**Fiscal Facts: Budget will likely test the limits of Wisconsin’s divided government**

The first major test of divided government in Wisconsin will come when Democratic Gov. Tony Evers presents his budget to the GOP-controlled Legislature in late February or early March. He and legislative leaders have suggested they share priorities such as transportation, school funding, rural economic development, and criminal justice reform — but agreeing to the details may be more difficult.

Conventional wisdom holds that the state budget is the one bill that must be passed in every two-year legislative session, but delays often occur when there is divided government. Unlike the federal government, Wisconsin state government will not shut down if a two-year budget is not passed by the start of the July 1 fiscal year.

Under state law, current spending levels remain in place until a new one is adopted. However, pressure tends to build the longer local governments, schools, and other entities that depend on state funding have to wait for new aid numbers.

*This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispolicyforum.org.*