



Joe Sanfelippo

Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District



SEPTEMBER 2011



**MILWAUKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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COMMITTEE

ASSIGNMENTS:

Personnel, Chair
Intergovernmental
Relations
Parks, Energy,
and Environment



Dear Friends and Constituents,

September is here. As summer quickly draws to a close, it is time for us on the County Board to get back to work and gear up for the busy budget “season” that will begin later this month when the County Executive presents his proposed budget for 2012.

Typically, the budget is presented at the September board meeting which will be on the 29th. The Finance and Audit Committee will then spend the greater part of October disseminating the Executive’s departmental proposals. On Monday, October 31 the County Board will hold its annual public budget hearing which will be followed by debate and a vote by the full Board on Monday, November 7. Any vetoes by the County Executive will then be voted up or down by the Board on Wednesday, November 16.

As in the past, the County is starting out in the hole. This year, the structural deficit gap that we will work to close is estimated to be nearly \$51 million.

I urge everyone to pay close attention and get involved in the budget process early on. Your opinions and viewpoints are very important to me, and I look forward to hearing them. Once again, I will hold three public listening sessions during October (details are in this newsletter) and can easily be reached via telephone, fax or email to my office.

As you are out enjoying Labor Day weekend, take the opportunity to visit one of our great parks. This will be the final weekend for summer pool season. Play a round at one of our great golf courses. We have some of the best in the area and they are all a great value.

Happy Labor Day,

Proposal to Reform County Government

On August 29 I introduced a resolution I am sponsoring to drastically change the governance structure of the County Board. My resolution recommends:

- 1) Lowering the annual pay for Supervisors from \$50,090 to \$15,000
- 2) Lowering the pay for the County Board Chairman from \$73,402 to \$17,500
- 3) Eliminating the accrual pension benefits for all Supervisors
- 4) Holding all committee and board meetings in the evenings

Passage of this resolution would save taxpayers more than \$850,000 per year. This money could be used to help preserve safety net services and quality of life programs that are in jeopardy of being cut as the Board struggles to plug holes in our budget due to the County's growing structural deficit.

Just as important as the money savings, this resolution would make County government more accessible to the public who may want to attend and participate in county governance, by changing meeting times from daytime hours to evening hours.

A part-time Supervisor position would likely increase the pool of candidates willing to run for these seats, giving County voters a greater choice for representatives with more diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. There is a wealth of talented individuals in this County that may be willing to serve their fellow citizens in a part-time capacity,

and this change would help to recruit the best and brightest to run for public office.

Passage of this resolution will not be easy. Basic human nature makes us reluctant to give up things we already have. But, as elected officials, it is our duty to put the best interests of our constituents ahead of our own.

I am hopeful that this resolution will make it through the committee hearing process and to the Board floor for debate during the September meeting cycle. If you would like to follow along or actively participate as this resolution moves through the Board, please contact my office. We can let you know of the dates and times this resolution will be up for consideration. You can view the resolution, fiscal note and press release [here](#).

Doggie Dip at Cool Waters

The annual event is back! Bring your furry friends for one last dip before summer ends!

Admission PRE-SALE
Sunday, September 4, 2011
10am-6pm at Cool Waters

Monday, September 5, 2011
6:30-8:00pm

2028 South 124th Street
West Allis



Behavioral Health Facility Study Committee Passes Resolution

As you know from previous newsletters, I have been working with four other Supervisors on crafting a plan for replacing our outdated mental health hospital located on the County Grounds. I am pleased to report that, on August 9, our committee unanimously approved a resolution laying out a specific plan for moving forward that calls for the county to dramatically downsize the inpatient facility and transform to a more patient-centered model of care in a community based setting.

In early September, the Facility Committee will hold its last meeting to give final approval to the report that will accompany the resolution as it goes to the full Board for a vote.

I would like to thank Jennifer Collins and Lynne Zidek, who staffed our committee and spent countless hours providing research and keeping our comments and revisions and revisions to revisions straight. We couldn't have done it without you.

I especially want to thank my colleagues, Supervisors Lynne DeBruin, James "Luigi" Schmitt, Marina Dimitrijevic and Peggy Romo West. We are a very diverse group and started this project out with a wide range of opinions. Yet, because we kept focused on our primary goal of making improvements that will result in patients receiving the best possible care in a safe and healing environment, we were able to come to a unanimous resolution.

Copies of the report and resolution should be available after September 15th and can be obtained by contacting my office.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

District 17 Town Hall Meetings

City of Greenfield

Tuesday, October 18, 2011
6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Greenfield Public Library
Front Conference Room
5310 W. Layton Ave.

Village of Greendale

Wednesday, October 19, 2011
6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Greendale Safety Center, Courtroom
5911 W. Grange Ave.

City of West Allis

Thursday, October 20, 2011
6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.
West Allis Public Library
Constitution Room
7421 W. National Ave.



2012

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET LISTENING SESSIONS

**Hosted by the County Board
Committee on Finance and Audit**

Johnny L. Thomas, Chair
Lynne De Bruin, Vice Chair
Michael Mayo, Sr.
Jim "Luigi" Schmitt
Willie Johnson, Jr.
Peggy Romo West

**Wednesday, September 14
Kosciuszko Community Center**
2201 South 7th Street ■ 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 21
Wauwatosa Library**
7635 West North Avenue ■ 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 26
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center**
1531 West Vliet Street ■ 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

