



New 1st District Resident



Family Update: The Lipscomb family is proud to introduce their newest member, Theodore Lipscomb, Jr., who is now 6 months old.



Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Milwaukee County
1st District Supervisor

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Economic & Community
Development
(Vice-Chair)

Health & Human Needs
Personnel

APPOINTMENTS

Milwaukee County Research Park
Corporation Board

Milwaukee Public Library
Board of Trustees
(Financial Secretary)

Wisconsin Counties Association
Board of Directors

East Wisconsin Counties
Railroad Consortium



LIPSCOMB REPORT

1ST DISTRICT

FALL 2011

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. This newsletter highlights some of my budget and policy accomplishments in the areas of economic development, employee benefit reform, and quality of life services. During deliberation of the 2012 budget, **I have been very vocal in my call for a more balanced approach to budgeting that includes efficiency measures, strategic cuts and revenue enhancement.** My advocacy on this point often has put me at odds with the unbalanced proposal from County Executive Chris Abele, but it is ultimately the most responsible approach. While I recognize that there are many challenges in the year ahead, we must take a long term view that addresses fiscal sustainability while also ensuring a high quality of life in Milwaukee County into the future.

This year, the **budget season began with news of massive state aid cuts to Milwaukee County – totaling nearly \$29 million.** The State maintained mandates to provide a wide range of necessary services but continued to reduce its own role in funding these programs. The State of Wisconsin effectively put us in a much deeper hole while attempting to deal with their billion dollar deficit.

Rising costs for fuel, healthcare, and other services added to our structural deficit. We started the budget process with a total imbalance between revenue and expenses of over \$55 million. Unlike our State and Federal Governments, Milwaukee County must balance its budget without borrowing for our operating expenses – we do not run deficit budgets. **The County Board met the challenge by adopting a balanced budget** that combined job and service cuts, significant healthcare and pension cost sharing by all of our employees, and a modest tax levy increase of 2.3% (\$6,250,798). Total expenditures for 2012 are \$1,229,294,103, a decrease of \$64,400,597 from 2011.

On the following page, you can see more about the major policy issues we faced in constructing the County Budget. The chart is designed to show you how I voted in comparison to the County Board of Supervisors and to what the County Executive proposed; County Executive Abele still has the ability to veto any of these provisions. It takes a super majority (13) or 2/3 vote of the County Board to override a veto. This newsletter goes to print before the vetoes are issued or the override votes take place. Check my website for updates at www.milwaukee.gov/LIPSCOMB or scan the QR Code below from your mobile device.

Sincerely,

Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
1st District Milwaukee County Supervisor



2012 BUDGET UPDATE

BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES

County Executive Abele 2012 BUDGET PROPOSAL

County Board of Supervisors 2012 ADOPTED PROPOSAL

Supervisor Lipscomb BUDGET AMENDMENTS & VOTES

	PARKS	CUT the Parks Department by nearly \$3.5 million but increased revenue projections despite a history of falling short of past and current targets. The result is the proposed layoff of 55 people.	(1) Increased parks seasonal staff hours from 366,683 to 411,446 for an expenditure increase of \$500,000. (2) Rejected a proposal to add even more hours at a cost of \$999,010.	(1) Voted FOR the partial restoration of seasonal staffing for the parks department. (2) Voted AGAINST the larger restoration of seasonal staff because it simply costs too much.
	TRANSIT/PARATRANSIT	Proposed massive transit cuts due to cuts in state transit aid. Applied for temporary new federal aid that can delay the cuts. Proposed significant fare increases for elderly and disabled paratransit riders.	(1) Removed budget language that specified deep cuts in transit. Any future route cuts or modifications need further debate. (2) Implemented a smaller increase in the paratransit fare.	(1) Voted to remove references to specific transit cuts. (2) Voted FOR a smaller paratransit fee increase of \$.75 to \$4.00 each way.
	PUBLIC SAFETY	Slashed the Sheriff's Department budget by \$14.7 million and claimed that it would not impact public safety. Proposed changes would have eliminated 240 positions including an estimated 133 deputy sheriffs.	(1) Restored some of the funding to preserve deputies, retain critical medical staff, and implement needed reforms. (2) Stipulated that money saved by health and pension concessions by deputies will be used to preserve deputy positions.	Sponsor of the Amendment.
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Proposed to use up to \$5 million to establish and fund the Milwaukee County Economic Development Corporation, a separate nonprofit corporation, which would be directed by an outside board including elected officials, appointees of the County Executive, and selected business representatives.	Rejected the CEX proposal. Adopted the Biddle-LIPSCOMB Ready to Work initiative (\$1M) investment in workforce development and an Economic Development Fund (\$1M) to invest in businesses. Both initiatives are funded from land sales without a tax levy impact.	Co-Sponsor of the Amendment.
	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	Eliminated the full \$3 million payment to municipalities for paramedic services. The EMS program is a premier example of regional cooperation.	Restored half of the EMS funding - \$1.5 million. Changed the distribution formula to recognize the higher population of Milwaukee and encourage successful consolidated services such as those in the North Shore.	Co-Sponsor of the Amendment.
	ESTABROOK DAM	No Proposal.	Established a trust account for future lease revenue from the broadcast towers in Lincoln Park to be used for maintenance of the Estabrook Dam and improvements to recreational access of the upstream areas of the river.	Sponsor of the Amendment.
	FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM	Cut library funding; took advantage of a change in state law that eliminated the previous "maintenance of effort" requirement with regard to stable funding to the library.	Restored library funding to the 2011 level; this is essentially the same level of annual funding that has been provided to our county library system.	Co-Sponsor of the Amendment.
	EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE	Proposed that employees and retirees pay between 29-34% of their healthcare through higher premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and drug costs. This would transfer about \$25 million in costs from Milwaukee County to our employees and retirees.	Increased total employee paid share of healthcare from 12.6% to 25%. This is more than most public sector employees and more comparable to the private sector. Premiums would increase at a more modest rate, but most other changes still apply.	Voted FOR the Amendment.
	WELLNESS PROGRAM	Suggested that a staff workgroup study the development of a wellness program later in 2012. The concept is that wellness programs help to reduce future costs through prevention.	Adopted a wellness program with a mid-year implementation that credit participants who take part in health screening and assessment. Surcharges apply to smokers and those who do not participate.	Co-Sponsor of the Amendment.
	TRANSPARENCY & OPEN GOVERNMENT	No Proposal.	Implement phase 2 of the legislative workflow and agenda management project, including internet archiving and streaming of live audio/video of County Board and Committee meetings.	Co-Sponsor of the Amendment.
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IMSD)	Suspended plan to transition to thin client technology. Suspended previous hardware replacement schedule and budgeted only for minor repair.	Directed IMSD to study the use and implementation of open source software in order to save money and improve technology performance.	Second Co-Sponsor of the Amendment.
	CONTINGENCY (EMERGENCY) FUND	Budgeted only \$1 million on the assumption that nothing major will go wrong in 2012. In recent years the fund has generally had at least \$6-8 million and this money has often been needed to fix unforeseen financial crisis.	(1) Added another \$550,000 to the fund. (2) Rejected an amendment to increase the fund by \$1,450,000. This amendment would have increased the fund by 200% above the CEX and would still have been less than 50% of the normal level.	Voted FOR BOTH amendments to increase the Contingency (Emergency) Fund. Lead-Sponsor of the major amendment to increase the fund.
	CAPITAL BONDING (BORROWING)	No new General Obligation Debt proposed.	Added \$2 million in new projects.	Voted AGAINST new borrowing!