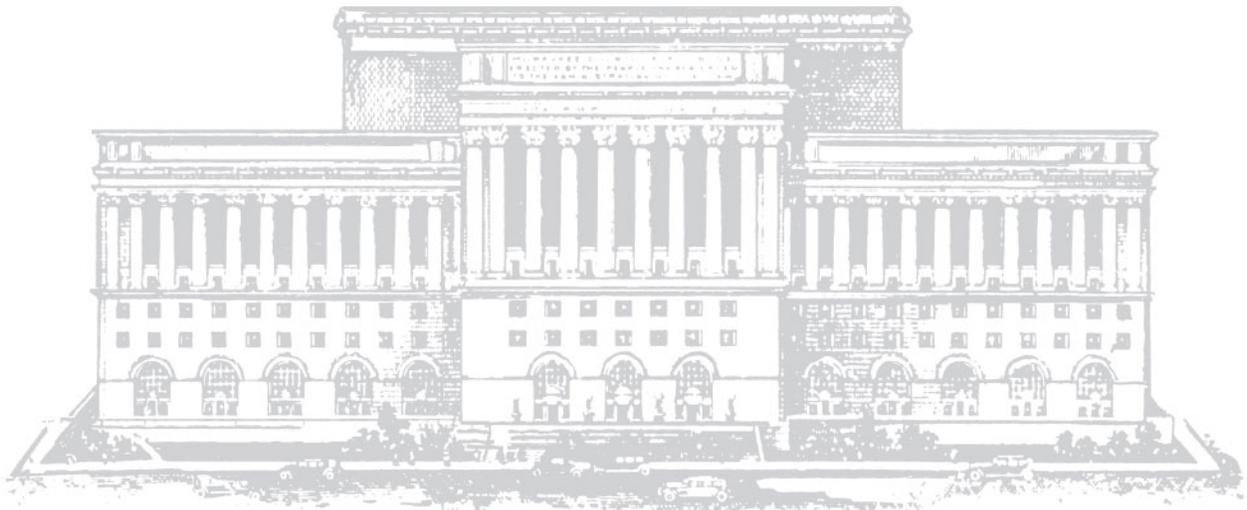




Milwaukee County
Intergovernmental Relations

Milwaukee County Legislative Priorities
2011-2012 Session, Wisconsin State Legislature

Milwaukee County Budget Priorities
2011-2013 State Budget



The mission of Intergovernmental Relations is to pursue state and federal resources for Milwaukee County in a dynamic political environment. In consultation with the Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board, the Chair of the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, and top Milwaukee County administrators, Intergovernmental Relations has prepared the attached 2011-2012 legislative agenda. With adoption, this document will provide Intergovernmental Relations the authority to communicate expressed policy positions to the Governor, the Wisconsin Legislature, and state agencies.

Additional policy direction might be sought from the Board of Supervisors for items that may arise during the legislative session for which there is no established Milwaukee County position. It is likely the next legislature will consider changes in municipal labor relations and the imposition of additional fiscal constraints. It also is expected a special session will be held on the economy.

Various entities have projected the state faces about a \$3 billion deficit going into the 2011-2013 biennium and about a \$100 million deficit in the current biennium. Given these estimates, securing fiscal resources for Milwaukee County programs to alleviate the property tax burden will be difficult. Two noteworthy items highlighted in this legislative package do not require additional state fiscal resources but are of significant financial consequence (almost \$15 million) to Milwaukee County: the state's imposition of the \$6.8 million General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP)-associated payment and the closure of a Department of Corrections (DOC) juvenile correctional institution (JCI).

Prior to the start of the next legislative session, Milwaukee County Supervisors already have established key legislative priorities. For example, the parameters of the Adopted 2011 Milwaukee County Budget will drive many legislative priorities next session, including lobbying efforts to:

- Eliminate the state imposition of the \$6.8 million payment for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan;
- Increase the allocation of state shared revenues to Milwaukee County;
- Boost state transit operating assistance;
- Secure funding for child support enforcement contracts;
- Minimize the effect of the medical assistance (MA) shortfall to Milwaukee County programs; and
- Provide state coverage of the non-federal share of 1915(i) Community Recovery Services.

As approved by the Milwaukee County Board, Intergovernmental Relations will continue to lobby for local funding options and for relief from unfunded state mandates. Intergovernmental Relations will:

- Seek legislation consistent with the results of the November 4, 2008, referendum. Voters have approved the state granting Milwaukee County the authority to provide property tax relief by securing a dedicated source of funding for mass transit, parks/culture, and paramedics.
- Advocate for changes in juvenile corrections that will reduce the rates counties pay for youth sentenced to the DOC and direct additional resources to community-based programming. Milwaukee County also supports operational changes, including the consolidation of state JCIs.
- Work to secure full state funding of human services and circuit courts as approved by Wisconsin voters via referendum in April 2005.
- Pursue resources for public safety programs, including expressway patrols and emergency communications.

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget makes a number of assumptions about the 2011-2013 state budget that will require the attention of Intergovernmental Relations.

State Shared Revenues

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget assumes receipt of a \$37.8 million shared revenue payment, an increase of \$1.3 million over 2010. County shared revenues help local elected officials deliver quality services while minimizing the cost to the property taxpayer. Intergovernmental Relations will ask policymakers to end the practice of deducting \$20.1 million annually from Milwaukee County's shared revenue allocation for the state's operations of Milwaukee Child Welfare.

Local Transportation Aids

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget assumes a 2.5% increase in state transit operating assistance. In the absence of local dedicated funding for transit, the receipt of state assistance is especially critical to the Milwaukee County Transit System. Intergovernmental Relations will pursue increases in local transportation aids, including: mass transit/paratransit assistance; general transportation aids; and local road improvement funds.

Child Support Enforcement

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget is consistent with the June 25, 2010, memo from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) that set preliminary contract allocations for child support enforcement for Calendar Year 2011 (CY 2011). However, the 2011-2013 DCF budget request sets funding for CY 2011 contracts lower than the level of the June memo. Intergovernmental Relations will work to secure funding for child support contracts at the levels in the DCF memo and Adopted Budget.

Health and Human Services: Behavioral Health Division (BHD)

✓ GAMP-associated \$6.8 million payment

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget eliminates the \$6.8 million payment to the Department of Health Services for the state administration of the BadgerCare Plus Core Program. The Adopted Budget directs Intergovernmental Relations to work with state officials to prevent the continued imposition of this payment. If the state were to impose this payment, the effect to BHD would be devastating. Intergovernmental Relations will work to ensure the state does not deduct other Milwaukee County revenue sources by an equivalent amount to compensate for this non-payment.

✓ State Medical Assistance (MA) Shortfall

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget includes a \$3.6 million tax levy contribution to compensate for cuts attributable to the \$600 million deficit in the state's MA program. Intergovernmental Relations will work to prevent further reductions to Milwaukee County programs.

✓ 1915(i) Community Recovery Services

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget includes a provision related to the use of federal 1915(i) revenues. Consistent with the Adopted Budget, Intergovernmental Relations will work with policymakers to further restrict eligibility criteria and to provide state coverage of the non-federal match.

Property Tax Relief: Dedicated Funding for Mass Transit, Parks and Emergency Medical Services

Intergovernmental Relations will support enactment of local funding options as a means of providing property tax relief, including enactment of dedicated funding for: transit; parks/culture; and paramedics.

Juvenile Justice Reform: State Closure of Ethan Allen or Lincoln Hills

DOC has projected the daily rate would need to increase by \$100 a day in order to keep open both Ethan Allen and Lincoln Hills. According to preliminary estimates, a rate increase of this size could cost Milwaukee County an additional \$8 million a year. Intergovernmental Relations will ask state policymakers to close a JCI. Since most adjudicated juvenile delinquents come into the state correctional system from Southeastern Wisconsin, it would make more sense for DOC to close Lincoln Hills. Milwaukee County will seek reimbursement for increased transportation costs if the DOC closes Ethan Allen. The 2011-2013 DOC budget request anticipates a JCI closure and proposes an increase in the daily rate of \$15 a day to \$290 in state fiscal year 2012. Intergovernmental Relations will communicate Milwaukee County's position that a JCI closure must result in a decrease in the DOC daily rate.

Unfunded State Mandates: Human Services, Circuit Courts & Public Safety

Human Services

Intergovernmental Relations will seek to maintain current state revenue streams, such as Community Aids and Youth Aids, which fund critical Milwaukee County human services programs.

Circuit Courts & Public Safety

✓ **Director of State Courts (DOSC) 2011-2013 Budget Proposal**

Intergovernmental Relations will communicate Milwaukee County's support for the DOSC 2011-2013 budget proposal. The DOSC again has advanced a budget request that recognizes the need to establish a better partnership between the counties and the state for the administration of court services. The DOSC budget request acknowledges that state revenues to counties for court operations have been stagnant. Further, the DOSC budget request addresses the long-standing concern that the state continues to collect more revenues from court fees and surcharges than it sends to counties for court operations.

✓ **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) and Assess, Inform and Measure (AIM)**

Intergovernmental Relations also will relay Milwaukee County's support for state funding of the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program and the Assess, Inform and Measure (AIM) program. These programs currently are funded with federal stimulus dollars.

✓ **Expressway Patrols**

The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget commits \$2.5 million in property tax levy to comply with the statutory mandate that the Sheriff patrol the expressways in Milwaukee County. Intergovernmental Relations will lobby the state to offset Milwaukee County's property tax levy commitment.

✓ **Emergency Communications**

Intergovernmental Relations will work with the Wisconsin Counties Association to restore 911 surcharges to their original purpose of providing grants to counties and other public safety answering points (PSAP) to update equipment and services to pinpoint the location of wireless 911 callers.

2011-2012 Legislative Agenda Items per the Adopted 2011 Milwaukee County Budget

- ✓ The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget includes a provision calling for a separate line item on the property tax bill for parks, recreation and culture. Intergovernmental Relations will coordinate discussions with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council to obtain an agreement to identify the levy cost of this functional area on the tax bill.

- ✓ The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget directs Intergovernmental Relations to seek changes to state law to permit the removal of appointed department heads upon a two-thirds vote of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

- ✓ The 2011 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget directs Intergovernmental Relations to seek legislative and constitutional changes to allow for the abolishment of the Offices of the Milwaukee County Treasurer and the Register of Deeds positions in order to consolidate these customer service functions into the Office of the Milwaukee County Clerk.

Legislative Council 2010 Interim Study Committees

Intergovernmental Relations has worked with representatives on the Legislative Council Special Study Committees to represent the interests of Milwaukee County. It is anticipated these Study Committees will make their final recommendations next year to the Joint Legislative Council for consideration by the incoming legislature. At that time, Intergovernmental Relations will evaluate the work of these Study Committees for their impact to Milwaukee County government operations. Intergovernmental Relations has paid special attention to the following Study Committees:

- Special Committee on Criminal Justice Funding and Strategies;
- Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors under Chapter 51;
- Special Committee on Local Service Consolidation; and
- Special Committee on Public Assistance Program Integrity.