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E-News
You Can Use

Deanna ALEXANDER

Servant Leadership Representing Milwaukee's Northwest Corner

District 18
County
Supervisor

Stay In Touch

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

Committee Assignments

Intergovernmental Relations
Vice Chair

Finance, Personnel & Audit

Parks, Energy & Environment

Pretrial Services Advisory Board
(Appointment)

Representing Milwaukee's Northwest Corner

Hello and Welcome to the 18th District's E-Newsletter. During my first few months in office, I have been working hard to learn about all of the services Milwaukee County provides and to build relationships with the other county board members, the County Executive, and our district's residents.

The County Board meets nearly every month. Prior to that board meeting, specialized committees meet in order to review and to discuss subject-specific issues. For example, the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee reviews any requests for modifications to Parks land. Once a committee considers an issue, the committee votes and then sends that formal advisory opinion to the full board. All 18 members of the Board then vote on the issue, and, unless vetoed by the County Executive, it becomes policy or law.

In addition to establishing policy as the legislative branch of our County Government, the County Board also amends and adopts the annual budget, confirms appointments made by the County Executive or the Board Chairwoman, and monitors County operations through the Department of Audit.

I am working full-time for you, spending three to four days each week in the Courthouse and the other days in our district. Please know that I am here to serve you, to be your voice, liaison, and representation in our County. If I can ever be of service, please reach out to me. Also, please go online and **"like"** my official **Facebook page (CntySupDeanna)** to stay up-to-date with news on a regular basis.

I invite you to the Milwaukee County Courthouse between **9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday, September 6th for the Milwaukee County Open House.** You can meet your elected officials, tour offices and ask questions. Also, at 9:30 a.m. on September 6th, the County Board is expected to meet to take up any vetoes from the County Executive and this is a great opportunity to see how a Board meeting runs.

I look forward to discussing the important issues that face our community and to working with everyone involved to ensure the best outcomes; Rebranding Milwaukee County.

Warm Regards,

Deanna Alexander

Save the Date!

August 16th through August 19th

Irish Fest at Henry Maier Festival Park

200 N. Harbor Dr., $15 admission, $10 seniors, and $5 admission on Thursday.

Zoo a la Carte at the County Zoo

10001 W. Blue Mound Rd.,
Feast with the beasts at the Zoo's annual food & music festival. More than 25 local restaurants, like Joey Buona's, Water Street Brewery and Saz's, will tempt your taste buds. Six stages will showcase local and national musical acts including:

Cowboy Mouth, Thursday, August 16
Los Lonely Boys, Friday, August 17
The BoDeans, Saturday, August 18
The 52nd Street Band, Sunday, August 19

$14.25 admission, $13.25 seniors, and $11.25 kids ages 3-12, Parking $12 or on street. For more information, call (414) 256-5466.

August 17th through August 19th

Milwaukee Domes Art Festival

Art Among the Flowers at The Domes
524 S. Layton Blvd., $8 admission

August 21st – Tuesday – 6 p.m.

Free Concert in the Park

The Barretts / Venus in Furs – Women's Rock Night,
Opening act begins at 6 p.m., headliner at 6:30 p.m.
Humboldt Park, 3000 S. Howell Ave. in Milwaukee

August 20th – Monday – 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Free Concert in the Park

Patrick Ball – Celtic Harp, 'Musical Mondays' at Lake Park, South of Kenwood Blvd at Picnic Area #3 the Burke Summer Stage, on Lake Park Drive in Milwaukee

August 24th through August 26th

Mexican Fiesta at Maier Festival Park

200 N. Harbor Dr., $13 admission

August 25th – Saturday – 7-10 p.m.

Family Flicks at Veterans Park

Enjoy a free, family-friendly movie outdoors at dusk. Puss in Boots. Veterans Park
1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive.

August 28th – Tuesday – 6 p.m.

Free Concert in the Park

D'Calleson – Salsa, Opening act begins at 6 p.m., headliner at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.,
Humboldt Park, 3000 S. Howell Ave. in Milwaukee

August 29th – Wednesday – 6- 8:30 p.m.

Free Concert in the Park

Randy McAllister – Cajun Roadhouse Soul
'Wednesdays at the Shell' at Washington Park,
1859 N. 40th St. in Milwaukee

September 6th
Thursday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Milwaukee County Open House

901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee
Join us on the 2nd floor of the Milwaukee County Courthouse to see the County Board Chambers and to meet County Supervisors.
At 9:30 a.m., the County Board will meet to take up any vetoes from the County Executive.
This is an excellent opportunity to witness a board meeting as it is likely to be a very short meeting and will happen during our Open House.

September 6th – Thursday – 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Free Admission Day - Milwaukee Art Museum

700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee

Milwaukee Art Museum

September 7th through September 9th

Indian Summer at Henry Maier Festival Park

200 N. Harbor Dr., $13 admission, $10 elders, Children 12 and under are free;
Free admission Friday 4 - 6 p.m. with donation of school supplies

September 8th – Saturday – 4 to 6 p.m.

Free Concert in the Park

Garlic Mustard Pickers – Celtic
LaFollette Park, 9418 W. Washington St. in West Allis

September 14th – Friday
7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

County Supervisor Mobile Office Hours

Starbucks, N. 76th & Good Hope Rd.
Supervisor Alexander will be available for questions and conversations about Milwaukee County.
Come chat over a cup of coffee!

September 17th – Monday – 7 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting at Dretzka Park Chalet

12020 W. Bradley Rd.
Supervisor Alexander is pleased to host **Jim Sullivan** as a guest speaker during this Town Hall meeting. Sullivan, a former state senator and City of Wauwatosa alderman, is the current director of the Milwaukee County Department of Child Support Enforcement, which handles about 134,000 child support and paternity cases annually.
Director Sullivan will be available to answer individual case questions after the meeting.

Inside the County Board

"Inside the County Board" airs the first Sunday of each month at 9 p.m., straight from the studios of News/Talk 1130 WISN radio. The first and only program of its kind in the Milwaukee area, Inside the County Board gives listeners in-depth analysis of action taken by County Supervisors. ***The next airing is September 2nd at 9 p.m.***

Upcoming Meetings of the Milwaukee County Board and Committees

September 6th – Thursday, 9:30 a.m.	**County Board – Special Meeting ***
September 12th – Wednesday, 9 a.m.	Transportation, Public Works & Transit
September 13th – Thursday, 9 a.m.	Judiciary, Safety & General Services
September 17th – Monday, 9 a.m.	Economic & Community Development
September 18th – Tuesday, 9 a.m.	**Parks, Energy & Environment ***
September 19th – Wednesday, 9 a.m.	Health & Human Needs
September 20th – Thursday, 9 a.m.	**Finance, Personnel & Audit ***
September 21st – Friday, 9 a.m.	**Intergovernmental Relations Committee ***
September 27th – Thursday, 9:30 a.m.	**County Board Meeting ***

Did you know that you can read board meeting agendas and minutes online?
Just visit http://county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Did you know that you can listen to live audio of the meetings from your computer?
Just visit http://county.milwaukee.gov/CountyBoardMeeting

**Denotes a meeting where Supervisor Alexander is a member*

The 2012-2016 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Haas, Schmitt, Broderick, Johnson, Schmitt, Jursik, Stamper, Lipscomb, Bowen
Mayo, Alexander, Romo-West, Dimitrijevic (Chair), Taylor, Harris, Borkowski, Weishan, Bowen

Legislative Update

November Referendum on *Citizens United*

There is a group of concerned citizens making appeals to local governments across the nation in effort to see that the United States Constitution is amended. This group, under the purposeful name ***Move to Amend***, would like to see the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. FEC* decision of 2010 overturned. The ruling destroyed the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law and declared that limiting spending is the equivalent of limiting speech. While the governments of the United States were created with checks and balances in place, many believe that the *Citizens United* decision has bounced those checks and destroyed those balances. The airwaves are now filled with ads by anonymous, unaccountable political action committees. Billionaires, corporations and unions are free to pour seemingly unlimited amounts of money into elections.

Move to Amend supporters that came to our July County Board meeting.

A cartoon depicting corporate contributions.

I fully agree that campaign finance laws need revision. However, I also think that amending the Constitution may not be the right way to address this situation. For example, if Congress acted on amending the Constitution per the current proposal by *Move to Amend*, then there would be an exemption for "news media." Well, what happens if George Soros or the Koch brothers decide to buy a newspaper or TV network? Further, if corporations are not entitled to free speech, then unions and non-profit think tanks (which are both incorporated) could be invalidated from speaking freely. That seems to invalidate some of our voices; without Constitutional protections, do corporations stuck in the legal system also forfeit their right to a speedy trial? Clearly, there are many scenarios we need to consider.

Supervisor Alexander speaking on the Move to Amend issue. Supervisors Johnson and Taylor listening.

I tried to convince my colleagues that 1) Amending the Constitution might not be the best way to address the problem, and 2) Milwaukee County should not be spending $20,000 of taxpayer money on a referendum that is only advisory in nature. Additionally, other local governments are already likely to convince federal lawmakers of the need for campaign finance reform. Ultimately, my effort to layover the issue and effectively "kill" the referendum was defeated. After hearing some compelling testimony, I did vote to allow the referendum, and it won board approval,14-4. Here is what the referendum will say:

PROPOSED ADVISORY REFERENDUM
Shall the U.S. Constitution be amended to establish the following: 1.) Only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to Constitutional rights, and 2.) Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech. **YES** **NO**

While I went on record as being personally opposed to the idea, I recognized the amount of public support for the referendum, so I voted in favor of it appearing on the ballot. The County Executive has not yet signed the resolution, though, and that means that a veto is still possible. **Should he send a veto to the County Board, a vote would be required on September 6th for an override.**

Legislative Update

Major opportunities for urban renewal and growth

Two of the biggest items recently before the board were regarding the Downtown Transit Center and the Crystal Ridge landfill in Franklin.

We approved starting negotiations on the sale of the Downtown Transit Center. I met with the developer and reviewed the proposal and am in agreement with County Executive Abele's decision that the proposal to build a modern hotel and apartment building in place of a hardly used and ill-placed Transit Center would be a good move for Milwaukee County. Once a deal is in place, this could breathe life into a section of downtown Milwaukee that is basically dead after 5 p.m. and will put a very valuable piece of property back on the tax rolls. Some have expressed concern that Public Trust Doctrine, a state law that assures the public access to Lake Michigan, might invalidate the County's intention to sell the land. However, the final deal is not in place yet, and we expect the final agreement to make accommodations for the loss of the Transit Center.

An image of The Couture, as proposed for the Downtown Transit Center

In Franklin, the **Crystal Ridge** landfill has long been considered a piece of idle and undesirable land. It has been eyed-up by a wealthy County resident who is willing to **invest several million dollars of his own money** to turn the land into a viable community amenity, featuring a **12-field, tournament-sized baseball complex.** It is our hope that giving the green light for such a plan to move forward will put the resource in the hands of someone capable of creating something wonderful, while bringing revenue to the County for years to come.

Technology Updates

Many of our government computer systems and ways of working are encumbered by obsolete processes and technologies. We believe that with a small capital investment, we could dramatically increase the ease and efficiency with which vital records are recorded, requested, and reproduced. I am also in the process of meeting with the County's information technology department to develop an online calendar that would incorporate County events and City events into one, easy-to-access public website. For example, aside from all of my announcements, when was the last time you knew when your Mayor, Alderman, County Supervisor, or County Executive was hosting a town hall meeting? We're just in the brainstorming stages at present, but I hope that this project will lead to some tangible, positive changes for you in the future.