



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 29, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 688 in its entirety.

This bill applies competitive bidding requirements to school district contracts with an estimated cost greater than \$150,000 for supplies, materials, construction, repair, remodeling, or improvement of a public school building or facility. The bill requires a school district to advertise and notice contracts up for bid and accept the lowest responsible bidding without preference for geographic location or other criteria. The bill also provides an exception to competitive bidding requirements for a school board that passes a resolution declaring that the public health or welfare of the school district is endangered by damage or threatened damage to a building or facilities.

Further, this bill increases the estimated cost threshold for county and municipal public work projects for which competitive bidding is required. The bill also adds competitive bidding requirements for certain county and municipal public highway projects. Additionally, this bill clarifies and expands exceptions to procurement requirements for projects that involve donated materials or construction or volunteer labor.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to undermining the local decision of a school board to choose voluntary collaboration with local contractors to build the best value projects to support students. School boards under current law may use competitive bidding if they deem it appropriate. School districts currently choose different methods to provide the best projects for their students and communities, and the state should not interfere in this local decision making.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers  
Governor