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 **Advocacy Digest | January 19, 2021**

 **Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**2019-2020 Legislative Wins**

**After an unconventional last session, we walked away with several wins that benefit the homebuilding industry:**

* **Construction and those companies supplying construction materials were deemed “essential businesses” when Wisconsin was under the “Safer at Home” Executive Order**
* **Legal interpretation and follow up FAQs on the “Safer at Home” Executive Order and statewide mask mandate**
* **Mandating that local units of government cannot require both a written and electronic building permit for a single family home. 2019 WI Act 38 and 2019 WI Act 38 summary memo.**
* **The authorization of $16.7 million of surplus funds from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) for housing and economic development initiatives including $10 million for rural workforce housing initiatives**
* **Flexibility for repairs to nonconforming buildings that reside in a floodplain. 2019 WI Act 175 and 2019 WI Act 175 summary memo.**
* **Codifying the wetland “in-lieu fee” program in state statutes (was previously only mentioned as an administrative rule/DNR guidance) and a more timely schedule for the release of wetland credits. 2019 WI Act 169 and 2019 WI Act 169 summary memo.**
* **Additional funding for technology upgrades at the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to speed up contractor permitting timeframes**
* **No changes to the reforms that we were able to achieve during the previous four legislative sessions**
* **Defeated detrimental changes to tax incremental financing (TIF) laws**
* **Defeated a rule requiring unnecessary inspections in commercial buildings**
* **Defeated a provision to allow municipalities to exceed revenue caps**

**We were also happy to end the 2020 election spending year with $354,500 raised by members to support pro-housing candidates.**