



# Elizabeth M. Coggs

10<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor

Courthouse Room 201, 901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street Milwaukee, WI 53233

**ECJ – ENEWS 10 \* January, 2009**

If you would like to unsubscribe to the ECJ-ENEWS 10, please call 414-278-4265 or email [elizabeth.coggs@milwcnty.com](mailto:elizabeth.coggs@milwcnty.com)

Please visit my Website for day to day news on Milwaukee County at:

**<http://www.milwaukee.gov/SupervisorElizabethC7923.htm>**

## Chairwoman

Finance and Audit

Combined Community Services Board

Vision for Vliet Task Force

Men of Color Task Force

## Milwaukee County Committees

Parks

Health and Human Needs

## Memberships

National Associations of Counties (NACo)

National Organization of Black County Officials

Milwaukee County Friends of Africa, Inc.

## Community Involvement

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Back-to-School Festival Board, Founder

Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy Board

Abundant Life Ministry, Inc.

Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ, Member



*Dear Friends,*

*As Chairperson of the County Board's Finance & Audit Committee and the Work Reform for Men Task Force, I have to react to the County Executive's continued refusal to seek potential federal economic stimulus funds for Milwaukee County.*

*I enthusiastically support submitting shovel-ready projects to the federal government as Milwaukee County seeks funding as part of the upcoming federal economic stimulus package from President-Elect Barack Obama. In light of the County Executive's lack of interest, and on behalf of Milwaukee County residents, I am working with Board Chairman Lee Holloway to advance a resolution establishing our position in favor of this funding.*

*In my view, the neighborhoods I represent have been in a recession for many years. We need to identify and seek funding for projects that will enrich our community for generations as well as put unemployed individuals back to work.*

*I believe that the upcoming federal stimulus will be similar to the Work Progress Administration (WPA) initiatives launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, when nearly every community in the United States had a park, bridge, or school constructed by the federal government. No more than 70 years later, I believe Milwaukee County again has numerous capital and infrastructure improvement projects that could be funded by the federal government, creating jobs and lasting value right here in our backyard.*

*The Task Force on Work Reform for Men, that I chair, is aggressively exploring new methods to employ men of color in Milwaukee County. The Task Force is also working with the State of Wisconsin, the YWCA and other community-based organizations to create and maintain jobs for African-American and Hispanic men living in Milwaukee County. The Task Force is attempting to address the following problems:*

- The incarceration rate for African-Americans in Wisconsin is more than 10 times the rate for whites, higher than any other state. African-Americans make up only 5.7% of Wisconsin's total population but account for 38.8% of the State's incarcerated population.*
- The poverty rate for African-American and Hispanic males in Milwaukee County is four times the rate of white males.*
- As a catalyst to building strong families and economic growth, it is reasonable that more emphasis be placed on males as heads of households in order to become productive tax-paying citizens within Milwaukee County.*

*Upcoming events organized by the Task Force include a job fair at 9:00 a.m. on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center and part two of the "We Have Got To Do Something Radical" Milwaukee County Crisis Roundtable Forum, scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center.*

*The next meeting of the Work Reform for Men Task Force is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center.*