

Popular Annual Financial Report

2022

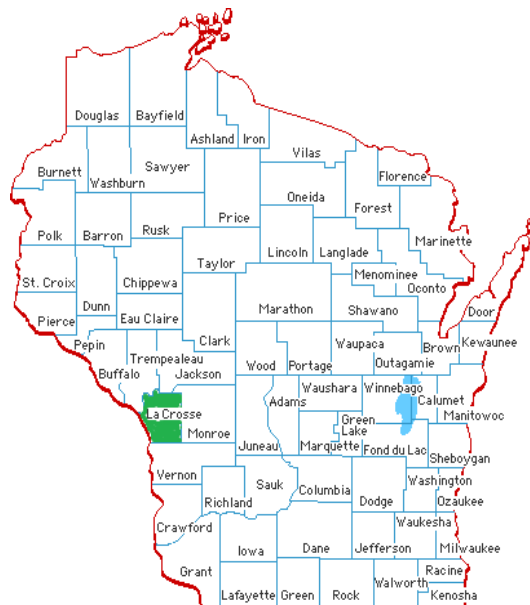


La Crosse County, Wisconsin

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Table of Contents

Purpose of Report.....	2
Community and Demographics	3
County Government.....	6
Awards & Recognition	7
Financial Highlights	8
Net Position	9
Revenues	10
Expenses.....	11
Capital Assets.....	12
Long-Term Obligations.....	13
Investments.....	14
General Fund	15
Ratios and Trends	16
Major Initiatives.....	17
Long-Term Financial Planning	18



Purpose of Report

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is an unaudited summary report of the financial activities of the County and is prepared primarily from detailed information contained in the County's 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), with selected information from earlier years. Certain amounts in the prior year comparatives noted in this report have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



The ACFR is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and includes audited financial statements. As such, it provides much more detail as well as full disclosure of all material events, both financial and non-financial. The GAAP presentation also includes the County's component units (related organizations) and information on individual funds.

The information in the ACFR by its nature can be technical and complex and as such, not as useful to citizens wishing to gain an overview of the County's finances. The PAFR has been prepared to simplify the information in the ACFR and better inform the public about the overall financial condition of the County, without the heavy use of technical accounting terms or excessive detail. The financial data presented in the PAFR does not include the discretely presented component unit and fiduciary funds and is not intended to provide a complete financial picture of the County in accordance with GAAP.

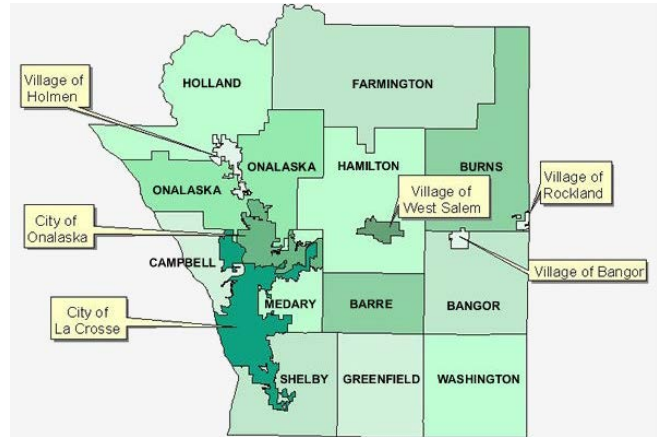
Questions or feedback concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information may be directed to the County Finance Department via telephone at 608-785-9580 or via email at financedept@lacrossecounty.org

The ACFR, the PAFR, and the budget are available on the County's website at: <https://lacrossecounty.org/finance/financial-reports>

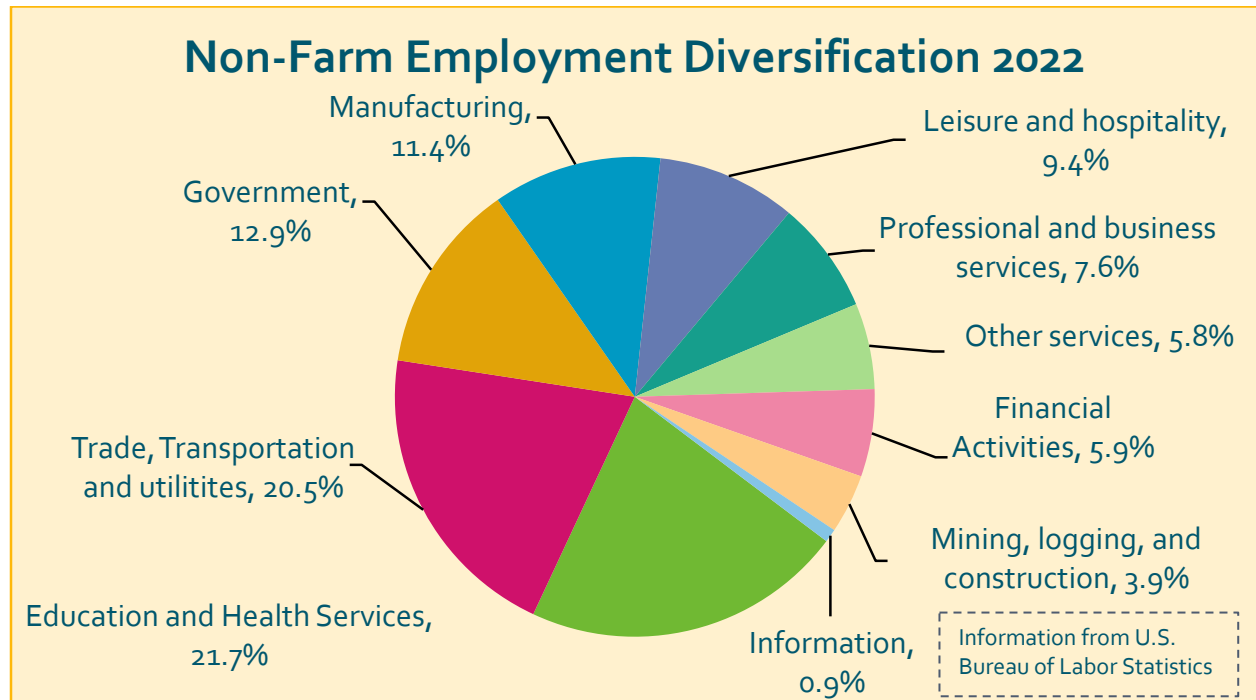
Community and Demographics

La Crosse County, organized in 1851, is located in southwest Wisconsin, along the Mississippi River to the west and beautiful bluffs and farmland to the east. The area provides excellent year-round recreational opportunities including river recreation, hunting, fishing, downhill skiing, and bike trails. La Crosse hosts a variety of semi-professional sports teams and the state's only weekly racing NASCAR-sanctioned track at the La Crosse Fairgrounds Speedway.

The City of La Crosse is the county seat of La Crosse County, which includes two cities, four villages, and twelve townships. The County occupies a land area of 481 square miles and serves a population of 122,126 (2022 estimate). Since 2013, population within the County has risen 5.3%.

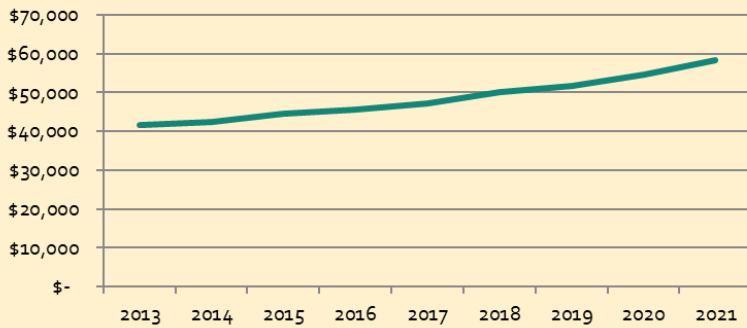


Due in large part to its excellent transportation connections, solid workforce, and well diversified economy, La Crosse County has continued its growth as an employment center for the Coulee Region – serving a regional population of over 400,000. The area also boasts significant natural resources and growing cultural amenities that contribute to the continued success of the tourism industry, as well as the attraction of employers to the area.



La Crosse County is a major employment center drawing people from surrounding areas and is well diversified. The top 5 employers in La Crosse County in 2022 were Gundersen Health System, Kwik Trip, Mayo Clinic Health System, The Trane Company, and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

La Crosse County Per Capita Personal Income

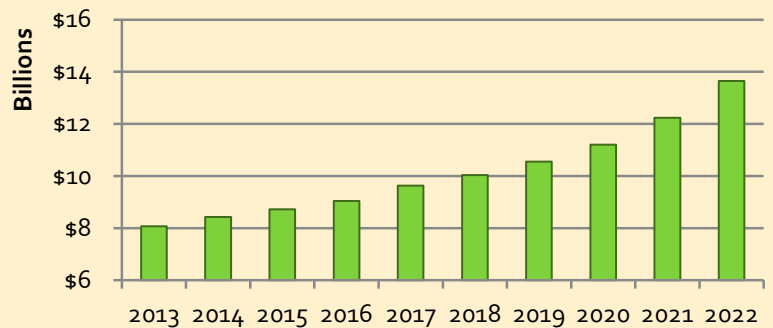


Per Capita Personal Income in the County has risen 39.9% since 2013 to \$58,301.

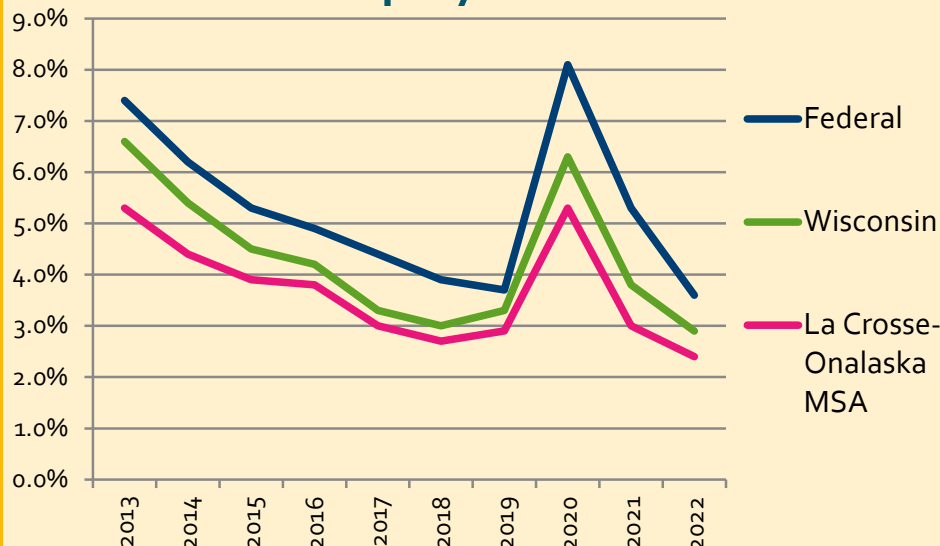
Note: The data for 2022 is not available at this time.

Over the past 10 years, the equalized value of taxable property in the County has increased 69.3%, resulting in a taxable equalized value of \$13,652,459,600.

La Crosse County Equalized Value



Unemployment Rate



The La Crosse-Onalaska, WI-MN Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has maintained a lower unemployment rate than the State and Federal rates for the last 10 years.



Julie Fogel, who works as a social worker for Human Services' crisis team, was presented with the Citizen Award of Excellence by the La Crosse Police Department. "Julie Fogel's dedication in helping the community and partnering with our police department to assist with crisis and ongoing mental health concerns has been instrumental when assisting consumers throughout the City of La Crosse," a statement announcing the award said. "She has been beyond supportive of the police department and our efforts to partner with La Crosse County and other service providers. On several cases she provides

the bridge needed to effectively communicate with care workers and consumers. Every call she shows she truly cares for community members." Julie was presented with the award by La Crosse Police Chief Shawn Kudron at a special ceremony.

La Crosse County was selected as one of only three counties in the State to participate in the Family Keys two-year pilot program by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Backed by \$120,000 in state funding, the program will provide short-term emergency housing to families who have cases with the child welfare system due to housing instability. "The goal of all of us, especially at Human Services, is to do the most good possible," said county board supervisor Tina Tryggstad, who chairs the County's Health and Human Services Committee. "It's heartwarming to know that La Crosse County's history of innovation means that the State of Wisconsin turns to us when there's opportunities such as this."

La Crosse County Assistant District Attorney Susan Donskey received the Wisconsin District Attorneys' Association's statewide Rising Star award. "Susan Donskey has persistently shown crime victims that she is the part of the criminal justice system they can trust," District Attorney Tim Gruenke and Deputy District Attorney Emily Ruud wrote in Donskey's nomination letter. "Sue takes on tough cases and gets good outcomes."



These recognitions continue to show how La Crosse County is a leader in its work across all departments to make this County a great place to live.

County Government

La Crosse County is governed by 30 board supervisors, elected to 2-year terms. The County Board of Supervisors serves as the legislative and policymaking body of the County. The Board Chairperson, Monica Kruse (elected April 2020), is responsible for providing directives of the Board to the appropriate officials and departments of the County. The County Administrator is Jane Klekamp and is tasked with carrying out policies and ordinances of the Board, preparing the annual budget, appointing department heads and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the County.

County services include the maintenance of public records, a 5-branch circuit court system, public safety and law enforcement, highway maintenance and construction, public health, human services, elderly programs, solid waste management, household hazardous waste center, zoning and conservation, library services, county parks, veteran's affairs and an extension service. The County owns and operates two separate skilled nursing homes as well as an assisted living center, a senior housing apartment complex, an adult family home, and 3 community based residential facilities. The County is self-insured for health, liability and worker's compensation.

The County's fiscal year is from January 1st to December 31st. In November of each year, the Board passes the budget for the next year. The annual budget serves as the foundation for financial planning and control.

As of December 31, 2022, the County Board of Supervisors, terms expiring April 2024, are listed below:

District 1	- Joe Konradt	District 11	- Patrick Scheller	District 21	- Robert Abraham
District 2	- Ralph Geary	District 12	- Randy Erickson	District 22	- Pam Viner
District 3	- David Pierce	District 13	- Tina Tryggstad	District 23	- Matt Nikolay
District 4	- Maureen Freedland	District 14	- Margaret Larson	District 24	- Kevin Hoyer
District 5	- Grant Mathu	District 15	- Monica Kruse	District 25	- Dennis Jacobsen
District 6	- Roger Plesha	District 16	- Dan Ferries	District 26	- David Hundt
District 7	- Gary Padesky	District 17	- Jack Pogreba	District 27	- Dan Hesse
District 8	- Peg Isola	District 18	- Mike Baroni	District 28	- Vacant
District 9	- Dawn Wacek	District 19	- Rick Cornforth	District 29	- Ken Schlimgen
District 10	- Kim Cable	District 20	- Steve Doyle	District 30	- Dillon Mader



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

Awards & Recognition

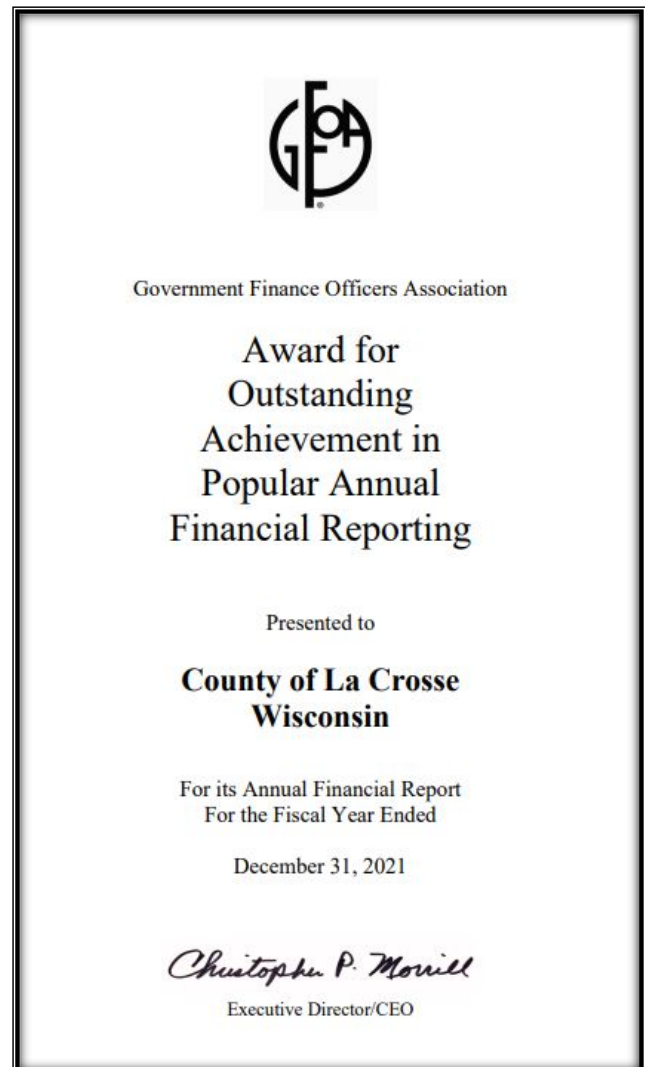
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the County of La Crosse for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. The County of La Crosse has received a Popular Award for the 8th consecutive year. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.

The County of La Crosse ACFR for the year ended 2021, from which information throughout this report has been drawn, was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by GFOA. This was the 17th consecutive year that the County has achieved this prestigious award. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR, whose contents conform to the program standards. Such a ACFR must satisfy both GAAP and applicable legal requirements. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current ACFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Certificate.



Financial Highlights

The information provided is summarized and represents only selected funds and therefore is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and is not intended to represent all of the County's funds, component unit, and fiduciary funds. The following table is a summary of select financial data for the past three years.

Financial Summary			
	2022	2021	2020
Net Position			
Assets and Deferred Outflows	\$ 468,882,705	\$ 427,879,295	\$ 385,266,170
Liabilities and Deferred Inflows	231,836,714	210,332,203	186,571,705
Total Net Position	237,045,991	217,547,092	198,694,465
Revenues			
Governmental Activities	\$ 128,296,869	\$ 119,784,640	\$ 122,125,232
Business-type Activities	30,192,237	31,933,729	33,316,345
Total Revenues	158,489,106	151,718,369	155,441,577
Expenses			
Governmental Activities	\$ 108,904,342	\$ 104,109,978	\$ 108,051,566
Business-type Activities	30,085,865	28,755,764	30,724,573
Total Expenses	138,990,207	132,865,742	138,776,139
Capital Assets			
Governmental Activities	\$ 160,310,770	\$ 154,026,032	\$ 148,534,121
Business-type Activities	32,228,395	34,118,797	34,962,493
Total Capital Assets	192,539,165	188,144,829	183,496,614
Long-Term Obligations			
Governmental Activities	\$ 61,974,299	\$ 68,872,048	\$ 66,353,052
Business-type Activities	30,840,686	32,926,797	34,818,795
Total Long-Term Obligations	92,814,985	101,798,845	101,171,847

Governmental Activities include: general government; public safety; public works; health and human services; culture, recreation and education; and conservation and development.

Business-type Activities include: Hillview Health Care Center, Solid Waste, Lakeview Nursing Home Facility, apartments and assisted living facilities, and household hazardous waste disposal services.

Net Position

The Balance Sheet, known as the Statement of Net Position in governmental financial statements, presents information concerning the County's assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources. Increases and decreases in net position serve as an indicator of the County's financial position and the results of the County's operations.

Statement of Net Position						
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Current and Other Assets	\$ 188,309,350	\$ 167,215,452	\$ 39,988,008	\$ 39,412,976	\$ 228,297,358	\$ 206,628,428
Capital Assets	160,310,770	154,026,032	32,228,395	34,118,797	192,539,165	188,144,829
Total Assets	\$ 348,620,120	\$ 321,241,484	\$ 72,216,403	\$ 73,531,773	\$ 420,836,523	\$ 394,773,257
Deferred Outflows of Resources	39,174,867	26,033,548	8,871,315	7,072,490	48,046,182	33,106,038
Current and other liabilities	\$ 35,469,669	\$ 23,235,444	\$ 3,568,856	\$ 3,680,353	\$ 39,038,525	\$ 26,915,797
Long-Term Liabilities	61,974,299	68,872,048	30,840,686	32,926,797	92,814,985	101,798,845
Total Liabilities	\$ 97,443,968	\$ 92,107,492	\$ 34,409,542	\$ 36,607,150	\$ 131,853,510	\$ 128,714,642
Deferred Inflows of Resources	89,277,068	73,486,116	10,706,136	8,131,445	99,983,204	81,617,561
Net Position:	\$ 201,073,951	\$ 181,681,424	\$ 35,972,040	\$ 35,865,668	\$ 237,045,991	\$ 217,547,092
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 110,367,184	\$ 98,295,503	\$ 12,980,884	\$ 12,465,758	\$ 123,348,068	\$ 110,761,261
Restricted	34,523,830	29,300,768	3,823,547	3,292,228	38,347,377	32,592,996
Unrestricted	56,182,937	54,085,153	19,167,609	20,107,682	75,350,546	74,192,835
Total Net Position	\$ 201,073,951	\$ 181,681,424	\$ 35,972,040	\$ 35,865,668	\$ 237,045,991	\$ 217,547,092

The largest portion of the County's net position (52.0%) reflects the investment in capital assets (e.g. land and easements, structures and improvements, infrastructure, and equipment); less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The County uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Therefore, even though the County's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, the resources needed to repay debt cannot come from the capital assets themselves and must be provided from other sources.

An additional portion of the County's net position of \$38.3 million, or 16.2%, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions as to how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position of \$75.4 million, or 31.8%, may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

The County's net position increased \$19,498,899 during the current year. Sales tax revenue increased by \$1,155,623 from the previous year; a continuation of the strong economy we have had in recent years. Overall, revenues increased by \$6,770,737 from the prior year, while expenses increased by \$6,124,465. Governmental activities increased the County's net position by \$19,392,527 and business-type activities increased the County's net position by \$106,372.



Revenues

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

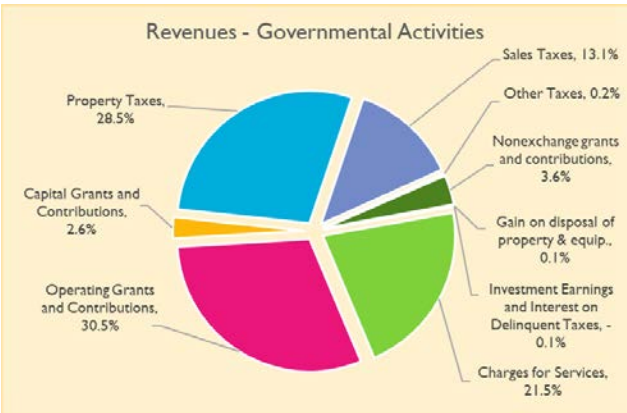
Governmental activities operating grants and contributions for Health and Human Services increased by \$2,120,796. Also, The Human Services Department received additional funding due to the continued growth in both the Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver (\$1,365,170) and Comprehensive Community Services (\$1,301,373) programs. Capital grants and contributions within public works increased by \$947,644, the Highway Department received contributions for various safety, road, bridge and bike trail projects.

Business-type activities charges for services decreased as Hillview received \$340,787 less in charges for services due to a lower census compared to the prior year. Operating grants and contributions for Hillview were also lower by \$1,099,079 as there were no CPE or excess funding distributed during 2022.

Investment earnings (losses) decreased across both activity types due to low interest rates during 2022 and the overall decline in the financial market.

Total Revenues - Governmental Activities		
	2022	2021
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 27,528,246	\$ 23,402,991
Operating Grants and Contributions	39,083,684	36,751,340
Capital Grants and Contributions	3,327,443	2,326,702
General Revenues		
Property Taxes	36,613,795	36,305,525
Sales Taxes	16,813,151	15,657,528
Other Taxes	254,580	228,636
Nonexchange grants and contributions	4,656,725	4,591,168
Gain on disposal of property & equip.	78,792	96,328
Investment Earnings and Interest on		
Delinquent Taxes	(59,547)	424,422
Total Revenues- Governmental Activities	\$ 128,296,869	\$ 119,784,640

Total Revenues - Business-type Activities		
	2022	2021
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 29,335,741	\$ 29,666,397
Operating Grants and Contributions	1,100,590	2,165,682
General Revenues		
Property Taxes	180,497	174,648
Gain on disposal of property & equip.	55,033	25,100
Investment Earnings and Interest on		
Delinquent Taxes	(479,624)	(98,098)
Total Revenues- Business-type Activities	\$ 30,192,237	\$ 31,933,729



Expenses

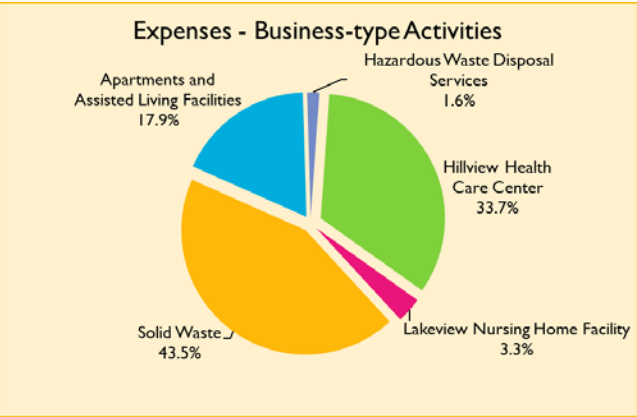
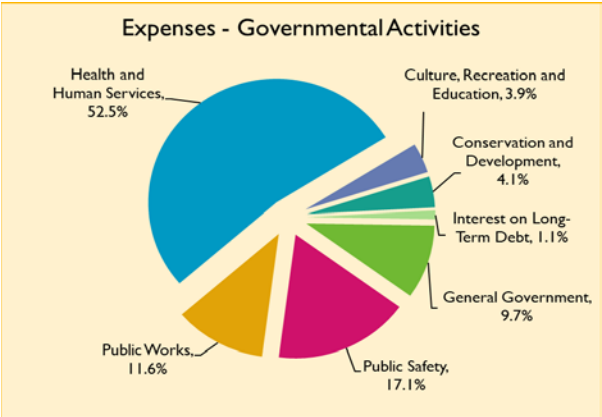
WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Governmental activities expenses increased in all activity areas except conservation and development and interest of long-term debt. The largest percentage increases came from general government due to information technology costs, and culture, recreation and education due to costs related to a snowmobile grant for trail improvements.

Total Expenses - Governmental Activities				
	2022		2021	
General Government	\$	10,557,207	\$	9,021,022
Public Safety		18,642,832		18,244,803
Public Works		12,597,379		11,755,655
Health and Human Services		57,204,823		55,002,182
Culture, Recreation and Education		4,265,989		3,705,231
Conservation and Development		4,411,599		4,965,788
Interest on Long-Term Debt		1,224,513		1,415,297
Total Expenses - Governmental Activities	\$	108,904,342	\$	104,109,978

Business-type activities expenses increased primarily due to the Hillview Health Care Center. During 2022, the County approved the construction of a new 48 bed community based residential facility on the Hillview campus, however management decided to cancel the project and expense the \$912,260 in planning and design costs during the year. The focus continues to be on offering the best care for the patients at a reasonable cost.

Total Expenses - Business-Type Activities				
	2022		2021	
Hillview Health Care Center	\$	10,147,140	\$	9,697,077
Lakeview Nursing Home Facility		995,078		1,035,586
Solid Waste		13,087,085		12,560,847
Apartments and Assisted Living Facilities		5,383,635		5,030,774
Hazardous Waste Disposal Services		472,927		431,480
Total Expenses - Business-type Activities	\$	30,085,865	\$	28,755,764



Capital Assets

WHAT DO WE OWN?

The County needs more than just dollars to provide its citizens with services, and as such, many types of assets are required to keep the County performing and delivering its various services. Capital assets include land, buildings, improvements, highway trucks, sheriff vehicles, machinery and equipment, bridges, culverts, and curbs.

Capital Assets	Governmental activities		Business-type activities		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	Capital Assets					
Land	\$ 3,612,765	\$ 3,646,015	\$ 943,173	\$ 943,173	\$ 4,555,938	\$ 4,589,188
Land Improvements	6,281,798	5,880,062	39,599,344	39,590,106	45,881,142	45,470,168
Buildings	95,266,764	89,841,569	28,770,619	28,745,679	124,037,383	118,587,248
Machinery and equipment	32,985,266	31,649,323	8,934,827	8,877,107	41,920,093	40,526,430
Infrastructure	140,546,970	132,266,140	-	-	140,546,970	132,266,140
Intangibles	9,791,484	9,791,489	391,822	370,695	10,183,306	10,162,184
Construction in progress	3,702,565	6,902,409	759,713	800,380	4,462,278	7,702,789
Right to use leased assets	868,555	-	-	-	868,555	-
Total capital assets	293,056,167	279,977,007	79,399,498	79,327,140	372,455,665	359,304,147
Less:						
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortization	132,745,397	125,950,975	47,171,103	45,208,343	179,916,500	171,159,318
Total Net Capital Assets	\$ 160,310,770	\$ 154,026,032	\$ 32,228,395	\$ 34,118,797	\$ 192,539,165	\$ 188,144,829

Within the governmental activities, the most substantial change in capital assets was due to infrastructure additions in the Highway Department for road reconstruction and the highway shop in St. Joseph was completed during 2022 and moved out of construction in progress. Within the business-type activities, there were no significant changes in capital assets during 2022.



Long-Term Obligations

WHAT DO WE OWE?

As of December 31, 2022, the County's long-term obligations totaled \$92,814,985 of which \$70,683,618 was debt outstanding. The County did not issue any new debt during 2022.

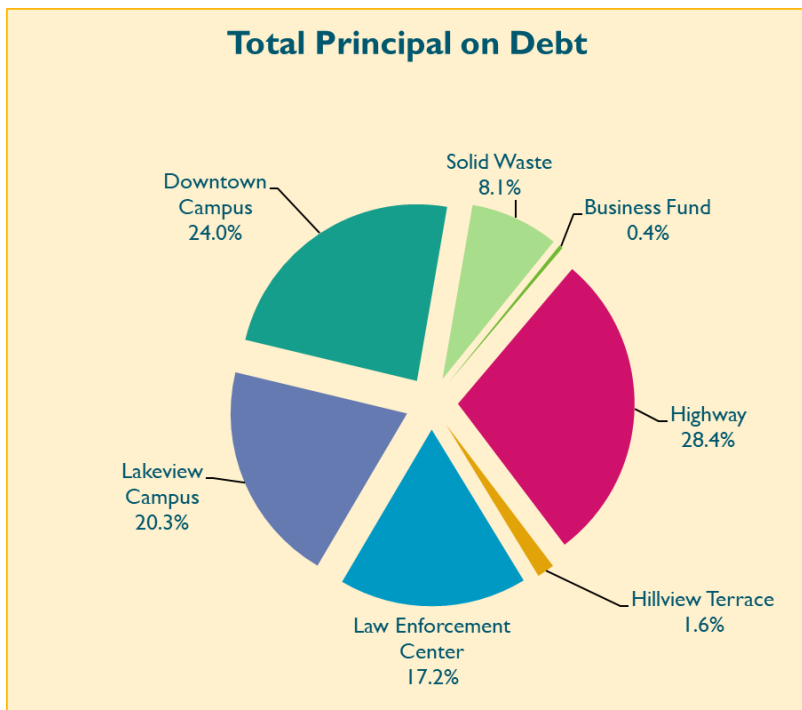
Long-Term Obligations			
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Due within 1 year:			
Lease Liability	\$ 301,559	\$ -	\$ 301,559
Compensated Absences	2,669,232	477,068	3,146,300
Bonds and Notes Payable	6,513,385	2,354,277	8,867,662
Landfill Post Closure Costs	32,224	13,031	45,255
	<u>9,516,400</u>	<u>2,844,376</u>	<u>12,360,776</u>
Due longer than 1 year:			
Lease Liability	340,063	-	340,063
Compensated Absences	6,787,705	-	6,787,705
Post Employment Benefit Liability	2,136,836	-	2,136,836
Bonds and Notes Payable	42,845,212	18,970,744	61,815,956
Landfill Post Closure Costs	348,083	9,025,566	9,373,649
	<u>52,457,899</u>	<u>27,996,310</u>	<u>80,454,209</u>
Total Long-Term Obligations	61,974,299	30,840,686	92,814,985

HOW'S OUR CREDIT?

External credit ratings are very important and have a direct influence on the County's ability to (1) minimize borrowing cost and (2) successfully borrow money to complete the acquisition and construction of long-lived capital assets.

The County maintains an "Aa1" rating from Moody's Investors Services for general obligation debt. An "Aa1" is graded as high quality and a very low credit risk to investors. This means the County has a proven track record, the financial strength, and the ability to repay short-term debt.

The County's debt per capita is \$534.



Investments

HOW SAFE IS OUR MONEY?

The County investment practices and policies are based upon state law and prudent money management. The County's first priority is to maintain the safety of the principal of the investments, which mitigates credit risk.

The County structures the investment portfolio, with the assistance of our investment advisors, to be sure that securities mature concurrently with cash needs and anticipated demands. This mitigates liquidity risk.

Types of Risk:

Credit Risk – the risk that the County will not recover its investments due to the inability of the counterparty to fulfill its obligation.

Liquidity Risk – the risk that the County will not be able to sell an investment security quickly enough to meet cash flow needs or demands.

Custodial Credit Risk – the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the County will not be able to recover the value of its deposits, investments, or

Cash and Investments	
Deposits	\$ 5,725,385
Petty Cash	5,858
Cash on Hand	110,987
Investments	121,341,313
Total	\$ 127,183,543

Investments	
Investment Types:	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury Notes	\$ 8,921,374
U.S. Agency Securities	45,472,762
U.S. Small Business Administration	4,869,120
Municipal Issues	1,515,204
Corporate Issues	11,148,270
State of WI Local Government Investment Pool	27,687,050
Mutual Funds - other than bond funds	21,727,533
Total Investments	\$ 121,341,313

A variety of investments are used to minimize the exposure to the risk of loss. The County policy also requires all funds on deposits with any financial institution be secured with collateral securities. This mitigates the exposure to the risk of loss and custodial credit risk.

The County policy requires only the highest and second highest rated securities may be purchased which means there is a very to exceptionally strong capacity to meet financial commitments. In addition, the U.S. Treasury securities and notes are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and are considered the safest investments in the world.

Finally, the investment portfolio is designed to attain the highest market rate of return, taking into account economic cycles and the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs of the County. The return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives.

General Fund

The General Fund accounts for the County’s main operating activities and is used to account for all financial resources except those which are required to be accounted for in another fund. Citizens, other governments, and rating agencies typically look at a municipality’s general fund to determine the health and current trends within it.

Unassigned Fund Balance Compared to Expenditures				
	2022		2021	
	General Fund	Percentage of Expenditures	General Fund	Percentage of Expenditures
Total Expenditures	\$ 38,851,653	-	\$ 35,518,849	-
Unassigned Fund Balance	17,070,448	43.9%	24,836,150	69.9%
Total Fund Balances	31,600,245	81.3%	37,496,928	105.6%

As a measure of the General Fund’s ability to pay off short-term obligations, it is useful to compare unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures.

County policy requires the ratio of unassigned general fund balance to total operating expenditures be maintained at 25 to 50%. As of December 31, 2022, the ratio is 43.9%. County policy limits the use of unassigned fund balance to funding of capital expenditures, prepayment of outstanding debt, start-up costs of new programs, other non-recurring expenditures, or emergencies. The General Fund closed out the year with a loss of \$5,896,683, which was less than projected in the final budget. The original budget projected a deficit of \$3,547,254 after transfer to other funds of \$330,000.

One of the main reasons for the decrease in General Fund balance was a transfer to the Highway Department for road improvement projects instead of issuing new debt, and investment earnings decreased by \$629,843 from the previous year and were \$944,550 lower than the original budget. This was due to overall market fluctuations and interest rates remaining low throughout 2022.



Ratios and Trends

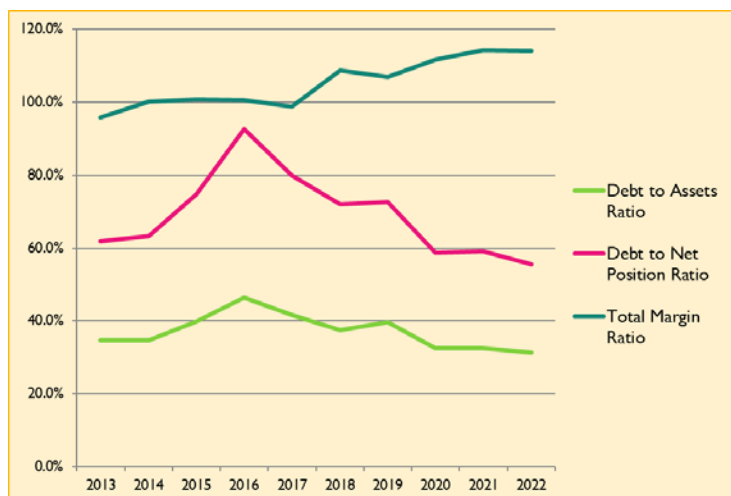
HOW ARE WE DOING?

Looking at key financial ratios and trends over several years enables the County to have a clearer picture of where it has been and where it is going.

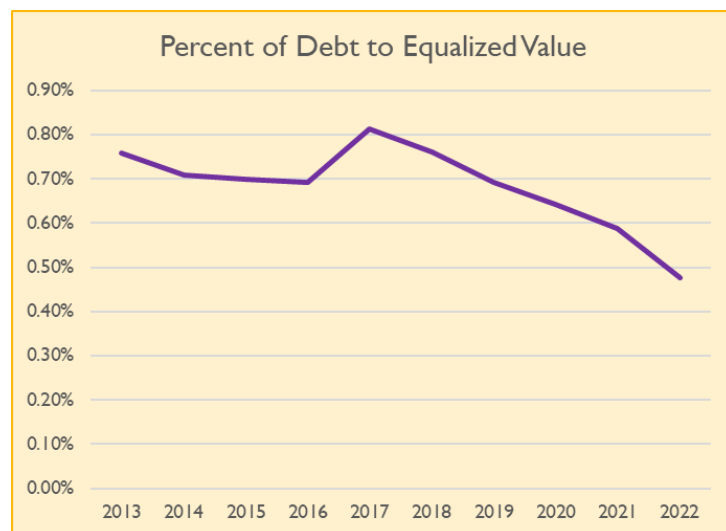
Primary Government										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Debt to Assets Ratio	34.6%	34.8%	40.0%	46.4%	41.7%	37.5%	39.7%	32.4%	32.6%	31.3%
Debt to Net Position Ratio	62.0%	63.2%	74.8%	92.7%	80.0%	72.0%	72.6%	58.8%	59.2%	55.6%
Total Margin Ratio	95.8%	100.2%	100.8%	100.7%	98.8%	108.8%	106.9%	111.6%	114.2%	114.0%

Debt to Assets Ratio focuses on the extent to which total assets are financed with long-term debt and is a measure of the government's leverage. A lower ratio is desired as a high ratio implies an over reliance on debt for financing assets.

Debt to Net Position Ratio focuses on the ability to meet long-term obligations and is a measure of the government's solvency. A high ratio is desired.



Total Margin Ratio focuses on whether the government lived within its financial means during the fiscal year. A ratio of 100% or higher is desired.



Wisconsin statutes limit the total indebtedness of the County to 5% of equalized value. As noted in the chart to the left, the County has been well under this limit.

Overall Summary: The ratios for the past 10 years show the County has strived to keep debt manageable, taking advantage of historically low interest rates while still providing quality services and replacing aging facilities and infrastructure for citizens.

Major Initiatives

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The County has undertaken several major initiatives in the last year.

Racism As a Public Health Crisis

In April 2021, the County Board passed a resolution that declared racism as a public health crisis affecting our entire society. This resolution included support of County efforts to address public health disparities due to racial inequities. In response to this resolution, a consultant was sought to assist with vision, mission, strategy, community assessment with data, stakeholdering, training, and ultimately to develop a long-term sustainable and scalable road map for La Crosse County as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The vendor Chanin Kelly-Rae Consulting was recommended and approved to complete this work, with work starting in February 2023.

American Rescue Plan Act

On March 11, 2021, the federal government passed the American Rescue Plan Act to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. The County's estimated appropriation is \$23 million, of which \$695,232 was spent through 2022. To date costs include COVID-19 response efforts, expansion of the Neighborhood Revitalization Acquisition and Demolition program to all La Crosse County municipalities, and administration costs.



Additional Investment in Highway Projects

In March 2022, the County Board amended the 2022 Highway Department budget by transferring \$2,300,000 from excess sales tax to pay for three bridge designs, four roadway designs, and the construction of two roadway projects. These Highway projects were prioritized to better position La Crosse County to compete for federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

Long-Term Financial Planning

HOW ARE WE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?

As part of long-range planning, the County prepares a five-year comprehensive capital improvement plan. This process makes certain that capital project needs are reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis to ensure that all projects are identified, priorities established, and the possible ways to finance them are considered for making recommendations to the County Board during the annual budget process.

County Administration and Finance staff expect the County's financial condition to remain healthy due to conservative budgeting and maintaining strong reserve levels, yet we recognize that our greatest challenges will be: 1) Potential economic impacts due to worldwide conflicts and increase in federal interest rates; 2) Continued unmet road needs in the County; 3) Exposure to enterprise risk through County-owned nursing homes and 4) Managing the timing of the County's cash flow.





LA CROSSE COUNTY
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