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**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AG Schimel Continues 72-County Tour to Discuss  
Public Safety in Dodge and Green Lake Counties**

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel continued his 72-county statewide tour to meet with local law enforcement and elected officials last week with stops in Green Lake and Dodge Counties on Friday, November 3.

“It’s inspiring to work alongside dedicated and hardworking local law enforcement and public health leaders across the state as we tackle some of the state’s biggest challenges, like opioid and methamphetamine abuse,” said Attorney General Schimel. “Both meetings were great opportunities to gather the right voices in the room for an honest conversation about the stresses on law enforcement and how to create stronger partnerships that will make Wisconsin safer and stronger.”

“We had a very good discussion on all of our topics,” said Green Lake County Sheriff Mark Podoll. “The attorney general is very supportive of law enforcement and dedicated to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin in fighting the issues in our state dealing with the many types of drug addictions and abuse. We appreciate the Attorney General’s willingness to come out to the community to listen and discuss the issues at hand.”

“I appreciate Attorney General Schimel coming to Dodge County and listening to local officials and the issues we face,” said Dodge County District Attorney Kurt Klomberg. “His commitment to addressing every aspect of the opioid crisis is clear in his willingness to hear the experiences of those of us on the front lines. I am confident that together we will develop the best solutions possible.”

Attorney General Schimel and the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) leadership team is meeting with law enforcement and local officials in every county to discuss

public safety concerns specific to each county. The challenges faced by law enforcement leaders and the criminal justice system differ from county to county, and even in neighboring communities, making it critical for DOJ to be responsive to public safety needs at the local level. DOJ is local communities' partner in safety, and these meetings aim to discover what resources and efforts DOJ can provide to make Wisconsin safer and stronger.

DOJ financially supports a number of programs to help each county with its public safety mission in a number of ways. For instance, next year Dodge County is slated to receive more than \$209,000 to fund and expand the county's adult drug court and alcohol abuse court, providing an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction. These funds will be provided directly out of DOJ's budget. Since 2015, the South East Area Drug Operations Group, which includes Dodge County, has been provided over \$400,000 to fight heroin and methamphetamine. In 2018, Green Lake County will receive more than \$100,000 to fund and expand the county's adult drug court. Last, the Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, which includes Green Lake County law enforcement, was also provided more than \$240,000 to fight heroin and methamphetamine since 2015.

DOJ also financially supports Dodge and Green Lake counties' crime victim service organizations, ensuring that crime victims are given guidance and counseling as they participate in the criminal justice system. Utilizing funds made available through the United States Department of Justice, since 2015, DOJ has provided People Against a Violent Environment (PAVE) more than \$250,000. PAVE provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Dodge County. In addition, DOJ has provided more than \$640,000 to ASTOP, which provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Green Lake and Fond du Lac counties, and designated \$250,000 in grant funds to Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, which has an office in Green Lake County.

In attendance at the Dodge County roundtable meeting was: Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Senator Luther Olsen, Representatives Mark Born and Michael Schraa, Dodge County District Attorney Kurt Klomberg, Dodge County Circuit Court Judges Steven Bauer, Martin Devries, and Brian Pfitzinger, Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schimdt, Dodge County Human Services & Health Director Beverley Bell, Mayor of Beaver Dam Rebecca Glewen, Mayor of Mayville Rob Boelk, Beaver Dam Police Chief John Kreuziger, Juneau Police Chief David Beal, Lomira Police Chief Chris Mireski, Waupun Police Chief Scott Loudon, and other local elected officials.

In attendance at the Green Lake County roundtable meeting was: Senator Luther Olsen, Representative Joan Ballweg, Green Lake County Sheriff Mark Podoll, Green Lake County District Attorney Andrew Christensen, Green Lake County Health &

Human Services Director Jason Jerome, Princeton Police Chief Matthew Bargenquast, Berlin Police Chief Dennis Plantz, Green Lake Police Chief Michael Ratter and other local elected officials.

To see what other counties Attorney General Schimel has visited, and where he will be going next, go to: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ag-roundtable-map>