



Milwaukee County Supervisor
DAVID CULLEN
 901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
 Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 MILWAUKEE, WI
 PERMIT 1630

<p>Milwaukee County FREE Days! Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents <u>only</u> with valid photo ID on the following days:</p>	 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM FREE the first Thursday of every month! Free for all visitors. Visit mam.org for additional information.
 FREE Every Monday! from 9:00 a.m. - Noon Excludes major holidays. Visit milwaukeehomes.org for more information.	 2014 FREE Days: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, November 1 and December 6 Special Holidays: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

15TH DISTRICT 2013 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends:

This has been a very busy and eventful year for Milwaukee County government. The County Board recently approved the county budget for 2014. I am happy to report that it contains a property tax freeze while protecting core county services such as public safety, parks and reforms to the mental health system. You can read more about the budget inside this newsletter.

The state Legislature passed a bill known as Act 14 that greatly changes county governance. As you may know, a referendum will be held in April that would reduce the compensation for Milwaukee County Board members beginning in 2016. An article inside shares some of my thoughts on this topic.

There is other information in this newsletter, including results from my recent constituent survey. I hope you find it interesting.

As always, if I can be of service or you have questions or concerns about county issues, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Supervisor David Cullen, 15th District

David Cullen
 Milwaukee County
 15th District Supervisor
 ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦
 (414) 278-4263
 david.cullen@milwcnty.com
 county.milwaukee.gov/ Cullen

Referendum on the future of the County Board to be held in April

Earlier this year the state Legislature passed a bill that is now known as Act 14. In many instances it strips the Board of its ability to govern efficiently and consolidates power in the County Executive's office.

There have been several examples just this past year of mismanagement by the County Executive and his administration. Limited oversight by the County Board will increase the likelihood of these occurrences in the future. For example:

- The County Department of Transportation issued an emergency contract for paratransit services which cost the County \$8 million more than it should have.
- The County mismanaged a contract for transit services that is still in the court system today. It will cost County taxpayers an amount yet to be determined.
- The County House of Correction attempted to extend a three-year no-bid contract to Aramark for food services without seeking bids from any other vendors. The County Board stepped in to solve these problems, but with no other options, had to extend the contract for one year while the bureaucrats reviewed their process.

Act 14 also reduced the budget for the County Board to 0.4% of the property tax levy. This results in a cut to Board staff of about 70 percent. Many of you have asked me to communicate more with you. Next year each Supervisor will have just \$5000 to spend on printing and postage for newsletters, stationary and envelopes, and



other office expenses. It will be more difficult to keep in contact and share my views with this limited amount of resources.

A final part of Act 14 requires a binding referendum in April 2014 which, if approved, would reduce the salaries of County Supervisors from about \$51,000 to \$24,000 and would eliminate all health insurance benefits.

While I understand the public's concern with disputes among elected officials, I hope when voters cast their vote on this issue they will take into consideration the lack of accountability when one person can decide without sufficient oversight how much money should be spent, how many government workers should be hired and how much bureaucrats will be paid.



Supervisor David Cullen at Noyes Pool with Milwaukee County resident Stan Kass thanking him for his generous donation to help keep Noyes and Pulaski Pools open.



The Milwaukee County War Memorial will receive needed renovations under an agreement between the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Veterans Community Relations Team and Milwaukee County.



EXCITING NEWS ABOUT THE MENOMONEE RIVER PARKWAY

When I campaigned last year to be your County Supervisor, the issue I heard most about was the need to repair the Menomonee River Parkway. After much hard work, I successfully got funding for the project after the County neglected the Parkway for years.

The County allocated funding in 2013 for the planning and conceptual design phase of the project. The final design and reconstruction of the Parkway will take place in 2014 and 2015. In the recently adopted County budget for 2014, \$3,000,000 was appropriated for the first year of this project.

Current plans involve reconstruction of the Parkway from Burleigh to Congress in 2014 and reconstruction from Church Street to Burleigh in 2015. The purpose of the two-year plan is to avoid having the Parkway from Church Street to North Avenue out of service at the same time as the Watertown Plank Rd. and Swan Blvd. intersection.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to call my office at **278-4263**.

County Board Adopts a no-tax increase Budget While Protecting Core Services

The budget that was adopted by the Milwaukee County Board includes no increase in the tax levy. It does this in a responsible way by providing additional money in critical community mental health services; funds maintenance, operation and improvement for two indoor swimming pools the County Executive proposed shutting down; expands funding for homeless shelters; provides for the personal security needs of the County Executive and makes some cuts to administrative services and bureaucratic positions.

One of the most heavily publicized issues was the

County Executive's proposal to close the County's two indoor pools at Noyes and Pulaski parks, demolish them and put up a splash pad at Pulaski and a skate park at Noyes. We listened to the people, and the budget kept Noyes and Pulaski indoor pools open. With a generous contribution from local resident Stan Kass, we will make needed repairs to the pools to keep them open for future generations.

In addition, the Board's budget increased public safety by restoring 29 positions in the Sheriff's Office and restoring

the Targeted Enforcement Unit that handles parks patrols and other emergency responses.

We also provide \$175,000 in funding for the ShotSpotter program, which will greatly assist in stopping gun crimes in our parks and neighborhoods. This funding is to be matched by the City of Milwaukee. This will not only provide for better public safety. It also is an example of the kind of inter-governmental cooperation that began last year when we began sharing 911 services with the city.

We reduced paratransit fares from \$4 for a one-way trip to \$3.50 after fixing a \$1.5 million error made by the County Executive, allowing more mobility at lower cost to our most vulnerable residents.

The County Executive also requested \$400,000 for his personal security. The Board allocated \$100,000 from the Sheriff's budget for this purpose. This will provide the County Executive with the same level of security as the Governor and the Mayor of Milwaukee while saving taxpayers \$300,000.

RESULTS from the 2013 Survey

I want to thank those of you who returned my recent questionnaire about county issues. I appreciate your response and read every one that was sent in. I want to share the results with you so that you know the opinions of your fellow citizens.

Responses to Questions

Question #1 - Should a new arena be built to replace the Bradley Center?

Yes	27%
No	51%
Undecided	22%

Question #2 – Do you support using tax dollars to build a new downtown arena to replace the Bradley Center?

Yes	17%
No	71%
Undecided	12%

Question #3 – Should Milwaukee County ask voters (through a referendum) if tax dollars should be used for a new arena?

Yes	60%
No	32%
Undecided	8%

Question #4 – Do you support creating a Parks District with a taxing authority to operate County Parks?

Yes	34%
No	42%
Undecided	24%

Question #5 – Do you support closing neighborhood pools that do not generate a profit for Milwaukee County?

Yes	28%
No	58%
Undecided	14%

Question #6 - How should the Milwaukee County Transit System be funded?

Property Taxes	11%
Sales Taxes	28%
Increased fares	28%
Other	33%

Question #7 – How would you rate the job performance of these elected officials?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
President Barack Obama	13%	32%	15%	39%	1%
Governor Scott Walker	20%	17%	14%	48%	1%
County Executive Chris Abele	4%	25%	46%	20%	5%
Sheriff David Clarke	21%	19%	18%	40%	16%
County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic	3%	15%	25%	26%	31%
County Supervisor David Cullen	13%	40%	14%	5%	28%