

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNCIL



2026-27 Policy Priority Areas

Janesville and Rock County are great places to do business. To ensure our community is positioned for growth, the Government Relations Council (GRC) is focused on supporting economic development and collaborating with local government.

GM/JATCO Redevelopment

The site of the former General Motors (GM) plant and the Janesville Automotive Transport Company (JATCO) is historically and culturally significant to the community of Janesville. As a former industrial site spanning approx. 250 acres with rail access, interstate access, a substation, and broadband, the GM/JATCO site is also a major economic development opportunity that has been unproductive since 2009, almost an entire generation. Forward Janesville is focused on supporting the site's redevelopment into a productive asset.

Housing Development

Lack of housing supply is one of Janesville's biggest challenges. 77% of respondents to Forward Janesville's 2025 Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Survey said Janesville's housing environment needs improvement, with 21% indicating significant improvement is needed. Additionally, housing affordability and homelessness services were the number one concerns of respondents to Public Opinion Strategies' Spring 2026 Community Poll. Forward Janesville is focused on supporting balanced housing development.

Civic Engagement

Compared to federal and state government, local government most directly impacts business owners and residents. Local government functions best when citizens are engaged. To support informed and constructive civic engagement, Forward Janesville plays an educational role regarding local government, providing election resources during the annual spring election cycle and hosting CivicCon, a public community conversation series focused on key issues impacting Janesville.