



# *Milwaukee County*

## Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10<sup>th</sup> District

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### **COMMITTEE APPROVES SUPERVISOR BIDDLE'S RESOLUTION TO "BAN THE BOX"** *Supervisor urges full County Board to support the resolution on Thursday*

**Milwaukee, WI** – The County Board's Intergovernmental Relations Committee this morning approved a resolution sponsored by Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., to help "ban the box" in Milwaukee County and Wisconsin. "Ban the box" legislation enables job seekers with criminal pasts to clear the first barrier to employment and demonstrate their skills, abilities and evidence of rehabilitation to prospective employers.

The legislation opposes a bill pending in the State Legislature that would prevent individuals convicted of felonies from getting jobs. Supervisor Biddle believes the bill would make it easier for employers to discriminate against individuals with felony convictions.

"We have to be advocates and champions for equality and opportunity," Supervisor Biddle said. "Part of preventing recidivism is helping individuals re-enter society, find jobs, and restore their lives."

The resolution calls for removing questions related to prior conviction and pending criminal charges from the initial job application for Milwaukee County employment, developing a policy for uniform background checks on all candidates selected for hire, and encouraging the State of Wisconsin and all public and private employers to follow Milwaukee County's lead in this area.

**Supervisor Biddle is calling on all Supervisors to support the resolution when it goes to the full County Board this Thursday.** "Residents should also call their Supervisor at 278-4222 to express support for this important legislation," he added. "I thank the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for approving this legislation. Now, I ask the full Board to take an up or down vote on this item Thursday without delay."

"We all know that discrimination still goes on. Banning the box diminishes discrimination and allows individuals to at least have a fair interview process. Hope is a beautiful thing and, sometimes, the only thing."

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