



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., 1st District

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

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Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

**FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES CREATION OF
INDEPENDENT, NON-ELECTED COMPTROLLER FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY**
Supervisors Lipscomb, Biddle author key reform amendment to 2012 County Budget

Milwaukee, WI – The County Board’s Finance & Audit Committee this afternoon adopted a key 2012 Budget Amendment authored by Supervisors Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., and Eyon Biddle, Sr., to establish an independent Comptroller for Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County already has a nationally recognized, award-winning Department of Audit and a competent, well-respected Controller. The amendment creates a separate, stand-alone Department of Comptroller and Finance, and retitles the current positions of Controller and Deputy Controller to Comptroller and Deputy Comptroller.

“Today’s action moves an item forward that has built broad consensus over the years. Members of the County Board, the Public Policy Forum, the Greater Milwaukee Committee, and other community groups have all expressed support for an independent fiscal bureau in Milwaukee County,” Supervisor Lipscomb said. “We’ve had broad agreement on this model previously, and I’m glad to see the Finance & Audit Committee move this forward today.”

In contrast to a State bill under consideration in the Legislature, Milwaukee County’s resolution has a much lower cost and does not include the creation of another political office.

“Everyone can agree on the need for accurate, independent fiscal analysis in County government, but it is critical that we achieve this goal without unintended consequences,” Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., said. “Today’s vote signals that my colleagues and I understand the need for increased financial safeguards without adding bureaucracy or serving special interest agendas.”

Under the Budget Amendment, the position of Comptroller shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Board, and can only be removed from office for cause with the concurrence of both the County Executive and a majority vote of the County Board, or by a two-thirds vote of the County Board.

Thirteen Supervisors, a supermajority of the County Board, have signed on as sponsors of the Budget Amendment. The full County Board will consider the amendment as part of the 2012 Budget on November 7.

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