



IMPORTANT DATES...



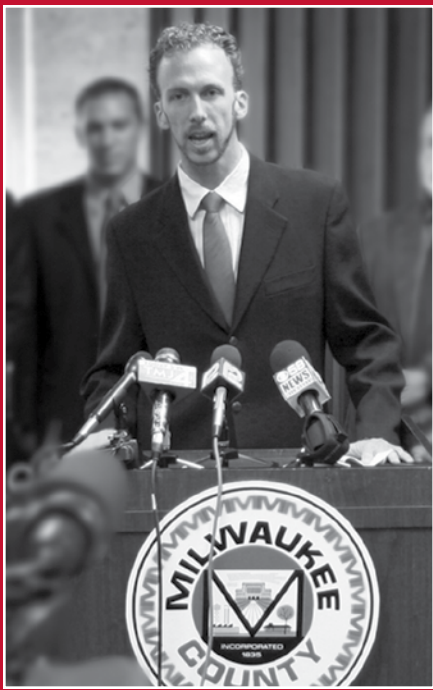
2011 Milwaukee County Open House

901 N. 9th Street, 2nd Floor
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Spring General Election

Including the Special Election for Milwaukee County Executive
Polls are open from 7AM – 8PM



Theodore Lipscomb
Milwaukee County
1st District Supervisor
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425



**Thursday,
March 31, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Milwaukee County
Courthouse Second Floor
(901 N. 9th Street, Room 201)

**FREE EVENT
EVERYONE IS INVITED!
DOOR PRIZES
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
COURTHOUSE TOURS**

For more information,
contact 278-4222

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LIPSCOMB REPORT

1ST DISTRICT

MARCH 2011

Dear 1st District Neighbors,

As I write this letter, there is an unusually intense political environment and heated discourse about many aspects of our State and local governments. That is democracy. It can be messy, but in the end it works. By the time you read this, some of these issues, such as the status of collective bargaining for most public sector employees, may already be determined. Many others, such as the budget for the State of Wisconsin, are likely to be discussed for many months. You have many options for getting more information about all of these issues, but I want to highlight a few budget proposals that affect Milwaukee County, and the 1st District in particular, that are less likely to get much coverage in the media.

Governor Walker's Proposed Budget for Wisconsin was released recently. I am still combing through the more than 1,400 pages. I have been skimming it for items of interest, and I found a few. First, let me say, I have a number of concerns about the proposals, but it is my hope that many of these concerns can be corrected by amendments during the legislative process.

Obviously, the combination of significant cuts to shared revenue and the imposition of stricter levy limits will put local government on a crash course diet. The results will include reduced services; I am particularly concerned about cuts to public transit that will limit access to jobs and inhibit economic stability. We can all agree that fiscal discipline is needed, but this particular formula approach ignores the different needs and circumstances among Wisconsin's very diverse communities. What works for sparsely populated rural towns and Counties doesn't necessarily work in denser urban communities like Milwaukee, or even Glendale.

On the positive side, there are some good elements to the budget. The Governor proposes consolidating the Juvenile Corrections Institutions to save money. Closer to home, proposals to increase funding for dam safety and contaminated sediment removal could result in significant improvements to our Milwaukee River and all who enjoy its beauty and recreational opportunities. For more information on these, see the back of this newsletter.

The relationship between state and county government must be a partnership that recognizes our mutual dependence and local needs. As elected leaders, we represent the same constituents, and they expect us to get things done. I continue to work on many issues with both of the State Senators who represent portions of the 1st District – Senator Lena Taylor and Senator Alberta Darling. I have also met with our State Representatives – Representative Sandy Pasch and my former colleague, Representative Elizabeth Coggs. Rest assured, I will continue this dialogue on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Theodore A. Lipscomb
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District

STATE BUDGET PROPOSALS

JUVENILE CORRECTIONS INSTITUTIONS CONSOLIDATED

The Governor's budget consolidates juvenile offenders by closing Ethan Allen School in Waukesha County and moving all of the juveniles to Lincoln Hills School in Lincoln County. In addition, the budget directs the Department of Corrections to close Southern Oaks Girls School in Racine County and transfer the female juveniles to Copper Lake School at Lincoln Hills. These facilities were significantly under capacity; which is a good thing because it means that less expensive alternatives are working. The consolidation avoids an expected 30% increase in the daily rate charged to County taxpayers for each juvenile that is sent to these institutions; it currently costs us about \$100,000 per year per juvenile.

I have spent considerable time working on this issue because it affects all of us as taxpayers and because it is important to our youth and communities. More than half of the juveniles in state institutions are from Milwaukee County, so we are paying for the inefficiency of the state operations. While I strongly preferred and advocated for the closing of Lincoln Hills (3 ½ hours away) and consolidation at Ethan Allen (45 minutes away), I am pleased that the Governor took action to close an institution – it will save Milwaukee County money.

I recently co-sponsored a County resolution to go even further and allow communities to employ more local options that result in better outcomes. State restrictions currently limit our ability to serve juveniles in a local setting for more than 30 days. Milwaukee and Racine Counties have collaborated on juvenile corrections programs and it has resulted in cost savings and better outcomes for the children involved; if we are permitted greater flexibility by the State, we can do even better in the future.

YOUTH AIDS REDUCED

The Governor's budget decreases by 10 percent from the last biennium the total amount that the Department of Corrections must allocate to counties for state-run juvenile correctional services and local delinquency-related and juvenile justice services.

FAMILY CARE ENROLLMENT CAPPED

Family Care is a model program that has reduced costs for nursing home care by allowing many citizens to remain in a home setting with supportive services. It appears that enrollments may not be capped for the IRIS program (the state's self-directed program) but would be capped for those seeking service through Milwaukee County. The Department of Health Services may not enroll more persons in care management organizations to receive the family care benefit than the number of persons receiving the family care benefit in that county on June 20, 2011, or the effective date.

TRANSIT AID CUT

Cuts to Transit Aid overall are stated at 10%; in Milwaukee County these are estimated to reduce funding by nearly \$7 Million annually. To put that amount in relative perspective, Milwaukee County currently spends \$17.5 Million in property tax levy on transit. The magnitude of the funding problem is compounded by a strict tax levy freeze, depleted capital/operating reserves, rising fuel costs, and ongoing needs to replace an aging fleet of 450 buses. The Governor has repeatedly said NO to a modest dedicated sales tax to fund transit, which was approved by Milwaukee County voters in November 2008. Roads by contrast have been given increased funding without a referendum.

STATEWIDE INCOME MAINTENANCE TAKEOVER

The Governor recommends transferring administration of income maintenance programs, including eligibility determination for Medicaid and FoodShare, from all counties and tribes to the state. The new state administration unit, created in the bill, is directed to administer income maintenance programs statewide no later than May 1, 2012. The Governor's budget modifies the income maintenance eligibility determination system by centralizing and automating the process, reducing total program costs and decreasing the number of staff by 270 positions overall. Due to service level issues, then-Governor Doyle directed the State to take over this function from Milwaukee County in 2009 using a rather bizarre hybrid

approach where the front-line employees remained County staff, but the State dictated and directed all of the day-to-day operations with State staff. The full economic and service implications of the current takeover proposal are uncertain at this time. As a member of the Health and Human Needs Committee, I will keep an especially close eye on this proposal.

REFERENCE SOURCES:

The Governor's Proposed Budget
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/AB40.pdf>

Wisconsin Counties Association
<http://wicounties.org>

Wisconsin Department of Administration
<http://doa.wi.gov/>

Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Relations – Special Thanks!

LIPSCOMB SUPPORTS TRANSPARENCY

Past issues of this newsletter have discussed Legistar – a legislative workflow program that provides the public and policy makers with online access to department reports and legislation. The system will generate agendas, track all actions, record votes, and archive audio (and eventually video) of meetings. Supervisor Lipscomb is pleased that Legistar will finally debut in Milwaukee County this spring.

You will be able to access Legistar here when it is launched:
milwaukeecounty.legistar.com

A BETTER MILWAUKEE RIVER

A major project, estimated at \$22 Million, to remove contaminated sediment in the Milwaukee River is slated to occur in 2011. The pollutants which are in the soil along the bottom of the river are the result of careless dumping by former industrial operations upstream along the Lincoln Creek. The project is located in Lincoln Park, and will occur in several stages. This project will require the closing of the Milwaukee River Parkway bridge and diversion of traffic. The project is a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Milwaukee County. For the first phase of the project, the EPA will cover about 65% of the cost and the DNR will provide the local match of 35%.

PHASE II NEEDED

The current project is described by the agencies as Phase I; it is a relatively small area of highly concentrated contaminated sediment. A second project, called Phase II, which is estimated to cost \$10-12 Million, is needed to complete the removal of these pollutants from the remainder of the river, down to the Estabrook Dam. Supervisor Lipscomb continues to work with the DNR, EPA, Milwaukee County Parks Department and other legislative representatives to secure a commitment to finish the job.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The EPA has funding available through the Great Lakes Legacy Fund. The State Department of Natural Resources also has sufficient money currently set aside for Phase II, but an agreement between the two agencies has not yet been reached. Milwaukee County can also assist with some funding and in-kind support via a portion of the \$2.1 Million

allocated to repair the Estabrook Dam which is slated to cost \$1.5 Million. Milwaukee County is currently under a DNR order to remove the sediment that is adjacent to the Estabrook Dam. By working together, we can reduce the cost and risks.

WORKING TOGETHER

There are few issues where everyone can agree, but getting dangerous substances out of the Milwaukee River, which runs through our neighborhoods and empties into our drinking water, is one where we should all work together. It will take a partnership – Federal, State, and local government to get this done. **We must reach agreement; this hazard should be eliminated now!**

For more information on the project and a map of the area, go to: <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/legacy/lincolnpark.htm>