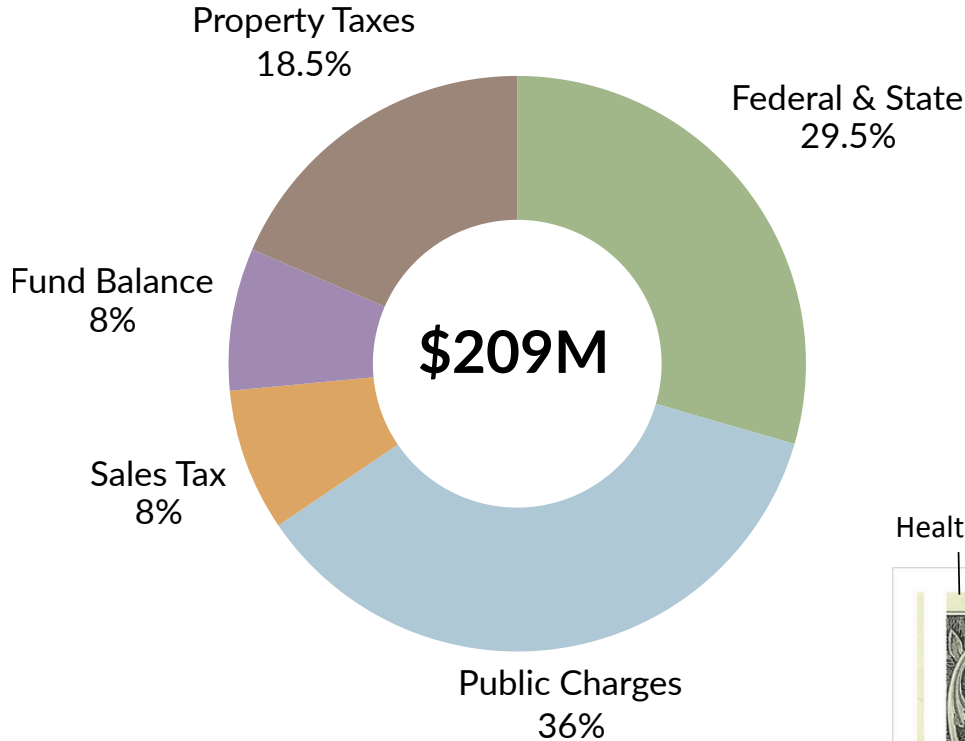




# La Crosse County 2026 Budget Summary

A \$208 million balanced budget that invests in people, infrastructure, and community.

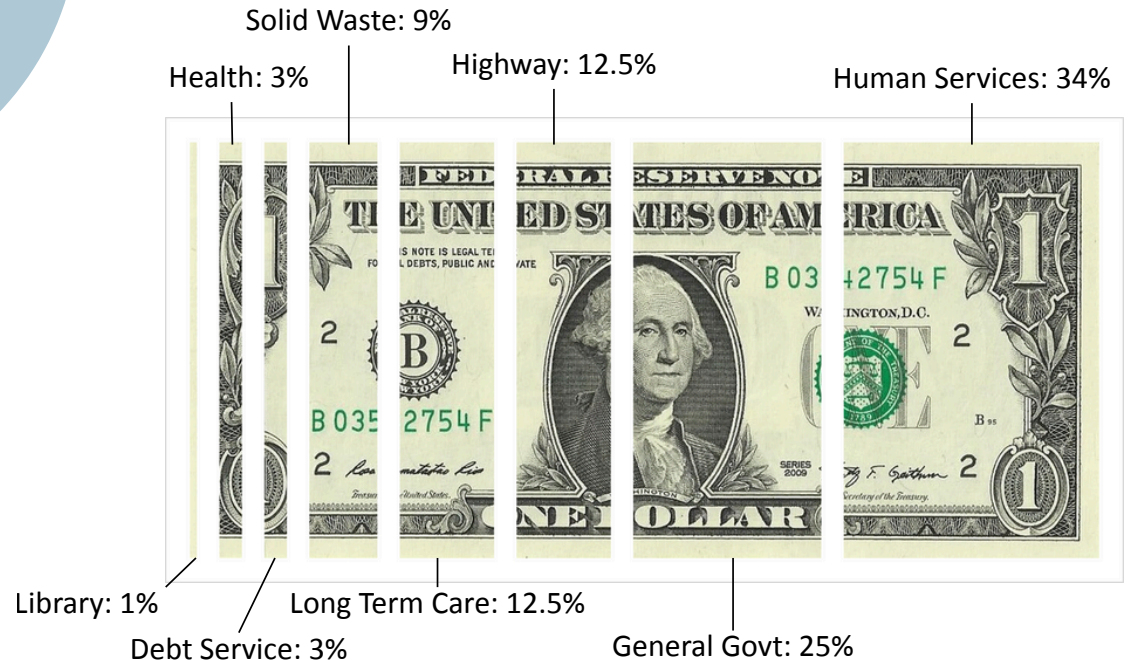
## Where Does the Money Come From



Our \$209 million La Crosse County budget has a **diverse revenue base**, with just 18% of our revenue coming from property taxes.

Our biggest revenue category is **public charges**, which includes fees for services and insurance payments for long-term care. **Federal and state funding**, the next largest category, includes Medicaid funding and state dollars for highway construction.

## Where Does the Money Go



The county has **27 departments**, ranging from the Surveyor's Department, which has two employees, to Human Services, which has a \$70 million budget and over 300 employees. About **1 in 6 residents** of our county interact with our Human Services Department every year.

## Supporting Our Workforce

La Crosse County's budget supports over **1,200 employees**, representing \$70 million in family-supporting wages that fuel our local economy and provide **essential services** that keep our community strong. **Our workforce** includes: 200 nurses and CNAs, 100 social workers, 60 highway workers, 23 telecommunicators (911 Dispatchers), 45 library employees and a team of fulltime and seasonal parks staff.



## Public Safety

The 2026 budget includes \$16 million for our Sheriff's Office to support **56 jailers** and **26 patrol deputies** who work around the clock to keep our communities safe.

## Investing in Infrastructure

We're investing **\$13.9 million** in county highways in 2026 to pave 11 miles of road and continue **improving road quality**. Since 2021, strong investments have cut the miles of county highways rated "poor" by **68%** – from 53 miles to just 17.

## Leading on Sustainability

La Crosse County continues its work toward carbon neutrality.

- New **solar panels** at the Hillview campus and Health & Human Services Building will deliver savings in 2026.
- The 2026 budget includes increased funding for our Land Conservation Department, \$100,000 for a bike trail connecting La Crosse to Goose Island, and \$250,000 to kickstart our **Climate Action Plan**.

## Strengthening Financial Health

Since 2021, La Crosse County's **debt has fallen 42%**, from \$76 million to \$43.8 million forecast for 2026. The property **tax rate** is expected to fall 5.5% next year, from \$2.55 to \$2.41 per \$1,000 of property value – continuing our record of responsible fiscal management.

## Building a Healthier, More Resilient Community

The 2026 budget continues support for **Pathways Home** and launches our **Opioid Response Plan**, which connect residents with housing, treatment, and recovery services. These initiatives help people rebuild their lives while reducing strain on emergency systems and public safety resources.