



# Wisconsin Towns Association

Lose Local Government, and You Will Lose America

## Welcome to the District Meeting



# What will you learn today?

1. Legislator Dialogue
2. Overview of Legislative Agenda
3. BOR updates
4. Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association
5. State Trust Fund Loans
6. Fire Department and EMS
7. Transportation Study
8. Communicating with Legislators



# Wisconsin Towns Association

Lose Local Government, and You Will Lose America

## WTA Legislative Agenda

Mike Koles

WTA Executive Director



# Wisconsin Towns Association

Lose Local Government, and You Will Lose America

## Legislator Dialogue



VIDEO



# Wisconsin Towns Association

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LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTE  
OF WISCONSIN



<http://www.localgovinstitute.org>



# Transportation Budget

1. Increase GTA per Road Mile Aids
2. Maintain or increasing (TRIP/TRID) funding and increase TRID ratio to 80-20.



# Biennial Transportation Deficit

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Opening balance plus current law revenues       | \$3,222 million      |
| Cost to continue                                | \$3,540 million      |
| Base deficit                                    | \$318 million        |
| <b>Additional project needs above FY15 base</b> |                      |
| Southeast Freeways (Zoo / I94 N-S / I94 E-W)    | \$619 million        |
| Hoan Bridge                                     | \$17 million         |
| Stillwater Bridge                               | \$20 million         |
| <b>“Realistic” deficit</b>                      | <b>\$974 million</b> |





# November Proposal

| Fee or Tax Change           | FY16/FY17 Revenue |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Highway Use Fee             | \$378.9 million   |
| Motor Fuel Tax Changes      | \$358.4 million   |
| OS/OW Permit Fees           | \$8.8 million     |
| Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Fee | \$5.7 million     |
| Other Fee Changes           | \$3.0 million     |
| Diesel Light Vehicle Credit | (\$3.4 million)   |
| Total                       | \$751.4 million   |

- Use of Bonding - \$805.2m
- Use of General Fund



# Motor Fuel Tax Change

- Convert from fixed \$0.309 excise tax to mix of excise and wholesale adjusted annually
  - Gas: \$0.135 + 8% wholesale price
  - Diesel: \$0.163 + 8% of wholesale price
- Wholesale floor \$0.359 (gas) and \$0.409 (diesel)
  - Effectively a 5 and 10 cent increase
- 5% maximum annual adjustment



# Transportation

# Investment Coalition

- Adequate
- Equitable
- Sustainable-Long Term

Wisconsin Economic Development Association  
La Crosse Area Development Corporation  
Wisconsin Counties Association  
League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
Wisconsin Towns Association  
Wisconsin Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association  
Association of Wisconsin Tourism Attractions  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin  
Greater Green Bay Chamber  
Greater Whitewater Committee  
Forward Janesville  
CASE Construction Equipment  
Transportation Development Association  
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association  
Wisconsin Grocers Association  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
Dairy Business Association  
Competitive Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Independent Businesses  
Wisconsin Earth Movers Association  
International Operating Engineers Local 139  
Wisconsin Laborer's District Council  
Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters  
Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association  
Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association  
Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association



# Governor's Budget Proposal

- \$1.3 Billion in Bonding; up from \$991 last budget
- No GTA Increase
- Increase of \$106.2M for SE Megaprojects
- \$632.2M total for SE Megaprojects
- Towns GTA \$138M om 2015



# Adequate?

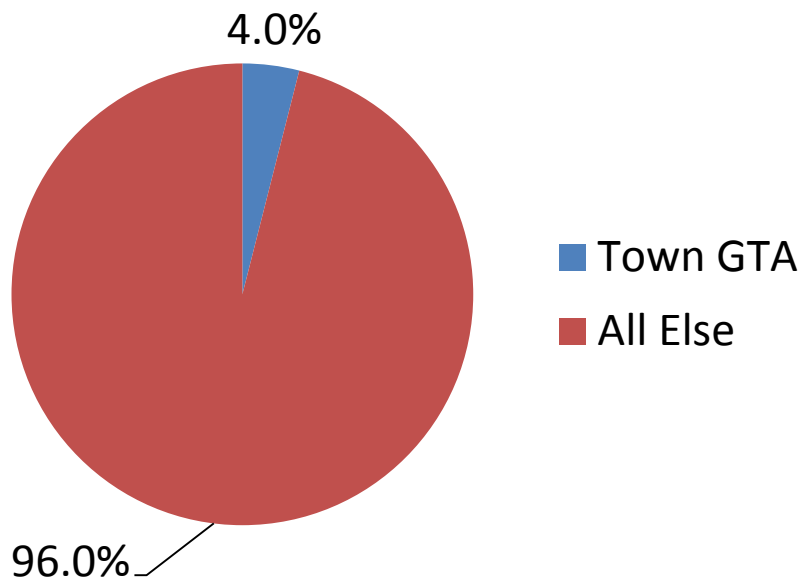
**42%** reduction in state highway program

**42%** of roads rated as poor in 10 years (20% now)

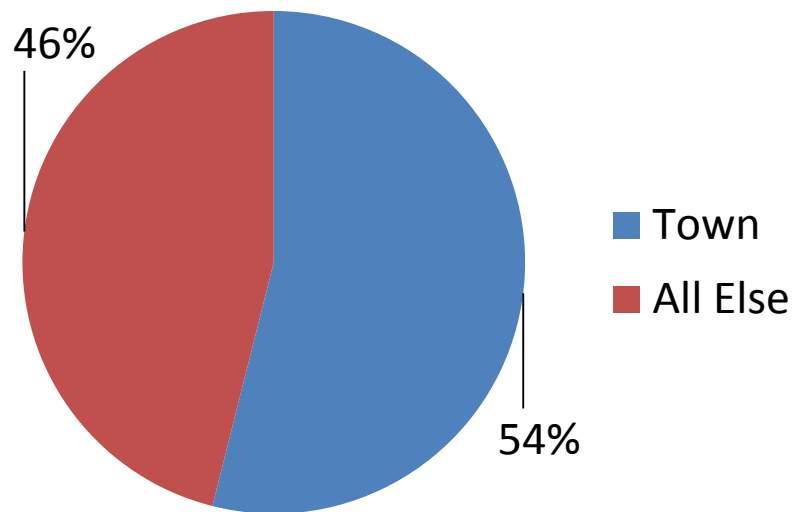


# Equitable?

**% of Funding**

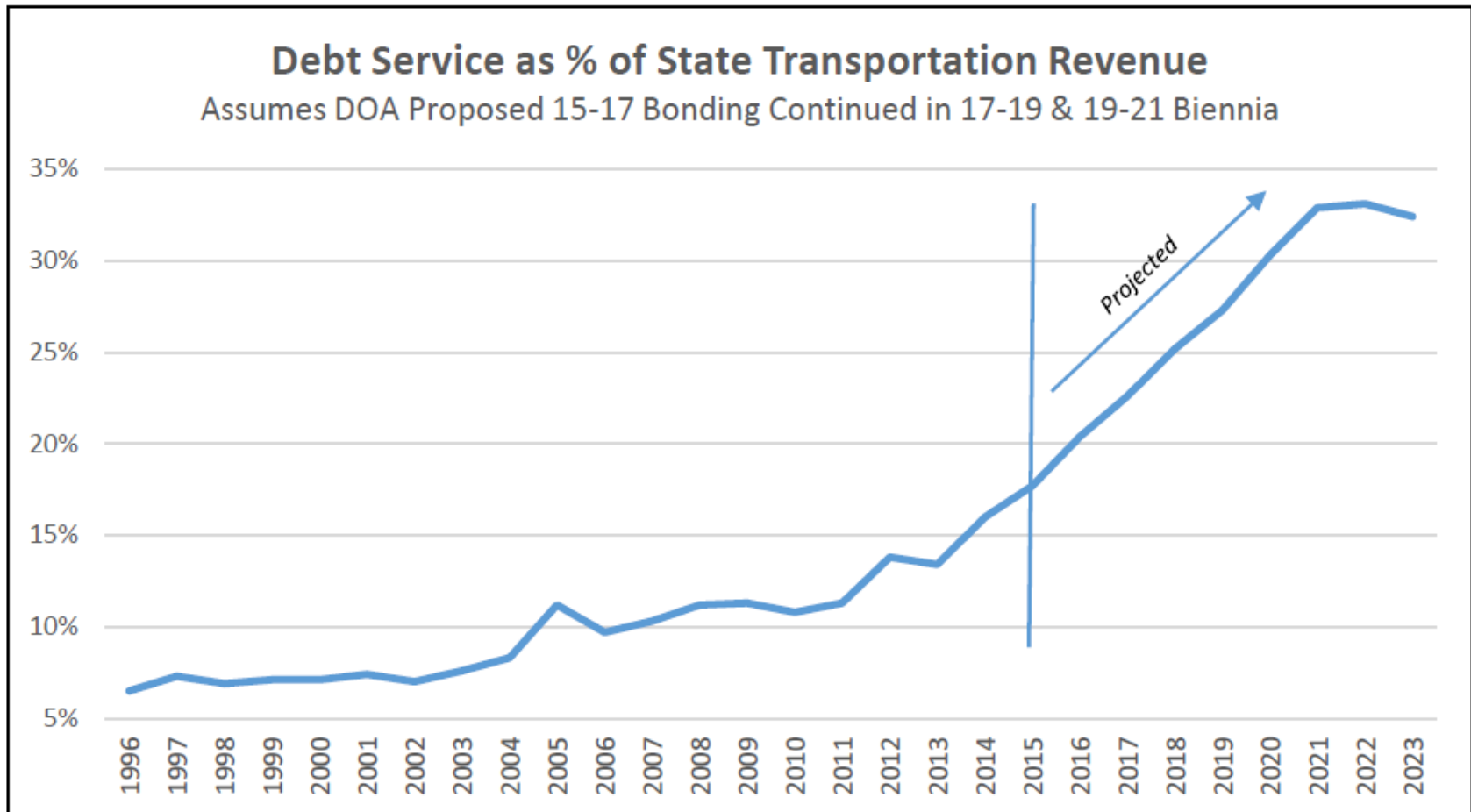


**% of Roads**





# Sustainable?





# Transportation Importance

- Only Indiana's economy is more dependent on transportation
- WI invests less per mile than most states
- 35 states have better roads
- Lowest registration fees and gas tax in upper Midwest





**Not Excessive  
Bonding**

**Raising  
Revenues**

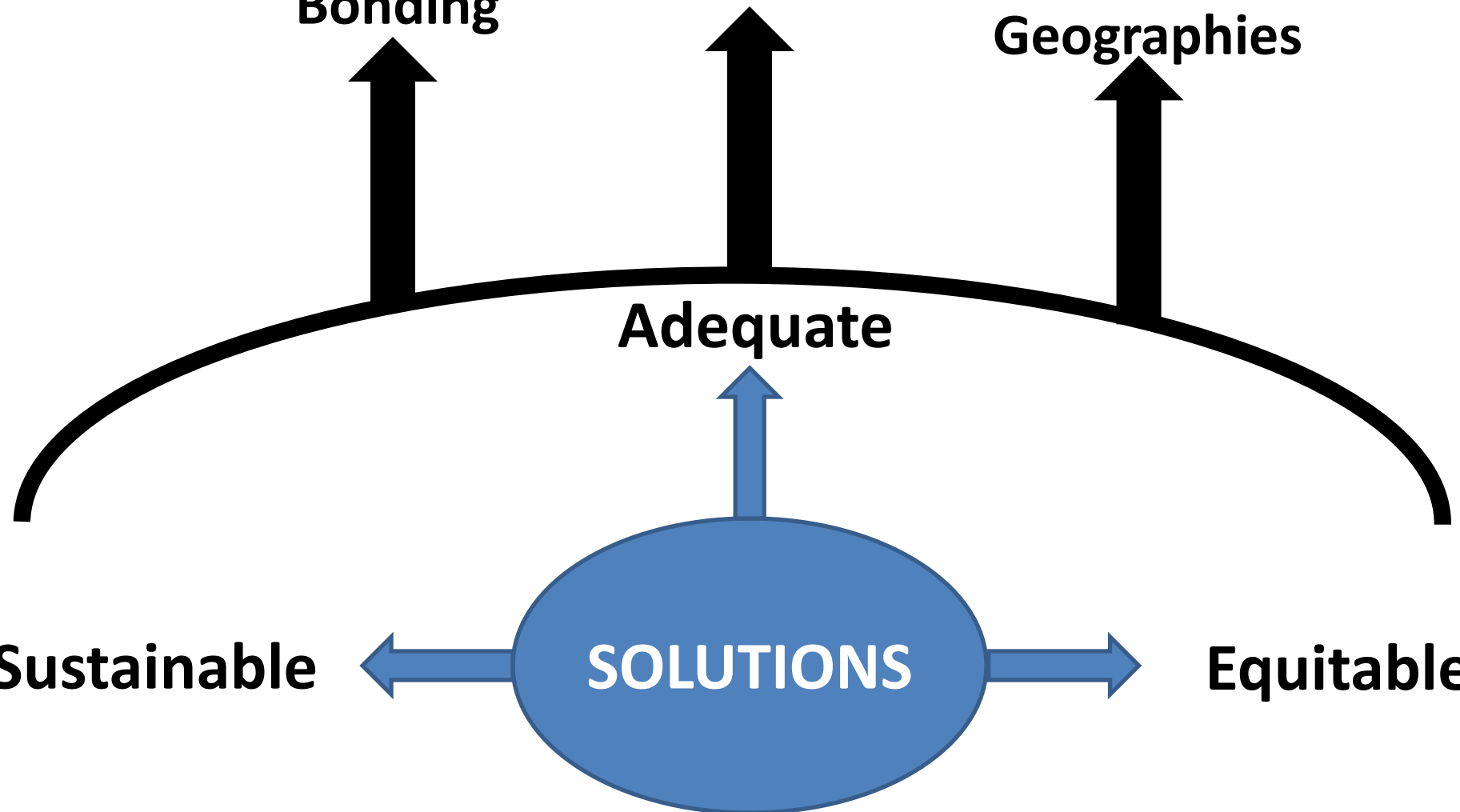
**Equitable  
Distribution  
to Various  
Interests and  
Geographies**

**Adequate**

**Sustainable**

**SOLUTIONS**

**Equitable**





# Town Road Policy

3. Allow use of Manure Drag Lines
4. Eliminate Antiquated \$5,000 per mile limit
5. Reduce Road Costs by  
Eliminating Culvert Red Tape



# Assessment Policy

- Eliminate local assessment and have the county assess
- Assessment must be at 100% every year
- County can charge town at 95% of what it cost in 2015 plus annual adjustments
- State determines salary range for county employees and works with county to determine # of employees and Department budget!!!



# Assessment Policy: Why?

- Some local officials & assessors were asking for it
  - Last time they weren't
  - 300+ contacts
  - Please take away my job



# Assessment Policy: Why?

- Equalized valuation is difficult to understand and people complain when there are jumps after an assessment
  - Just because the typical citizen doesn't understand it, doesn't mean that it doesn't work well; perhaps education is a better strategy
  - When the economy swings in one direction or the other, there will still be swings in assessments



# Assessment Policy: Why?

- There are bad assessors and this will limit that challenge by having fewer.
  - Eliminating local control will not eliminate the time proven 80-20 rule.
  - We've been a great partner in moving in the direction of tests, certification, and education. Let's not give up on that.
  - Local control is more accurate and will lead to less challenges



# Assessment Policy: Why?

- This will be more efficient at the state level
  - Alright, DOR will be able to eliminate the equalization branch

**HOWEVER....THIS WILL COST MORE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**



# Assessment Policy: Why?

- County will have to pay a lot more
  - Can only charge 95% initially.
  - Will have a steep cost to get everyone up to 100%
  - Will have to assess every single year.
  - Creating public sector jobs and eliminating private sectors jobs
- Towns will be subject to cost increases from the county and have no ability to negotiate or otherwise control costs.





# Cheaper????????

- MJS = \$6/parcel vs. \$25/parcel
- WAAO = \$4.96 vs. \$30.96
- Waupaca County - \$287K to \$1.03Million; 257%
- La Crosse County - \$246K to \$1.24Million; 403%



# Cheaper????????????

## Town Cost

- \$50,000 (in 2015) \* 95% = \$47,500 annually
- County – NOT TOWN – in charge of increases
- Towns can negotiate their own costs – thank you very much



# Board of Review

- County Board of Review
- Every Board Member must be certified every year
- Less opportunity for citizens to voice concerns
  - Local touch
  - Geographic distance
  - Number of people in line



# Bad Assessment Proposal

- Kills Local Control
- Decreases Accuracy
- Increases Costs for Towns in Long Run
- Unfunded Mandate for Counties
- Increases Cost for Counties
- Forces Poor Stewardship of Taxes

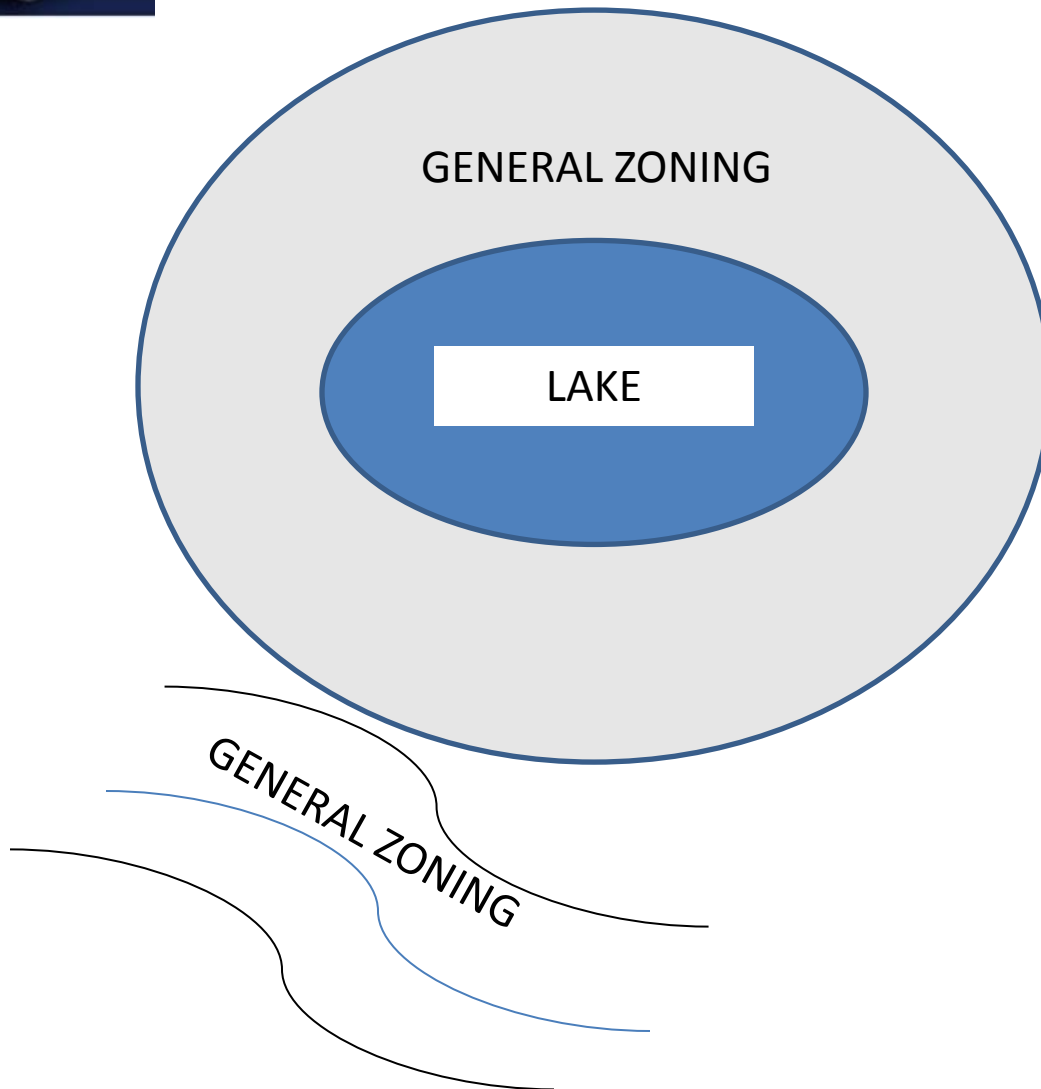


# Land Use Policy

1. Allow for Town removal from Dane County Zoning
2. Legislative Fix for Hegwood v. Town of Eagle



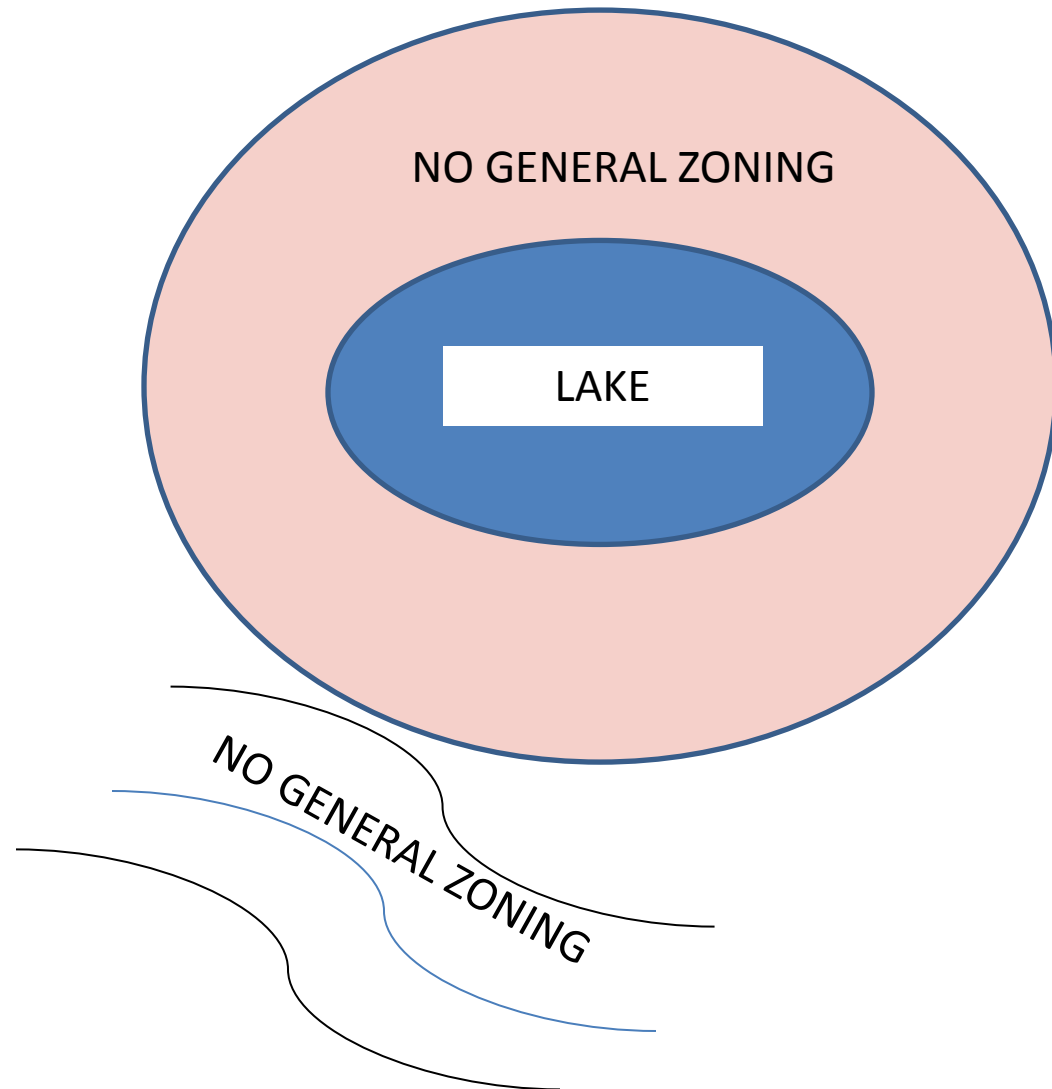
# Before Hegwood





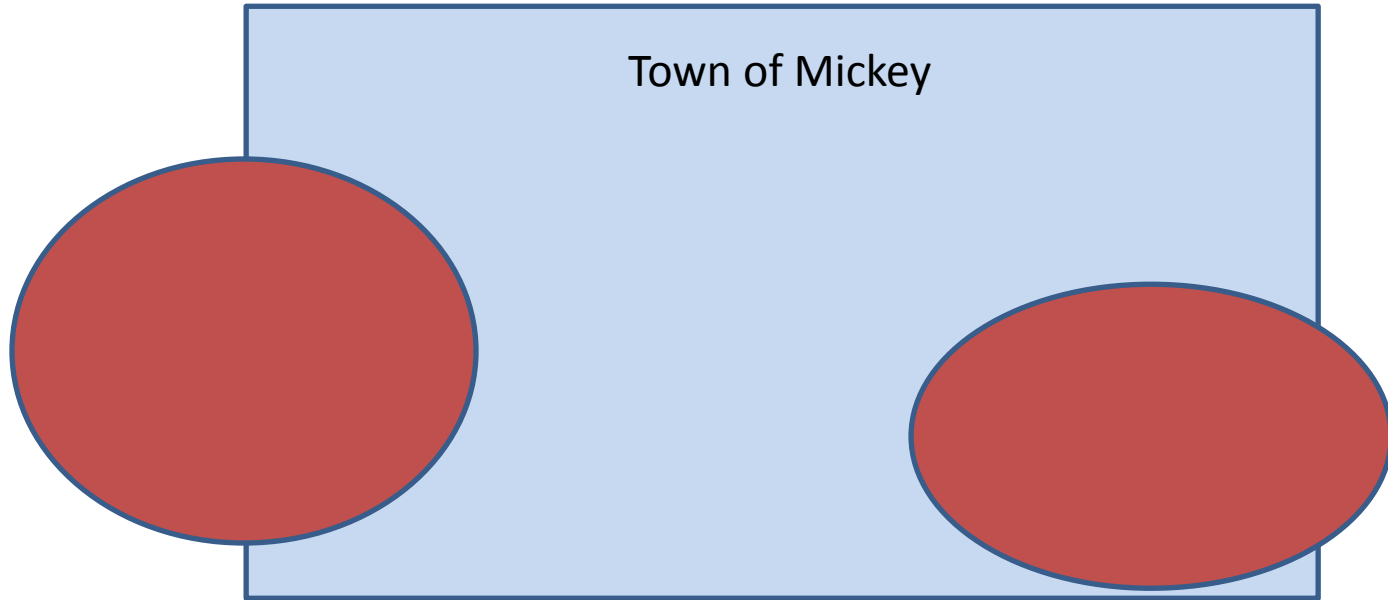
# After Hegwood

- Obnoxious Uses
- Property Value
- Farmland Preservation Credits





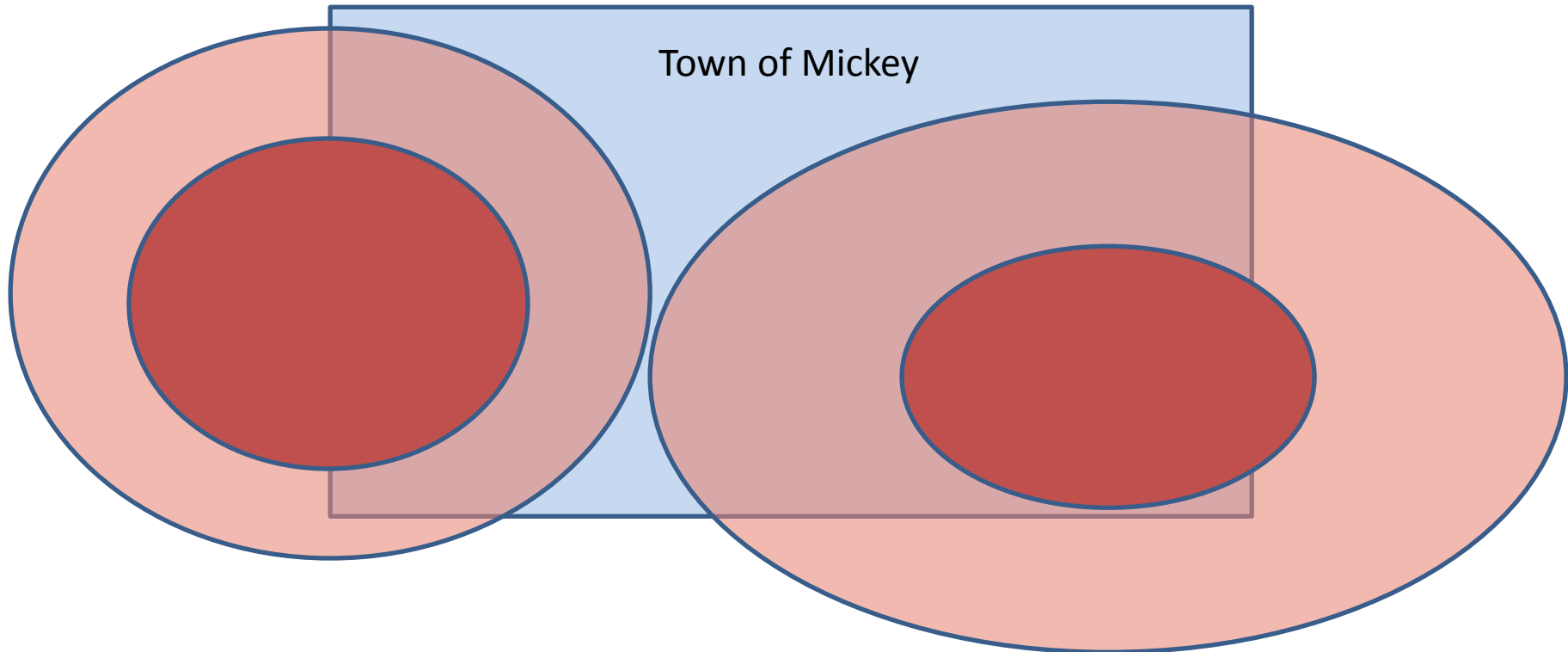
### 3. Allow County to Adopt their Own Plan





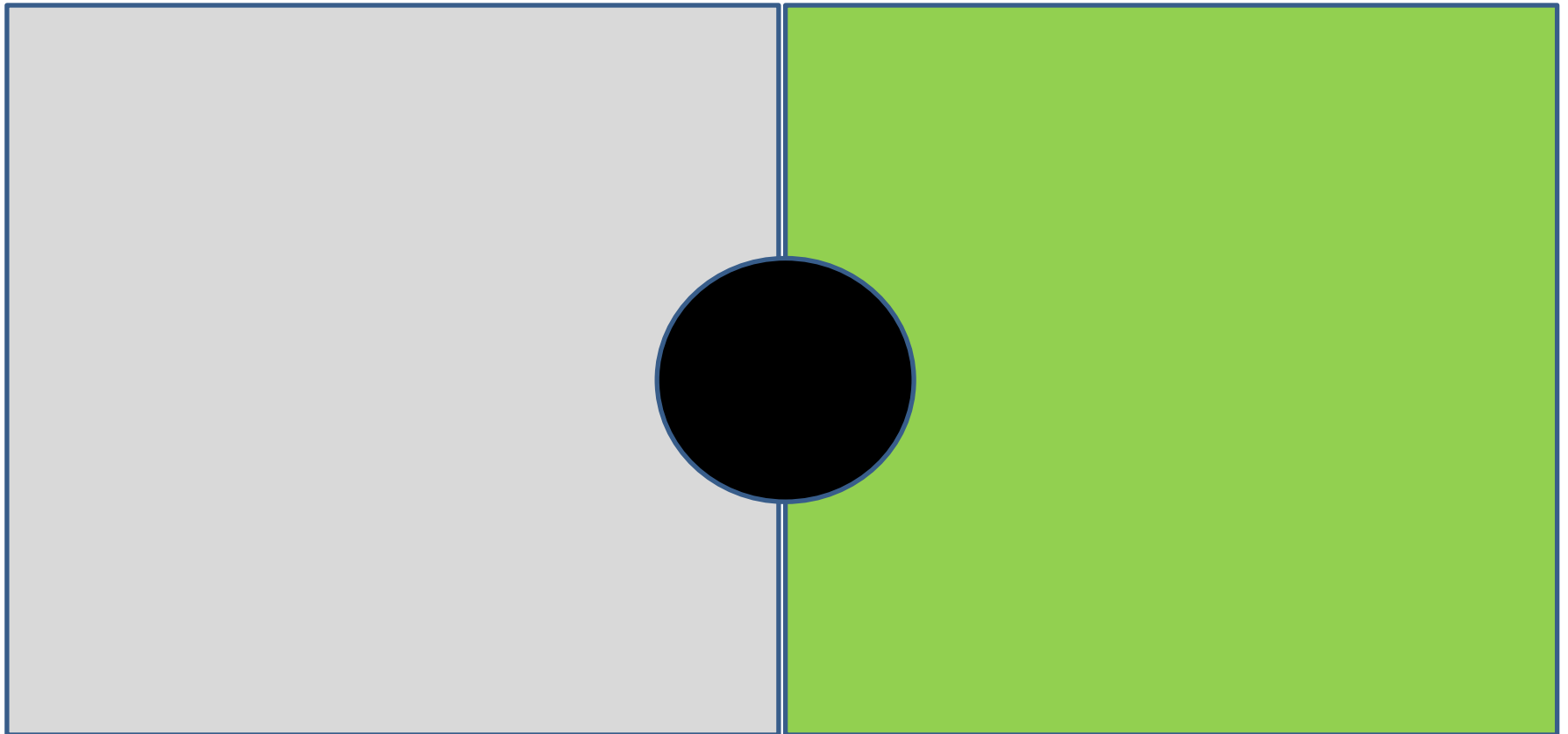


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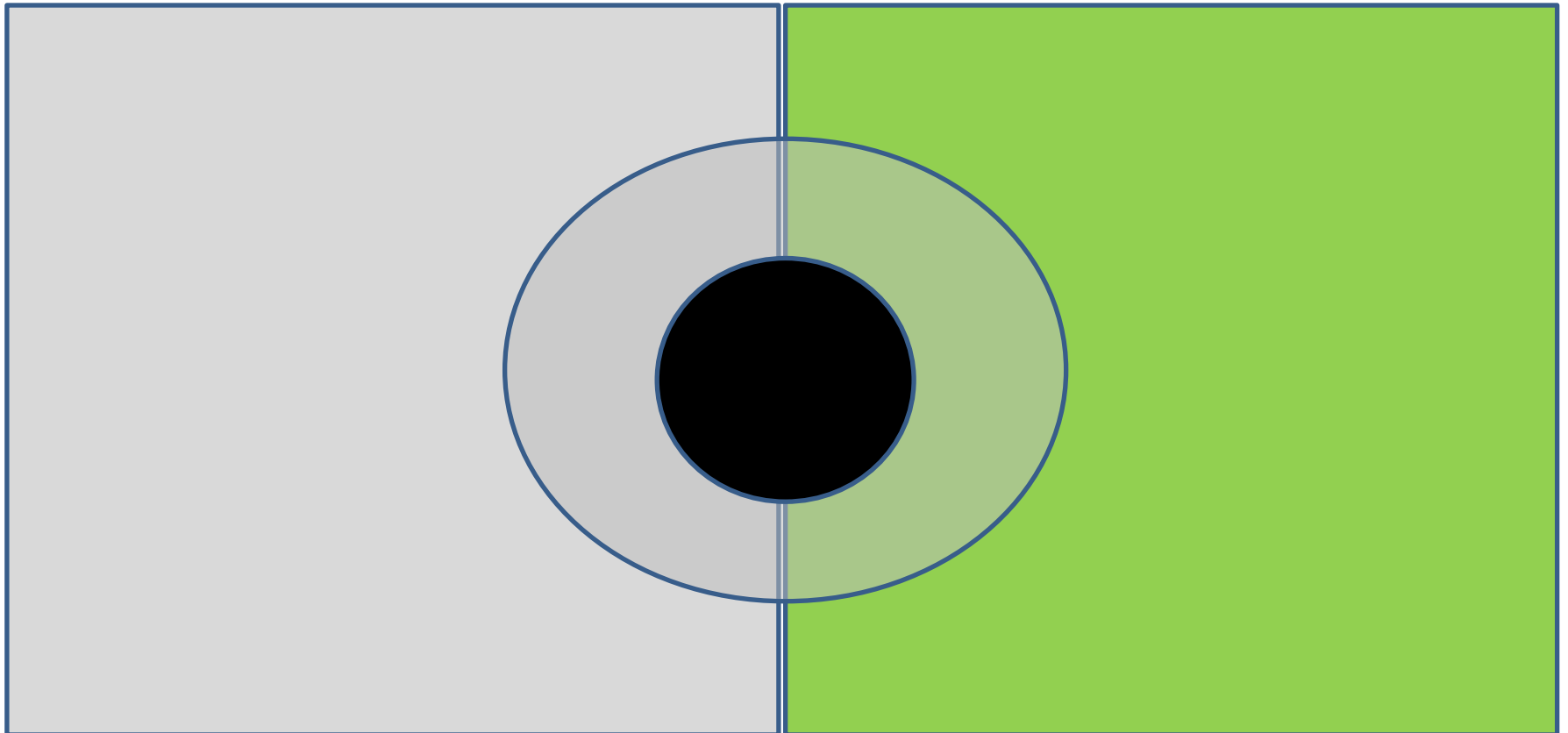


# 4. Limit Use of Extra-Territorial Zoning





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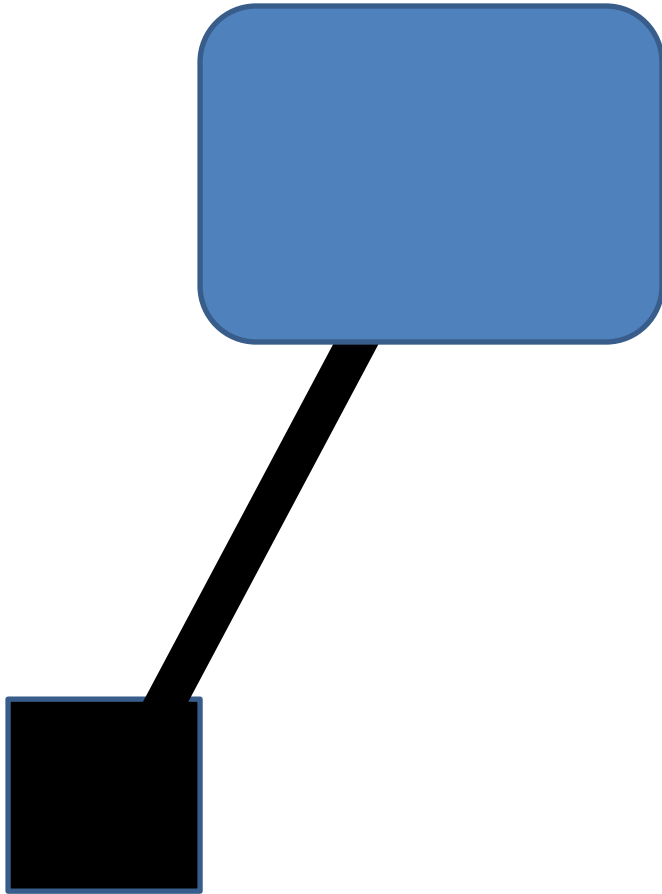
- Limit Negotiation Time to 1 Year
- Prevent use
  - If city/village population is not growing at a rate of 5% or more over the next 10 years as projected by DOA

**AND**

- City/village has less than 10% of their land available for development



## 5. Codify Case Law banning Balloon on a String Annexation



- Long Term Property Value Loss
- Implementation of Services Difficult
- Inability to address externalities
- Eliminates Democracy / Not American



## 5. Codify Case Law banning Balloon on a String Annexation

- Wisconsin Supreme Court has found these illegal:
  - Cannot connect with a “shoestring” (T. Mt. Pleasant v. City of Racine)
  - Cannot create “crazy quilt” boundaries (T. Mt. Pleasant v. City of Racine)
  - Violated the Rule of Reason (T. Mt. Pleasant v. City of Racine)
- Rule of Reason
  - Exclusions/Inclusions of Land Can’t be Arbitrary
  - Reasonable Need for the Property
  - Cannot Abuse Discretion



## 5. Codify Case Law banning Balloon on a String Annexation

- Not the only time cities/villages have chosen to ignore law
- Loser Pays
- Cost of DOA Review



# Public Safety

- Increase revenue flexibility for Fire and EMS so public safety is maintained.
- 2011 – 2015
  - 365 Towns Answered
  - 11% Fire on Average; Median – 6%; High – 388%
  - 13% EMS on Average; Median – 26%; High – 1340%





# Public Notices

- 3 Postings

OR

- 1 Posting and Website