



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2009 Wisconsin Act 372**  
[2009 Senate Bill 601]

**Comprehensive Planning**

Prior to the enactment of 2009 Wisconsin Act 372, Wisconsin statutes required a regional planning commission, city, village, county, or town exercising village powers to adopt, by January 1, 2010, a comprehensive plan containing certain elements. The elements included housing; transportation; utilities and community facilities; agriculture, natural, and cultural resources; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; land use; and implementation of the plan. Following adoption of a comprehensive plan, a governmental body taking certain land use actions was required to take these actions in a manner consistent with the comprehensive plan.

Act 372 makes a number of changes to the law regarding comprehensive plans, including the following:

1. The Act further defines a comprehensive plan to mean a guide to the physical, social, and economic development of a local governmental unit.
2. The Act defines the term “consistent with” to mean furthering or not contradicting the objectives, goals, and policies contained in the comprehensive plan.
3. The Act provides that a comprehensive plan is not by itself a regulation.
4. The Act clarifies that subsequent local governmental ordinances, rather than actions, must be consistent with the comprehensive plan.
5. The Act provides that the January 1, 2010 deadline for adopting a comprehensive plan will be extended for a local governmental unit that: (a) applied for, but has not yet received, a planning grant from the Department of Administration (DOA) and adopts a resolution stating that the local governmental unit will adopt a comprehensive plan that will take effect no later than January 1, 2012; or (b) has received a grant and DOA extends the time for planning.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

6. The Act provides that a town, with or without the authority to exercise village powers, may adopt a comprehensive plan.
7. The Act provides that plat approval will no longer be conditioned upon compliance with a comprehensive plan, a master plan, or a county development plan. Instead, subdivision ordinances must be consistent with the comprehensive plan and plat approval must be consistent with local ordinances.

***Effective date:*** The Act took effect on June 2, 2010.

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RS:jb;ksm