



Supervisor Lipscomb and daughter Peyton (middle) cutting the ribbon to open the new Lincoln Park Playground.

## LIPSCOMB REPORT

1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

WINTER 2012



**Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.**  
Milwaukee County  
1st District Supervisor

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### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Intergovernmental Relations  
(Chair)

Finance, Personnel & Audit

Transportation, Public Works & Transit

### APPOINTMENTS

Milwaukee County Research Park  
Corporation Board

Milwaukee Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
(Financial Secretary)

Wisconsin Counties Association  
Board of Directors



Dear 1st District Constituent,

It is my honor to serve as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. In April, I was re-elected to a second term on the Board with a dramatically reconfigured district. Thousands of citizens in Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, River Hills and portions of Glendale are now in the 1st district; they join those citizens in the remainder of Glendale and a number of northeast Milwaukee neighborhoods who comprise the balance of the district - nearly 52,000 citizens in all.

I look forward to hearing about the County issues that are most important to you and to sharing more information. Printing and mailing newsletters is quite expensive, so this post-budget print edition is the only one that I can mail each year. If you are interested in more timely eNewsletters, which I produce monthly, please sign-up on my website - [www.milwaukee.gov/LIPSCOMB](http://www.milwaukee.gov/LIPSCOMB).

The County Board recently adopted the 2013 budget on a decisive 13-5 vote, a testament to the extensive work put into revamping several important aspects of the County Executive's budget proposal. Past budget meetings often ran late into the night, or into the early hours of the next morning, and were passed by a very slim majority. As an active member of the Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee that is charged with reviewing the budget, I am proud of the work that was done during an intense six-week period to review and revise the budget. For the first time this year, the entire budget debate and all votes were streamed live online.

The County Executive subsequently issued 26 vetoes. The County Board met, sustained two, and overrode 24. It takes a 2/3 vote (12 members or more) to override a veto of the Executive. On the backside of this newsletter are highlights of some budget actions taken by the County Board, vetoes by the Executive, and how I voted on each of these items. In the end, the budget for 2013 is the culmination of all of these votes and vetoes.

The final property tax levy for 2013 was established at \$279,321,196, an increase of \$3,950,360 (or 1.4 %) from 2012, which is below the rate of inflation. Your property tax bill will vary as a result of how the individual property assessment changed and the equalization factor of the property and the municipality in which it is located. In the City of Milwaukee for example, residential property values declined and the average Milwaukee homeowner will see an estimated \$19 REDUCTION in the County portion of their property taxes.

*The 2013 Adopted Budget has a few provisions that I do not support, but, on the whole, it is a responsible and balanced budget - I voted for it.*

Milwaukee County finances have been strained for more than a decade, but we are making progress and this was recently noted by some of those who are watching closely. Last month Fitch Ratings maintained their AA+ rating on Milwaukee County's General Obligation bonds and also upgraded our outlook to "Stable." Their report included the following important explanation:

"OUTLOOK REVISION: The Outlook revision to 'Stable' from 'Negative' stems from the county's demonstrated ability to generate consistent balanced financial operations, despite adverse economic conditions and state-imposed revenue restrictions."

For the full report, check out: <http://tinyurl.com/milwcntyfitch>

Sincerely,

Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.  
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District



# 2013 BUDGET UPDATE

## BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES

### County Executive (CEX) Abele 2013 BUDGET PROPOSAL

### County Board of Supervisors 2013 ADOPTED BUDGET

### Supervisor Lipscomb BUDGET AMENDMENTS & VOTES

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|  <b>PARKS</b>                                | Maintained services at existing levels, with a revenue reduction of \$736,452 and a corresponding tax levy increase to account for less revenue generated by Parks   | Supported maintaining services and directed the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to prepare a request for proposals (RFP) for the operation of beer gardens at two new Park locations - revenues generated from these beer gardens will be placed in the newly created Parks Amenities Matching Fund                                  | Co-sponsored the amendment, as a creative way to fund deferred maintenance in the Parks without raising taxes   |
|  <b>WASHINGTON PARK SWIMMING POOL</b>        | No proposal  | Instituted free admission at the Washington Park Pool for 2013, at minimal additional cost, utilizing outside funding and without additional tax levy support  | Co-sponsored the amendment<br>No veto by CEX Abele  |
|  <b>TRANSIT/PARATRANSIT</b>                  | Increased funding for bus security by \$500,000 and maintained service levels and passenger fares.   | Approved the County Executive's proposal to preserve transit and paratransit funding at current levels. Added a capital project to protect drivers by retrofitting older buses with driver shields.  | Supported the security proposal<br>Overrode driver shield veto 15-03  |
|  <b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>                        | (1) Proposed that the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) will assume policing duties for parks inside city limits in exchange for an annual payment that starts at \$1.2 million<br>(2) Proposed that Milwaukee County pay \$463,062 to the City of Milwaukee to complete the transfer of cellular 9-1-1 calls to MPD | (1) Rejected the proposal for the MPD to take over patrolling the parks, and instead restored 28 Sheriff Deputy positions, ensuring that parks safety is a high priority<br>(2) Approved a 1-year appropriation of \$463,062 to the City of Milwaukee to take its cellular 9-1-1 calls   | (1) Authored an amendment to strike the agreement for MPD to assume responsibilities in our parks and voted to override Abele veto on Park patrol<br>(2) Voted against new payment to the City of Milwaukee for 9-1-1 calls |
|  <b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)</b>     | Proposed a \$1.5 million payment to municipalities for Emergency Medical Services  | Approved an additional \$500,000 in funding (for a total of \$2 million), to support the Emergency Medical Services (Paramedics) provided by municipal fire departments including the City of Milwaukee and North Shore Fire Department  | Voted in favor of this amendment, which would enhance the safety of all County residents<br>Voted to override Abele veto 16-02  |
|  <b>HOUSE OF CORRECTIONS (HOC)</b>           | Suggested a study on the transfer of the County Correctional Facility South (CCFS) from control of the Sheriff's Office  | Transferred control of the CCFS from the Milwaukee County Sheriff to an appointed Superintendent reporting to the County Executive as of April 1, 2013, to support evidence-based corrections, education and job training programming  | Voted in favor of the amendment<br>Voted to override an Abele veto on the date of implementation, because it provided no clear direction of the timeline  |
|  <b>INMATE MEDICAL &amp; MENTAL HEALTH</b> | Proposed a \$10,724,231 private contract for inmate medical services   | Eliminated this costly and unproven contract and instead restored a full year of funding for all associated county positions, and to offset additional salary expenses associated with recruitment of the currently vacant Medical Director and Supervising Psychiatrist positions, which are required under a 10-year old consent decree        | Authored the amendment, which passed on a vote of 15-03<br>CEX Abele did not veto this amendment  |
|  <b>LINCOLN PARK SEDIMENT REMEDIATION</b>  | Appropriated \$4.2 million to complete Phase II of the Lincoln Park Sediment Remediation Project; Phase I of the project was completed in 2012   | Supported this appropriation, which will provide vital funding to clean-up contaminated sediment in the Milwaukee River  | Fully supportive of this proposal, having fought for years to fund the clean-up of the Milwaukee River  |
|  <b>COUNTY EMPLOYEES</b>                   | (1) Healthcare Benefits: eliminated employee flexible spending accounts (FSA), drastically raised the annual deductible and monthly premiums<br>(2) Compensation: proposed a 3% raise for most employees and a new \$500,000 employee bonus program  | (1) Healthcare Benefits: restored the flexible spending accounts (FSA's) and reduced the annual deductible from the County Executive's proposal (though still increased it overall)<br>(2) Compensation: lowers the employee wage increase to 1.5% and eliminates the \$500,000 employee bonus proposal; County Supervisors will get no increase | Co-sponsor of the amendment, which offers a more balanced approach particularly for employees at the lower end of the pay scale   |
|  <b>PART-TIME EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>        | Cut healthcare benefits for part-time employees working 30 hours a week or less  | Maintain healthcare benefits for some part-time workers to ensure that Milwaukee County remains a competitive employer, as County nurses are compensated considerably less than that of private sector nurses who are also eligible for part-time benefits   | Author of the amendment<br>Abele provided no veto of this item  |
|  <b>CONTINGENCY (EMERGENCY) FUND</b>       | Proposed an emergency fund of a little over \$3 million, which is substantially less than what was set aside for emergencies in previous years (\$5.8 million in 2010 and \$8.6 million in 2011)   | Added \$1 million to the County's contingency fund, so as to better prepare for unexpected expenses and avoid a year end deficit   | Co-sponsor of the amendment<br>CEX Abele did not veto this amendment  |
|  <b>WAR MEMORIAL</b>                       | (1) Provided a 2012 commitment of \$1,346,700 for capital improvements<br>(2) No new support for veterans  | (1) Appropriated \$2 million for 2013, with the expectation of a 5-year \$10 million commitment for a total cost of \$11,797,359, with the balance of the project's financing pledged by the Art Museum<br>(2) Provided \$212,500 to aid the veterans of the War Memorial in 2012  | (1) Supported the amendment allowing necessary repairs to the War Memorial<br>(2) Overrode partial abele veto for added support on a vote of 18-0   |