (b) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(3) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:

- (a) Human Services; and
- (b) Health.

(4) Duties and Powers of the Health & Human Services Board

- (a) Functions as the county human services board and is responsible for providing program oversight of the Human Services Department pursuant to Wis. Stat. §46.23(4)(b)(2) and s. 11.01(4) of this Code.
- (b) Responsible for serving as policy-making body determining the broad outlines and principles governing the administration of programs provided by the Human Services Department.
- (c) Functions as the county board of health and is responsible for the program oversight of the Health Department pursuant to s. 11.19 of this Code. The Board also assesses the health status of the people of La Crosse County and recommends policies that will improve the health status and assure that needed health services are provided in the

County.

- (5) Special Committees, Boards and Commissions. The Health & Human Services Board acts as a liaison to the County Board for the following: Family Policy Board Executive Committee, Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee and the ISRS Advisory Committee.

Section 2.

1.08 PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

- (1) Membership. The Planning, Resources and Development Committee shall be composed of 7 Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chair and 1 citizen member. The citizen member shall be a person who is engaged in "agricultural use" as that term is defined in Wis. Stat. §91.02(1) 1. to 7. This person shall be a voting member of the Committee only for land conservation matters.
- (2) The Committee shall act as the policy oversight committee for the following departments:
 - (a) Land Services,;
 - (b) Register of Deeds;
 - (c) University Extension.
- (3) Powers and Duties of the Planning, Resources and Development Committee:
 - (a) Functions as a Land Conservation Committee pursuant Wis. Stat. §92.06 and has all powers and duties pursuant to Wis. Stat. Chapter 92.
 - (b) Promotes the development of comprehensive county wide resource conservation programs, more specifically, to halt and reverse the depletion of La Crosse County's soils, resources, and pollutions of its waters.
 - (c) Designated as the county zoning agency, authorized to act in all matters pertaining to County planning and zoning pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.69(2).
 - (d) Responsible for updating and revising the zoning ordinance and responsible for long range development plans.
 - (e) Considers, examines, and reports to the County Board its findings in all matters of the legal assessments, tax titles, and delinquent taxes that may come before the County Board for action.
 - (f) Makes recommendations to the County Board concerning the Farmland Preservation Program to assure that each application meets all eligibility requirements to the law pursuant to Wis. Stat. §71.59 and Chapter 91 and County Land Use Policies.
 - (g) Functions as a committee on agriculture and extension education and supervises the educational program in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, referred to as the "University Extension Program" pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.56(3).
 - (h) Makes a determination of basic problems and periodic evaluation of extension services.
 - (i) Maintains a qualified and competent University Extension staff in cooperation with the University Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to meet the needs of the people of the County and, on behalf of the County, examines and approves expenses relative to the operation

of the Extension office and staff.

- (4) Special Committees, Boards & Commissions. The Planning, Resources & Development Committee acts as a liaison to the County Board for the following: Board of Adjustment, Condemnation Commission Wildlife Abatement/Damage Committee, Land Information Council, Historic Sites Preservation Commission, Lake Neshonoc Protection and Rehabilitation District, and Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District.

Section 3.

1.15 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

- (1) Membership. The Board of Adjustment shall be composed of 3 members for a 3 year term beginning July 1. There shall be 1 or more alternate members on the Board of Adjustment at all times for a 2 year term. Alternate members may be appointed at any time upon recommendation of the County Board. They shall have the same powers and duties as regular members. Appointments are made by the County Board Chair subject to the confirmation of the County Board. See 17.22 of this Code for Powers and Duties.

Section 4.

1.18 CONDEMNATION COMMISSION

- (1) Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §32.08 a county shall have a condemnation commission consisting of 9 commissioners appointed by the judges of the circuit court. Each commissioner shall be a resident of La Crosse County and be appointed pursuant to Wis. Stat. §32.08.
- (2) Such commissioners shall be appointed by the circuit judges and may be removed by said judges at their pleasure, and they shall be appointed for 3 year staggered terms.
- (3) The commissioners shall annually elect 1 of their members as chair.
- (4) The commissioners shall receive an hourly rate for actual service. Said rate to be established by resolution of the La Crosse County Board. Said commissioners are entitled to receive mileage at the going County Board rate and such compensation and expenses shall be paid by the condemner on order approved by the circuit judges.

Section 5.

1.21 HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION.

- (1) Membership. The Highway Safety Commission shall be appointed by the County Board Chair and shall be composed of:
 - (a) County Highway Safety Coordinator, Chair
 - (b) SW District Engineer Wis. DOT Representative
 - (c) County Highway Department Representative
 - (d) SW District State Highway Patrol Representative
 - (e) Sheriff's Patrol Deputy Representative

- (f) Educational Profession Representative
 - (g) Medical Profession Representative
 - (h) Legal Profession Representative
 - (i) Woman Highway Safety Leader Representative
 - (j) Population Center Representative
 - (k) Citizen Representative
 - (l) City of La Crosse Board of Public Works Representative
 - (m) Wisconsin DOT Office of Highway Safety Representative
 - (n) City of La Crosse Police Representative
- (2) Meetings.
- (a) The commission shall develop a meeting schedule that includes a minimum of 4 full meetings per year.
 - (b) The County Highway Safety Coordinator shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of attendance, minutes and all official proceedings.
- (3) Duties and Powers. The Highway Safety Commission shall act as an advisory board to the County Highway Safety Coordinator to enable them to:
- (a) Secure voluntary coordination and reinforcement of highway safety activities conducted by the political subdivisions of the County in the functional areas of:
 - 1. Driver education codes and laws.
 - 2. Traffic courts.
 - 3. Alcohol in relation to highway safety.
 - 4. Identification and surveillance of accident locations
 - 5. Traffic records.
 - 6. Emergency medical services.
 - 7. Highway design, construction and maintenance.
 - 8. Traffic control devices.
 - 9. Pedestrian safety.
 - 10. Police traffic services.
 - 11. Debris hazard control and clean up.
 - 12. School bus safety.
 - (b) Advise the Judiciary and Law Committee on highway safety manners.
 - (c) Maintain liaison with highway safety programs carried on by the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska; Villages of Holmen, West Salem and Bangor, and the Town of Shelby and related State functions conducted in the County.
 - (d) Develop local actions necessary to implement projects under the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966.
 - (e) Cooperate with unofficial organizations and groups in developing and conducting public information programs directed to highway safety improvements.
- (4) Subcommittees and Study Groups. The County Highway Safety Coordinator may establish special study groups or subcommittees necessary to meet the commission's responsibilities as outlined in this section. Meetings of such groups or subcommittees may be scheduled as often as necessary and when convenient.

Section 6.

1.26 VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

- (1) Membership. The Veterans' Service Commission shall be composed of 5 residents of the County who are veterans appointed for staggered 3 year terms by the County Board Chair subject to the confirmation of the County Board.
- (2) Duties and Powers. To provide aid to needy veterans, or to spouses, surviving spouses, minor and dependent children of such veterans, and the needy parents of such veterans pursuant to s. 45.81, Wis. Stats. The Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Veterans, Aging and Long Term Care Committee.

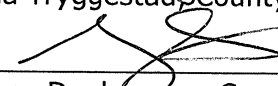
Section 7. The following sections are hereby repealed:

1. Section 1.19 "Farmland Preservation Committee"
2. Section 1.31 "La Crosse Area Development Corp. (LADCO)".
3. Section 1.32 "La Crosse County Agricultural Society".
4. Section 1.33 "Lake Neshonoc Protection And Rehabilitation District".
5. Section 1.34 "Lake Onalaska Protection And Rehabilitation District".
6. Section 1.35 "Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission".
7. Section 1.36 "Winding Rivers Library System".
8. Section 1.37 "Couleecap, Inc."
9. Section 1.38 "Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association".

Section 8. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

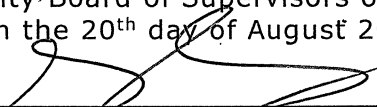
By: 
Tina Tryggstad, County Board Chair

By: 
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk

PASSED: August 20, 2026
PUBLISHED:

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 20th day of August 2026.


Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk