

754 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53703

[WCBlind.org](http://www.wcblind.org), [info@WCBlind.org](mailto:info@WCBlind.org)  
608-255-1166

**Legislative Priorities: Civil Rights & ADA Compliance**

Prevent discrimination and promote full community inclusion of people with disabilities.

**Budget Items**

* Increase funding for special education in alignment with Governor Evers’ proposed $600 million. State funding for special education has been flat for the past 10 years, creating unmet needs for students with disabilities.
* Create a dedicated funding stream for students who are blind or visually impaired. Currently, there is no specific funding category for students who are blind or visually impaired. A dedicated funding stream for students with visual impairments would help ensure there is appropriate specialized technology and staff to meet their needs.
* Maintain the current level of funding for the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (Janesville), which has dedicated programs, outreach, and specially trained professionals serving the needs of students with visual disabilities throughout the state.

**Legislative Items**

* Increase voting access for people with disabilities
* Enhance poll worker education about the rights of voters with disabilities.
* Promote and ensure accessible voting machines are available and easy to access at all polling places.
* Support the Wisconsin Elections Commission in creating accommodations for the statute requirement of stating name and address, for those voters who are unable to do so, due to disability.
* Pass legislation to bring Wisconsin’s service animal law into alignment with the federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Updating Wisconsin’s law will clear up confusion currently faced by businesses and public venues about which types of animals may be allowed access to their premises. Define a service animal as one that provides an identifiable, defined task or service to its owner/handler. Per federal ADA law, task-based service animals are the only animals having mandatory access to businesses and additional venues of public accommodation.