



2nd District Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris  
 Milwaukee County Courthouse  
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 Milwaukee, WI 53233

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 MILWAUKEE, WI  
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**IN THIS NEWSLETTER:**

- New Clean Diesel Buses Arrive in Milwaukee
- Harris in the Community
- 2011 County Budget
- West Lawn Partnership for Healthier Environment
- The Unsung Hero
- 2nd District Town Hall Meeting Dates
- Campaign Finance Reports Now Available Online



2<sup>nd</sup> District Milwaukee County Supervisor  
**Nikiya Q. Harris**



2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COUNTY CONNECTION

WINTER 2011

**COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEES**

- ▶ Economic & Community Development
- ▶ Health & Human Needs
- ▶ Transportation, Public Works, & Transit

**COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS**

- ▶ Youth Sports Authority Board
- ▶ Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. It is truly an honor. I would like to wish you and your family a happy new year in 2011!

In this newsletter, you will find the good and bad news in the 2011 Milwaukee County Adopted Budget. You will also find information about community happenings at West Lawn housing development and a positive effort to make Milwaukee County Government more accessible and transparent.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that I have kept my promise to hold monthly town hall meetings. Additionally, I sent out a survey asking your opinion on County services. Thank you for completing and returning these by the deadline. It was a key step in helping me make vital decisions that affect the County and our residents.

Please feel free to contact me directly with your comments and questions about Milwaukee County. I hope you have found that I have been extremely responsive and accessible. To further keep you informed, I will be starting an e-newsletter at the end of January. Please email me to get on our list for important updates. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Proudly representing Milwaukee County's 2nd District*

P.S. Once again, I am proud to continue printing my newsletter on **100% recycled paper**.

*Harris in the Community*



*Photos from left to right: Supervisor Harris talks to a neighbor after participating on a panel discussing this summer's flooding along with Mr. Charles Taylor of C & K Consultants, LLC at Christ the King Baptist Church. She is pictured with nationally acclaimed Mr. Will Allen, founder of Growing Power. Supervisor Harris speaks with neighbors Ms. Justine Buchanan and Mr. Bipin Chawda at the fourth 2nd District town hall meeting held at Elk Lodge this past December.*



**New Clean Diesel Buses Arrive in Milwaukee**

You might have seen the new environmentally-friendly buses added to the Milwaukee County Transit System fleet this year. The first of 90 new Clean Diesel vehicles arrived at the end of June. 55 of these buses were purchased with stimulus funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Milwaukee County will purchase an additional 35 buses in 2011. The buses are equipped with a new after-treatment system to provide near-zero emissions and excellent fuel economy.

**Nikiya Q. Harris**

2ND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**Milwaukee County Courthouse**

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# Overcoming Another Irresponsible Budget

This past fall, Supervisor Harris hosted three district listening sessions to discuss the 2011 Milwaukee County Budget presented by County Executive Scott Walker. While many programs were preserved, Walker once again chose to balance the budget with \$25 million in savings not yet achieved through wage and benefit reductions. While some may wish to see these reductions, balancing a budget on a failed labor strategy and accounting for the savings is highly irresponsible. The County is required by law to negotiate labor contracts with unions, not just place fantasy savings in the budget that require service cuts later.

The 2011 property tax levy will increase by 2.4%, which is lower than many other local taxing authorities.

## HERE IS THE GOOD AND BAD NEWS ABOUT THE 2011 MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET



### THE GOOD NEWS:

The 2011 Milwaukee County Adopted Budget is not perfect, but is much better than the one represented by the County Executive.

- ▶ The Board's Adopted Budget includes more realistic wage and benefit savings
  - ▶ Requires employees to pay 4% of their wages to the County as a pension contribution
  - ▶ Pension benefit was also reduced by 20% last year for non-represented employees and elected officials
  - ▶ Up to 26 unpaid furlough days for union-represented employees if union contract is not achieved
- ▶ Preserved funding for the Community Justice Resource Center, as an alternative to more expensive incarceration
- ▶ Approved using \$10 million to develop a roadmap for constructing a new, Mental Health Complex
- ▶ Reversed the County Executive's proposed late night and early morning transit cuts, which would have cut in 424,000 rides
- ▶ Provide \$7 million to repair O'Donnell Pavilion



### IMPACT ON THE 2ND DISTRICT:

- ▶ All parks will remain open and maintained
- ▶ Transit and Paratransit fares unchanged
- ▶ Senior centers fully funded for 2011

### THE BAD NEWS:

- ▶ Structural deficit remains
- ▶ 2011 Budget still relies heavily on wage and benefit concessions that must be negotiated, and a labor contract is not likely by January 1, 2011
- ▶ County still needs dedicated funding for parks and transit
- ▶ Milwaukee County relies heavily on the State Budget, which has not yet been adopted. This could have a major impact on shared revenue and other programs



## The Westlawn Partnership for a Healthier Environment

Over the past 2 years, the Westlawn community has been participating in the Westlawn Partnership for a Healthier Environment. This partnership is a Level 1 Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Cooperative Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through UWM College of Nursing. Community residents meet and are partners with decision makers and other stakeholders, including the EPA, business, advocacy groups, local and state government. The community decides which environmental issues that impact health are a major concern for them. Based on these decisions, the College of Nursing will apply for a Level 2 CARE Grant in the near future to work on these concerns.

This is a great time for this to occur as the Westlawn Housing Development is being torn down and re-built. The community is going through many changes as the new housing is being designed. The number one ranked concern of the community is indoor air quality specific to smoking and second hand smoke. Decisions made by the partnership are influencing decisions of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM). As an example, HACM is considering "no smoking" housing, creating better indoor air quality. This is in consideration of the high rate of asthma in the community.

If you are interested in joining the partnership or want more information, contact Betty Koepsel at 262-510-4463 or see the websites listed below:  
<http://www.epa.gov/care/>  
<http://www.epa.gov/care/community2008.htm#milwaukee> <http://westlawncommunity.officelive.com/default.aspx>

## The Unsung Hero Nominations

Do you know a resident in the 2nd District who makes unrecognized contributions in Milwaukee County? If so you can nominate that person for a spot in the 2nd District newsletter as an Unsung Hero. The Unsung Hero nomination recognizes individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty in Milwaukee County. These people do their good works without expecting praise or recognition. Residents of the 2nd District may nominate citizens in the district for good works that are verifiable.

Application forms may be obtained online, visit  
[www.county.milwaukee.gov/Harris](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/Harris)

By mail upon request at:  
Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris  
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

## 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TOWN HALL MEETINGS Elks Lodge

(5555 W. Good Hope Road)

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 • 6:00-7:00PM

Wednesday, February 9, 2011 • 6:00-7:00PM

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Supervisor Harris co-sponsored a resolution to provide campaign finance reports on the internet. Previously, citizens traveled to the Courthouse to obtain the documents.

"With this change, the County Election Commission now posts all campaign finance reports from citizens and elected officials online and is developing a long-term system for allowing these reports to be filed electronically," Supervisor Harris said.

Earlier this year, the County Board announced that a new legislative workflow program, called Legistar, was announced to provide online access to all legislation being considered by the County Board. The Legistar program will be launched in early 2011 and is being implemented in partnership with the City of Milwaukee.

"These enhancements are long overdue, and I'm glad the County Board voted to allow more sunshine in to the operations of County government."

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/CountyElectionCommission/CampaignFinanceReportsMain.htm>

