



Joe Sanfelippo

Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Sanfelippo
17th District Supervisor

Milwaukee County
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Personnel, Chair

Intergovernmental Relations

Parks, Energy
& Environment

Mental Health Community
Advisory Board

Milwaukee Art Museum Board

Milwaukee County War
Memorial Board

Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council



Dear Neighbors,

As the end of my first term as your representative on the County Board nears, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve you. It has truly been an honor and a privilege. Every vote I have taken, and every resolution I have sponsored, have been done with the best interests of District 17 and Milwaukee County residents in mind.

This is the last newsletter I will mail during this term. State law dictates that candidates for office may not send out mass communications during the election season, which officially begins December 1. I will continue to produce my monthly E-Newsletters until then. If you have not signed up yet, information on how to do so is located inside this newsletter. Of course, after December 1, you can still reach me personally to discuss any matters right up until the April election, and I will happily respond.

Throughout the past 3½ years, I have worked diligently to make Milwaukee County government more efficient and affordable. Much work, however, remains.

Despite the millions in savings we have been able to achieve due to the State Budget Repair Bill passed earlier this year, the long-term fiscal challenges facing the County are severe. As we begin to work on the 2012 budget, we will have an estimated \$50 million shortfall. Long range forecasts show this structural deficit exploding to \$156 million by 2017.

The decisions we make for next year's budget will likely affect every County resident and could have implications reaching long into the future. This is your County, these are your services, and these are your dollars. Your voice deserves to be heard.

Throughout my term, I have had the pleasure to speak with many of you at local events around the district and by telephone or email. Your comments and input have always been appreciated. I encourage your continued involvement, now more than ever.

Joe Sanfelippo

Save
on your
next visit!



\$2 off

**DANIEL M SOREF
PLANETARIUM**

Enjoy \$2.00 off admission to
Daniel M. Soref Planetarium

For show times, call 414-319-4629 or visit www.mpm.edu

Redeem at Box Office only. No cash value. Not valid for Museum, IMAX admission or for special exhibitions. Not valid with matinee pricing, other discounts or promotions.

Expires September 30, 2012

milwcnty

Proposal to Reform County Government

On August 29, I introduced a resolution 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 of 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. More citizens may attend and participate in County

government if meeting times are changed 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 willing to serve their fellow citizens in a part-time capacity. This change would help 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. 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 before the end of the year. 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 when this resolution will be up for consideration. You can view the resolution, fiscal note and press release at <http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sanfelippo>. (Click on press releases)

Domestic Partnership Benefits

In July, the Board approved a resolution to extend health benefits to domestic partners of County employees. I did not support this proposal because we simply cannot afford it.

The County is facing a \$50+ million budget deficit for 2012. In order to close this deficit, we will have to make tough decisions on things like raising transit fares and cutting bus routes. It does not make sense to spend money on new benefits when we cannot afford to provide existing services to County residents.

Furthermore, we are sending mixed signals to our employees. The week this idea was introduced, County Executive Chris Abele told the Journal Sentinel that we may have to consider pay cuts and layoffs to close the looming budget gap. Then, two days later, an announcement was made to extend benefits to people who do not even work for the County.

The supporters of this proposal claim this move was necessary simply out of fairness. How fair is it to tell some employees they may have their pay cut or even lose their jobs while we tell other employees we are going to pay for benefits for their domestic partners?

Knowing that this resolution had enough support to pass, I introduced a motion to lay the proposal over to be considered during the budget cycle. Since the new benefits are not scheduled to begin until 2012, there would have been no harm done in taking extra time to explore further how much extending these benefits will cost. Then we could decide whether this money should be spent on extending benefits or for saving other County services or jobs. Unfortunately, my motion failed twice and the proposal was passed.

When a similar proposal passed the Board in 2009, then-County Executive Scott Walker vetoed it and there was enough opposition from Board members to uphold that veto. Unfortunately, this time around, County Executive Abele has signed it.

We are in a budget crunch and must prioritize our spending. When the decision comes down to laying off employees and cutting bus routes and other county services or extending health insurance to domestic partners, I will support the employees, bus routes and County services first.

2011 TOWN HALL MEETING DATES

It's budget time again in Milwaukee County. There are, once again, many pressing issues, including possible cuts to our transit system, parks and human services. If you have concerns or questions, please attend one of my informative Town Hall meetings in October. As always, if you are unable to attend and have questions, please contact my office at any time.

GREENFIELD

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

GREENDALE

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

WEST ALLIS

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Public Hearing on the
2012 County Budget

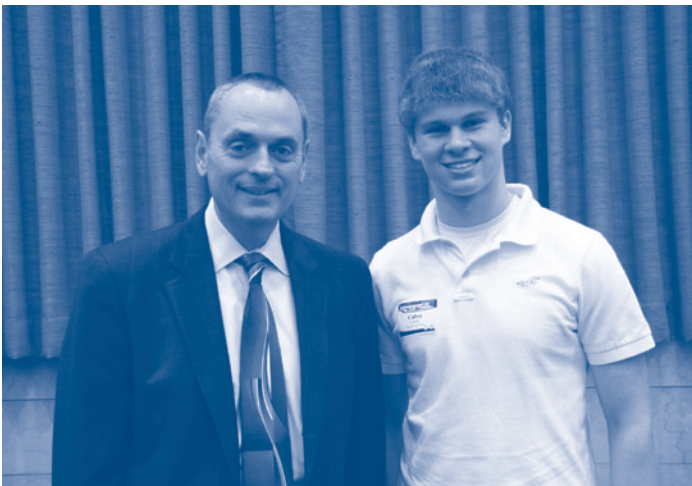
Monday, October 31 • 7:00 p.m.

Washington Park Senior Center
4420 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI

October 31
7:00 p.m.

Utilize your County Parks!

Take the kids to the playground, go for a walk with the dog or just sit on a bench and watch the trees blow in the wind. Milwaukee County and District 17 have the most beautiful parks in the country, and we should utilize them as much as we can. Greenfield Park, Holt Park, Kulwicky Park, Scout Lake and Trimborn Farm are a few of the many key attributes Milwaukee County has to enrich our lives. To view more of the Milwaukee County Park system or see information on pavilion rentals, please go to www.countyparks.com.



District 17 was proudly represented by Callan Loberg of West Allis at the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Student Government Day Program held on March 17, 2011. Callan participated in the County Board meeting and toured the jail and courtrooms to gain a better understanding of Milwaukee County government. Mr. Loberg is currently a senior at Nathan Hale High School.



Supervisor Sanfelippo debating one of the many pressing issues at the July 28, 2011 County Board meeting. Issues included extending health benefits to domestic partners of Milwaukee County employees and adopting the final redistricting plan based on the 2010 Census. Both of the items passed on the Board floor.



Milwaukee County FREE Days!

Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents only with valid photo ID on the following days:



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

**FREE on the first
Thursday of each month**

Free for all visitors
Excludes groups



FREE on Mondays

Visit www.mpm.edu
for additional information



**FREE every Monday
from 9:00 a.m. - Noon**

Excludes major holidays and
celebration of major holidays



2011 FREE Days: Nov. 5 & Dec. 3,

2012 FREE Days: Jan. 7, Feb. 4,
Mar. 3, Apr. 14, Nov. 3 & Dec. 1

**Free Zoo admission for Milwaukee
County residents with I.D. on:**
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
& New Year's Day

Sign-up for E-Notify

Do you appreciate learning my stance on crucial county issues? If so, you can receive my monthly E-Newsletter from E-notify at <http://www.milwaukee.gov/enotify>. The monthly E-Newsletter contains district events as well as Milwaukee County related issues. More than 300 District 17 friends and constituents already receive this information.

District 17 Response - Your Opinion Counts



**MAIL YOUR
RESPONSE TO:**

17th District
Milwaukee County
Supervisor **Joe Sanfelippo**

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

You may also e-mail
your response to:
joe.sanfelippo@milwcnty.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: _____

Please check the following Milwaukee County items you would like to receive.

- Milwaukee County at a Glance Brochure
- Milwaukee County Map (*one per household*)
- Milwaukee County Transit Guide, Route Number _____
- NACo Prescription Drug Card
- Milwaukee Art Museum Brochure
- Milwaukee Public Museum Brochure
- Milwaukee County Golf Course and Park Activity Guide
- Dogs in the Parks Brochure
- Milwaukee County Zoo Brochure
- Mitchell Park Domes
- Other: _____

Final Redistricting Plan Approved

At its July meeting, the County Board approved a final redistricting plan that will be in place for the next decade. The new plan calls for 18 supervisory districts, which is a downsizing of just one seat. I have several concerns with this plan.

First, a lawsuit has been filed against the County Board questioning whether proper public notice was given back in April when the plan was tentatively approved. If that litigation is successful, the final plan could be rendered null and void.

Second, State Statutes clearly outline the process that the County must follow when adopting a final plan. One of the rules is that the County must not approve a final plan until all the local municipalities have passed resolutions adopting their own ward lines and have forwarded those adopted plans to the county. The County Board chose to ignore state law by adopting a plan before this requirement was met.

Next, the final plan adopted by the Board eliminated District 6 despite overwhelming public opposition from north shore residents who did not want to see the Whitefish Bay community divided into two different supervisory districts. Further making this move bewildering is the fact that District 6 has seen a nearly 5% growth in population since the last census while nearby District 5, which had an 11% population decrease, was left intact.

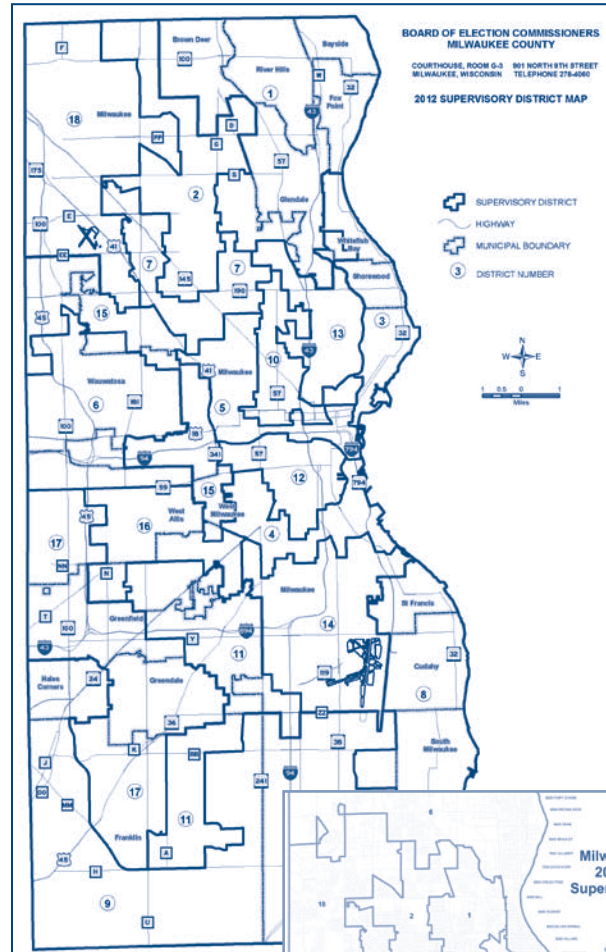
Over the past decade, there has been a huge population shift to the southeastern portion of the County. This shift necessitated a significant redrawing of the current supervisory districts to account for the decrease in population from the northern end of the County to balance the population. Why was District 6, which had population growth, eliminated while District 5, which lost 11% of its population left alone? Common sense dictates that the district chosen for elimination would be the one with the 11% decrease. Unfortunately, common sense did not prevail in this case.

Finally, while there has been much talk over the last few years of the need for a larger downsizing of the Board, only one seat was eliminated.

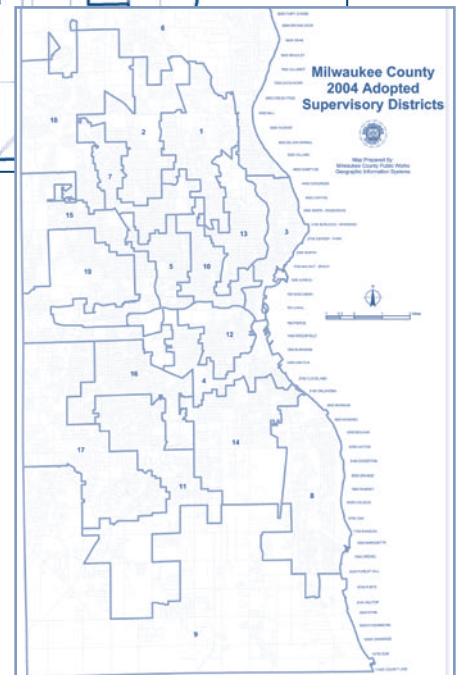
Unfortunately, County Executive Abele did not veto the final plan. Just a few months ago, while running for the County's top job, candidate Abele campaigned on the idea that a substantial downsizing of the Board was a good idea. He passed on fulfilling this pledge by refusing to veto this plan.



Supervisor Sanfelippo presented his "15 District" redistricting plan at the April 15, 2011 Redistricting Public Hearing held at the Washington Park Senior Center. His plan was later denied by the County Board Redistricting Committee.



Top: Approved redistricting plan for 2012



Right: Current district map adopted in 2004



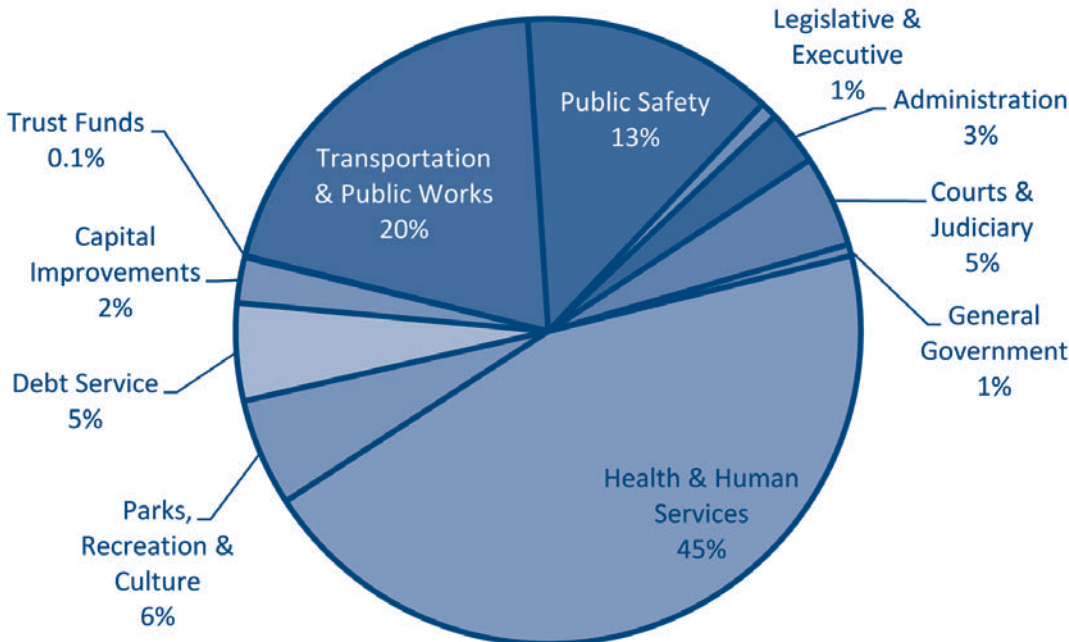
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How Your Money is Spent



In 2011, Milwaukee County will spend \$1.3 billion. As you can see from this chart, the majority of this money is spent on Health and Human Services (\$603 million), Transportation and Public Works (\$270 million) and Public Safety (\$176 million).

Source: Public Policy Forum