

Governor Calls Special Session on State's Chronic Workforce Challenges

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/milw-city-workers-s5.jpg>



Ever's workforce plan includes initiatives to stabilize the state's child care industry, expand paid family leave, invest in higher education, support high-demand workforce sectors.

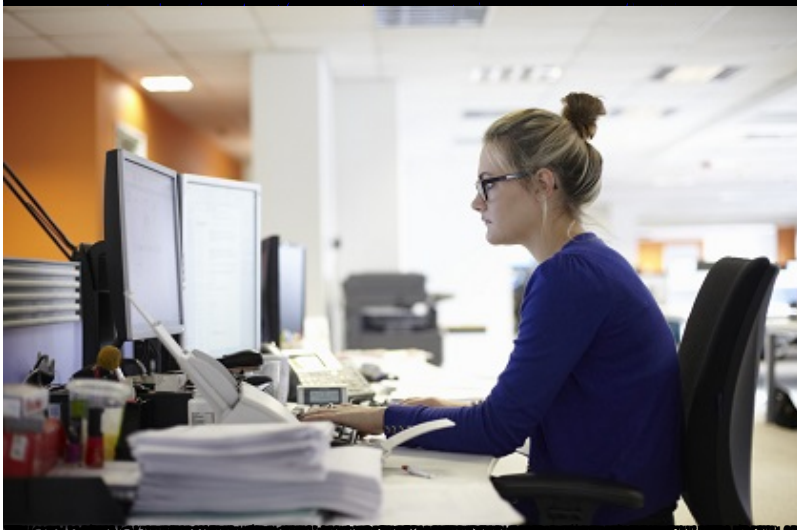
MILWAUKEE — Gov. Tony Evers today signed Executive Order #208, calling a special session of the Wisconsin State Legislature at 12 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 20, 2023, to complete their work on the 2023-25 biennial budget and pass a meaningful, comprehensive plan to address the state's longstanding, generational workforce challenges.

Over the last four years, the state's unemployment has hit record lows, reaching an all-time low of 2.4 percent in May, and Wisconsin continues to have an unemployment rate below the national average and a labor participation rate above the national average. Still, with historically low unemployment and high workforce participation, coupled with a shrinking labor pool caused by several long-term factors, Wisconsin's small businesses, farmers and producers, hospitals and healthcare sectors, schools, and other critical employers and industries continue to face significant challenges filling available jobs.

To meaningfully and comprehensively address the state's workforce challenges, Gov. Evers is proposing to invest over \$1 billion using a portion of the state's readily available \$4 billion budget surplus to prevent a looming collapse of the state's child care industry and ensure child care is affordable and accessible for working parents and families, expand paid family leave, invest in higher education to help educate, train, retain, and recruit talented workers, and support targeted solutions to workforce challenges in high-need areas, specifically the state's healthcare and education workforce sectors.

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