



2010 Budget
Domestic Partner Benefits
November 5, 2009

Earlier this morning, I briefly dropped by the County Board chambers during their monthly meeting to participate in a special ceremony to honor the Milwaukee County Parks System for the Gold Medal received last month. Sue Black spoke on behalf of all of the Parks staff, partners and corporate supporters.

Later in the Board meeting, some members of the County Board voted in support of a resolution that will move forward on a plan for the county to provide domestic partner benefits. Those supporting the measure did so despite the fact that they were told by the Employee Benefits Manager that this new benefit would cost close to \$4 million dollars.

This move came at a time when we are working on a budget that will require county employees to realize a reduction in wages and benefits. It makes no sense to me that the same Supervisors would even consider adding any new benefits to the package. If anything, we need to be more bold in wage and benefit reforms so we can achieve a real balance between the public and private sector.

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive