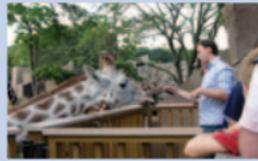




MILWAUKEE
COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
AT A **GLANCE**

Courtesy of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Photo taken by Bonnie Fong, Public Information Division



Welcome to Milwaukee County, the most populous and diverse county in the State of Wisconsin. It's also the oldest county in the State, established in 1835, and features 19 municipalities and approximately 950,000 residents. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan and covering 239 square miles, Milwaukee County is a mixture of metropolitan, suburban and rural living. Milwaukee County is a midwestern hub for business, travel, industry, recreation and culture. A strong sense of community makes Milwaukee County a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Cities

Cudahy
Franklin
Glendale
Greenfield
Milwaukee

Oak Creek
St. Francis
South Milwaukee
Wauwatosa
West Allis

Villages

Bayside
Brown Deer
Fox Point
Greendale
Hales Corners

River Hills
Shorewood
West Milwaukee
Whitefish Bay

Key Phone Numbers

County Board of Supervisors.....	278-4222
County Executive	278-4211
Department on Aging	289-6874
Behavioral Health Division	257-6995
Boerner Botanical Gardens	525-5600
Child Support Enforcement.....	278-5160
Clerk of Circuit Court	278-5362
Courts	
Criminal Court	278-4538
Civil Court.....	278-4120
Children’s Court.....	257-7700
Small Claims Court	278-4140
County Clerk	278-4067
County Comptroller	278-4199
County Treasurer	278-4033
Division of Audit Fraud Hotline.....	93-FRAUD
Disabilities Services Division	289-6660
District Attorney	278-4653
Economic and Community Development	278-4905
Election Commission.....	278-4060
Family Care	287-7600
Historical Society.....	273-8288
Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater.....	278-2728
Marcus Center for the Performing Arts	273-7206
Medical Examiner.....	223-1200
Mental Health Complex	257-6995
Milwaukee Art Museum.....	224-3200
Milwaukee Public Museum.....	278-2700
Mitchell International Airport	747-5300
Mitchell Park Domes	257-5611
Office of Persons with Disabilities	278-3932
Parks	257-PARK
Register in Probate.....	278-4444
Register of Deeds.....	278-4011
Sheriff	278-4766
Timmerman Airport	461-3222
Transit System	344-6711
Veterans Services.....	278-4054
War Memorial Center	273-5533
Wehr Nature Center	425-8550
Zoo	771-3040



County Board Chambers

Legislative Branch

This branch of County government includes 18 County Supervisors. They are elected on a non-partisan ballot. The County is divided into 18 districts of approximately 53,000 residents each.

The County Board's duties:

- Establish policy and laws for the County
- Amend and adopt the annual County budget
- Vote on appointments made by the County Executive or County Board Chairperson
- Monitor County operations
- Act on County Executive vetoes

At the beginning of each term, Supervisors elect a Chairperson who appoints the chairs and members of the seven standing committees:

- Economic and Community Development
- Finance, Personnel and Audit
- Health and Human Needs
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Judiciary, Safety and General Services
- Parks, Energy and Environment
- Transportation, Public Works and Transit

County Board resolutions and ordinances are made with public input. Committee meetings and the annual public hearing on the County Budget give

citizens the opportunity to testify on proposed policies.

Executive Branch

This branch manages the administration of all County affairs. County residents elect a County Executive every four years. The County Executive's cabinet includes the Directors of: Administrative Services, Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Parks. Other department heads are in the cabinet as well.

The County Executive's duties:

- Appoint cabinet members, subject to confirmation by the Board
- Submit annual recommended budget to the County Board
- Administer and manage County departments and agencies
- Approve or veto County Board resolutions and ordinances
- Administer implementation of policy adopted by the County Board
- Appoint members to boards and commissions such as the Federated Library Board, War Memorial Corporation and the Milwaukee Public Museum

Judicial Branch

This branch serves as the court system of Milwaukee County. Forty-seven judges and 22 Court Commissioners preside over approximately 160,000 criminal, civil, probate, family and children's court cases every year. All judges are employed by the State of Wisconsin and are elected to six-year terms on a non-partisan, countywide basis. Court Commissioners are employed by Milwaukee County, which also provides all support services to the courts. The Courthouse also houses the Milwaukee Legal Resource Center, a branch of the Wisconsin State Law Library. There are three divisions to support the courts:

Clerk of Circuit Court:

- Provides all administrative and record-keeping functions

- Staffs courtrooms and manages jury system

Register in Probate:

- Maintains records of all proceedings for estates, wills and adoptions

Family Court Commissioner:

- Conducts hearings and makes orders in matters relating to marriage and the family such as alimony, child support and custody issues

Constitutional Officers

Milwaukee County residents also elect a County Clerk, Treasurer, Comptroller, Register of Deeds, District Attorney, Sheriff and Clerk of Circuit Court.

County Clerk

This office issues marriage and other licenses, maintains the County Board Proceedings, indexes all adopted ordinances and resolutions, and provides copies upon request.

Treasurer

The Treasurer acts as the County's banker, receiving and disbursing all funds and investing public funds not used for daily operations. The office also collects delinquent property and real estate taxes.

Comptroller

The Comptroller is elected to maintain the County's accounting books, monitor and report fiscal results, prepare annual financial reports, and ensure that fiscal decisions are made based on sound financial information.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds maintains an index of real estate documents, corporation papers and military discharges and collects the real estate transfer tax.

District Attorney

The District Attorney (DA) and several assistant DAs serve as prosecutors for the State and the people of Milwaukee County, reviewing and investigating criminal activities, filing criminal charges and safeguarding the rights of crime victims and witnesses.

Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff operates the County Jail, and the Correctional Facility in Franklin, provides bailiff services to the courts and handles criminal investigations, expressway patrols and security for the County's airports and parks.

County Programs and Services

Aging

The Department on Aging provides a single-point of access to county services for senior citizens and their families so older adults can live as independently as possible. The department also operates or supports eight, community-based senior center programs throughout the County. For more information about the following areas or other assistance for the elderly, call ELDERLINK at 414-289-6874.

- Adult Day Care
- Personal Care and Homemaker Services
- Legal Services
- Transportation
- Home Delivered Meals

Airport

Milwaukee County owns and operates two airports: General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) and Lawrence J. Timmerman Airport.

GMIA:

- Space leased to airlines and federal government agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration
- Largest airport in Wisconsin
- Consistently rated as one of the most efficient airports in the United States

Timmerman Airport:

- Located in the northwestern portion of Milwaukee County
- Handles non-scheduled general aviation aircraft
- Offers flight-training services

Audit

The Division of Audit serves as the eyes and ears of County residents to ensure that County departments,

programs and vendors operate responsibly and with fiscal accountability. Concerns about suspected fraud can be made by calling the Milwaukee County Fraud Hotline at 414-93-FRAUD. Reports are kept confidential.

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Division provides a full array of services for persons struggling with mental illness and alcohol and other drug abuse. It provides care and treatment to emotionally and mentally ill adults, children and adolescents through both County-operated programs and contracts with community agencies. Services include intensive, short-term treatment (crisis and inpatient) as well as long-term, inpatient care.

Child Support

The Department of Child Support promotes family stability for the children of Milwaukee County.

- Operates the State of Wisconsin's child support program for Milwaukee County
- Locates absent parents, establishes paternity and enforces child support orders
- Coordinates the Family Law Self-Help Clinic, which helps people who cannot afford an attorney

Community Business Development Partners (CBDP)

The CBDP administers the County's disadvantaged business enterprise program to increase overall economic viability for small and disadvantaged businesses in Milwaukee County. Each year, CBDP hosts a business expo to link these businesses with key County contract personnel to help small businesses owned by minorities, women, and the disadvantaged.

Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities ensures that Milwaukee County's services, programs and buildings are accessible to people with disabilities.

- Arranges for sign language interpreting, auditory listening devices and Braille or large print documents
- Assists employees and job applicants with disabilities with workplace or testing accommodations

- Provides employees and job applicants with referrals to accessible transportation services
- Supports accessible recreation programming through the Wil-O-Way Recreation Centers and community recreation venues

Economic Development

The Economic Development Division works to preserve and to enhance the tax base of the County by increasing employment opportunities with programs that stimulate, attract and revitalize commerce, industry and manufacturing. The Real Estate section handles management, leasing, acquisition and sale of County property.

Election Commission

The Election Commission administers Federal, State, County and Municipal elections and enforces State Election and Campaign Finance laws. Milwaukee County's three Election Commissioners are appointed by the County Executive.

Ethics Board

The six-member Ethics Board works to ensure that all Milwaukee County employees, office holders, candidates for public office and citizens serving on boards and commissions of Milwaukee County are complying with Milwaukee County's Ethics Code requirements.

Family Care

The Department of Family Care operates the Family Care Managed Care Organization (MCO) through a contract with the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services. These services include long-term care for frail elders (age 60 and older) and people ages 18–59 who have physical and/or developmental disabilities. The department works with individuals to design a plan to provide cost-effective care that meets each individual's needs. For more information, please call 414-287-7600.

Health and Human Services

Assisting children and adults age 60 and younger, the Health and Human Services Department administers human services, including:

- Programs for persons with physical or developmental disabilities

- Food Share, housing assistance and other aid
- Coordination and support of the countywide emergency medical system
- Youth delinquency

Medical Examiner

To protect the interests of deceased individuals, their loved ones, and Milwaukee County communities, the Medical Examiner's Office investigates and determines the cause, circumstances and manner in cases of sudden, unexpected or unusual death. The Medical Examiner maintains a forensic toxicology laboratory for testing blood and body fluid specimens for the presence of drugs, poisons or other toxic agents. It also performs autopsies and related services for other counties throughout Wisconsin.

Milwaukee County Historical Society

The Historical Society was founded in 1935 to collect, preserve, and exhibit materials relating to the history of Milwaukee County. The Milwaukee County Historical Center:

- Serves as a museum featuring a variety of local historical exhibits
- Houses an extensive library
- Maintains archives of government and naturalization records, photo collections and personal papers

Milwaukee County Transit System

The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) provides reliable, convenient and safe public transportation for millions of passengers. More than 85 percent of all Milwaukee County residents live within walking distance of regularly scheduled bus routes. MCTS public transportation options include:

- Freeway Flyers
- U-Pass
- Commuter Value Pass
- Transit Plus
- Special event services
- Paratransit services for people with physical disabilities

Milwaukee County Zoo

The 200-acre Milwaukee County Zoo consistently ranks among the finest in the world, attracting more than one million people each year as one of Wisconsin's top tourist destinations. A serene home for rare and wild animals, birds, fish and reptiles, it's also a site for workshops, holiday celebrations, summer concerts and festivals. The Zoo is open 365 days a year (366 in leap years).

Milwaukee Public Museum

This museum interprets the world's cultural and natural heritage through collections (including six million specimens and artifacts), research, exhibits, and education. Visitors can explore dinosaur remains, a South American Rain Forest, a European Village, the Streets of Old Milwaukee and special exhibits. The museum also includes the Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater and the Daniel M. Soref Planetarium.

Parks, Recreation & Culture

With more than 140 parks and parkways of nearly 15,000 acres for recreation, the Milwaukee County Parks are true gems. Many parks boast indoor or outdoor pools, tennis courts, golf courses, band shells, and pavilions, while several host senior, recreation and community centers. Highlights such as The Oak Leaf Recreational Trail, Mitchell Park Domes, Boerner Botanical Gardens, and Wehr Nature Center consistently enjoy local, regional and national awards.

Personnel Review Board

The Board reviews all disciplinary charges alleging a County employee in the classified service has acted in such a manner as to merit suspension, demotion or discharge. The Board:

- Ensures fair and impartial due process for County employees
- Consists of five members functioning as a quasi-judicial body

University of Wisconsin-Extension

The Milwaukee County Cooperative UW-Extension connects people to University of Wisconsin knowledge they can use. By providing County residents with to up-to-date, objective, practical, research-based knowledge, the Extension helps them grow and prosper. The UW-Extension makes a special

effort to reach those who are traditionally underserved, including minorities, low-income families and people with disabilities.

Veterans Service

Located near the VA Medical Center grounds, the Veterans Service Office provides assistance with a variety of matters, such as:

- Loans
- Death benefits
- Education and retraining grants
- Assistance in obtaining military records
- Assistance with applying for state and federal veterans' benefits

War Memorial Corporation

This non-profit entity, owned by Milwaukee County and operated by private citizens, enhances the quality of life in Milwaukee County with cultural and educational opportunities at several public facilities:

- War Memorial Center
 - ↳ Facilities for veterans' activities and civic events
- Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
 - ↳ Multi-purpose venue serving as a showcase for the performing arts in southeastern Wisconsin
- Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum and Charles Allis Art Museum
 - ↳ Venues offering permanent art collections, special exhibits and a variety of events