

Theodore

Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District



Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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YOU ARE INVITED

2011 BUDGET LISTENING SESSIONS



6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Northshore Library
6800 N Port Washington Road



6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Villard Library
3310 W Villard Avenue



Theodore Lipscomb
Milwaukee County
1st District Supervisor

901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Economic & Community
Development
(Vice-Chair)

Health & Human Needs
Parks, Energy & Environment

APPOINTMENTS

Milwaukee County Task Force
on Economic Stimulus
(Chair)

Milwaukee County Research Park
Corporation Board

Milwaukee Public Library
Board of Trustees
(Financial Secretary)



LIPSCOMB REPORT

1ST DISTRICT CONNECTION

FALL 2010

Dear Neighbor,

The epic saga continues...

The 2011 Milwaukee County Budget process began September 30 with the introduction of County Executive Walker's proposed budget. Once again, it is constructed like a house of cards. Walker's budget contains millions of dollars in unrealistic revenue and expense projections that would certainly result in a midyear deficit. Walker proposes selling land and other assets for millions of dollars even though he has been unable to find buyers in the past and has developed a reputation for falling short of revenue projections; he then counts on those same revenue assumptions to pay for critical infrastructure.

In order to like Walker's proposed budget you must believe that you can have your cake and eat it too. I can guarantee that Walker's budget will not be adopted as proposed and I am already drafting numerous amendments to modify it. We have a difficult challenge ahead of us as we seek to preserve mandated services and promote the quality of life that citizens expect. Due to extensive media coverage, most citizens are acutely aware of the crisis in mental health services; I remain committed to working to solve those challenges. I am also alarmed by diminished transit service, cuts to the park system, and degraded service and maintenance levels due to the excessive and growing implementation of furloughs – currently 26 days for 2010, up from 2 days in 2009.

During October, the Finance and Audit Committee will hold almost daily meetings to evaluate the budget and question department heads. As I have always done, I will attend most of these meetings even though I am not on the Committee because they give me an opportunity to understand the budget in greater detail. A final public hearing will be held on November 1, 2010 at the Washington Park Senior Center. The County Board will take action to adopt our budget proposal on November 8, and then the veto and override process will result in a final adopted budget on November 17, 2010.

You are invited to attend either of my upcoming listening sessions with 1st District residents to discuss the 2011 Budget and other issues:

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 6 p.m.
Northshore Library, 6800 North Port Washington Road

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 6 p.m.
Villard Library – 3310 West Villard Avenue

Sincerely,

Theodore A. Lipscomb
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District

Milwaukee County 2011 Budget

AN OVERVIEW OF WALKER'S 2011 BUDGET

NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE)

2001 – 7,395
 2005 – 6,110
 2011 – 5,335 (A reduction of 127 from 2010 level)

WAGES AND BENEFITS

- No salary step increases
- Require a contribution of 5% of wages toward a pension benefit that was reduced by 20% in 2010
- 26 (or more) furlough days for some employees

| | 2010 Adopted | 2011 Proposed |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Expenditures | \$ 1,460,291,522* | \$ 1,313,136,237 |
| Revenues | \$ 1,197,026,782 | \$ 1,050,871,497** |
| Tax Levy | \$ 263,264,740 | \$ 262,264,740 |

* Please note that the 2010 Budget accounts for 3 years of borrowing authority and 2011 relies on these expenditures.

** Non-tax levy revenues including outside grants fall by \$146 Million

CO EXEC. WALKER'S BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSIT

- \$43 Million in new spending on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line
(Supervisor Lipscomb sponsored the amendment that removed this from the 2010 Budget due to insufficient detail and debate about the proposal)
- Systemwide reduction of transit service hours and frequency on 13 routes
(This is estimated to eliminate 535,280 rides annually)
- \$2 million in revenue assumed for TV ads on buses without fiscal justification
(The previous ad provider is now bankrupt; there is minimal market interest)

PARKS

- Closes Fish Hatchery in violation of the current lease with Hunger Task Force.
- No new capital improvement projects despite documented neglect that will cost more to correct in the future *(See Lindbergh Park section below for an example)*

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Restores AODA treatment detox funding that he cut last year.
- Proposes to expand the Community Support Program (CSP) and Targeted Case Management (TCM) mental health programs; he regularly targeted these for cuts in previous budgets.
- Reduces tax levy funding of the Behavior Health Division despite the ongoing crisis in care, safety issues, and acknowledged need.

THE BUDGET CALENDAR

09.30.10 County Executive Proposes Budget
 10.26.10 District 1 Listening Session 1
 10.27.10 District 1 Listening Session 2
 11.01.10 County Board Public Hearing
 11.08.10 County Board Budget Day (&Night)
 11.17.10 Veto Overrides / Final Budget

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Economic Development (or Jobs, Jobs, Jobs...)

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Milwaukee County finally has an Economic Development Director to coordinate efforts to retain, grow, and attract employers to the region. Two years ago, Co. Exec. Walker disbanded the office after the retirement of his friend who had held the job for many years. Due to years of inaction, following years of mismanagement, the new director has his work cut out for him. Supervisor Lipscomb welcomes Damon Dorsey to his new job and looks forward to working with him to grow the economy of Milwaukee County.

RESIDENCY CONTRACTING

Supervisor Lipscomb is proud to announce that more Milwaukee County residents will work on public works projects in coming years. After reading an audit report documenting that nearly 2/3 of the workers on Milwaukee County projects lived outside the County, Supervisor Lipscomb introduced a resolution establishing a workgroup to look into the issue. The result is that Milwaukee County residents are expected to earn at least 50% of the wages paid on future County projects.

Co. Exec. Walker estimated that 1,000 jobs would result from the public works projects he proposed last year through the aggressive use of economic stimulus bonds; due to these changes, an additional 150 of those jobs should go to Milwaukee County residents instead of out of county residents – that is good for the stability of our neighborhoods and local cities.

CONDUIT BONDING

While the issue has been in the news lately, few people are familiar with conduit bonds. Supervisor Lipscomb successfully fought for a change to state statutes to allow Wisconsin counties to issue conduit bonds. This tool allows Milwaukee County to assist companies that wish to expand or locate here by providing them with access to tax-exempt bond financing. The company saves money, the economy and employees get the benefit of increased spending and the taxpayers are never on the hook for the debt – that is the powerful “conduit” nature of the bonds. More than \$3 Billion in conduit bonding authority is now available; that can create a lot of jobs.

AEROTROPOLIS / FORMER 440TH BASE

Record passenger travel, competitive fares, and easy access to the region suggest that Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport is a powerful engine for economic activity. Two recent developments seek to build on the opportunities that the airport presents to catalyze economic development. Milwaukee County acquired ownership of the former 440th Airlift Wing at the south end of the airport. Approximately half of the site will be used for runways in order to expand capacity; the balance of the site is available to grow businesses. Second, Supervisor Lipscomb voted in favor of Milwaukee County joining with surrounding municipalities in establishing the Gateway Aerotropolis. This is a consortium with a mission of growing businesses in the vicinity of the airport and exploiting the advantages of being located adjacent to an airport, near a port, and along a major rail and interstate corridor. Great opportunities are ahead.

LINDBERGH PARK



Wings International's 2010 anti-violence picnic this summer included speakers, food, and free backpacks for school age children.

Sup. Lipscomb is working with dedicated neighbors and park advocates to rehabilitate the bathroom building and reopen the wading pool in Lindbergh Park. Years of neglect and deferred roof maintenance led to mold damage and ruined the interior. What should have cost \$30,000 to repair upfront will now cost more than \$300,000. If you are interested in helping to revitalize the park, call us.

SMITH PARK



Sup. Lipscomb and volunteers went door to door in the neighborhood this summer to promote activities in Smith Park. In addition to the baseball diamond and playground which are open year round, free summer opportunities included afternoon art classes, the wading pool, and a lunch program. The park is also home to a youth football team and cheerleading.

Smith Park needs some additional care and repair; Supervisor Lipscomb is convinced that the park and the neighborhood can prosper together if we all work together. Are you interested in helping? Call us.

LINCOLN PARK



The David Schulz Aquatic Center in Lincoln Park is always a fun getaway for children and adults. The pool features a zero depth entry for toddlers, two huge slides, and lap lanes. Consider a season pass next year!

Parks info is always available at countyparks.com

INTERESTED IN JOINING YOUR LOCAL PARKS FRIENDS GROUP? CALL THE PARK PEOPLE AT 414-273-7275.