



Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
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**November 11 is
Veterans Day.**

**Thank you to all who have
served our country.**



CHAT WITH THE CHAIR

NOVEMBER 2014

Dear Friends,

As the winter months approach, the County Board has concluded its work on the 2015 budget.

Among the many items in this \$1.3 billion document, the Board included my proposal to create a pass for seniors and persons with disabilities to ride the bus for free beginning April 1. The "Growing Opportunities" or "GO" pass will increase mobility and independence for everyone in Milwaukee County.

In 2015 our riders will be using smart cards to travel around and outside of Milwaukee County. Our county is growing, and we need to grow opportunities to match it. We have some of the highest fares in the region combined with a lack of service to suburban economic development zones for job seekers. The status quo simply isn't good enough. The Board's forward-thinking plan will bring new service to thriving job centers in Brown Deer and Oak Creek.

I believe this is one of the most significant initiatives we have undertaken in transit in many years, and I am optimistic it will be a successful way to improve the region's economy while serving seniors and persons with disabilities.

In addition, the budget includes \$10 million for repairs to parks. We have taken a bold step with our historic initiative to commit \$10 million in new capital funding to reverse the downward spiral of the crumbling infrastructure in our parks. These resources are just the shot in the arm our parks need to help nurse them back to health while public demand is high and interest rates are near all-time lows.

The Board also restored arbitrary cuts to our cultural assets. The Board's budget includes improvements to our cultural assets such as the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Villa Terrace, the Charles Allis Museum and the Milwaukee County Historical Society. We are lucky to be the home of some of the most popular cultural destinations in our region. Our continued ownership comes with responsibilities, but also ensures accessibility for all to enjoy.

Our next meeting on November 19 will be held if there are any vetoes. I encourage the County Executive to keep these important initiatives in the budget.

As always, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 278-4282 or email me at marina.dimitrijevic@milwaukeecountywi.gov

I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Milwaukee County News Updates

- County Board Delivers a Fair Budget
- Groundbreaking at the Milwaukee Art Museum
- Chairwoman Dimitrijevic Discusses Proposed Budget on WUWM's Lake Effect
- County Board Listens to the Public at the Annual Hearing on the Budget
- Board Welcomes Supervisor-Elect Martin Weddle to be Sworn in on November 19
- Special Presentations at the November Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

In the Community

- Huge Improvements Coming to South Shore!
- Layton Boulevard West Neighbors

Save the Date

- Milwaukee County Winter Farmers Market
- Milwaukee County Senior Hall of Fame 2015

Milwaukee County News Updates

County Board Delivers a Fair Budget

This op-ed originally appeared in the November 10, 2014 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Working families in Milwaukee County sit down at the dinner table to balance their household budgets and they are faced with many tough decisions to meet their growing needs. While cuts may be needed in some areas, investment in other places is possible. That is exactly how the County Board approached the 2015 County budget.

We understand those needs. We are working to make smart choices for next year's budget. The budget is more than a document. It is a list of priorities. It is a vision. It is a plan to move our community forward.

As I rode the bus around Milwaukee County, I heard from so many great people who choose to live here. They want more for their community and from their elected officials.

The board has taken a balanced approach with a budget for next year that improves our parks and transit system. The public deserves more than the status quo of some of the highest fares around coupled with no service to growing job centers. We also have provided more resources for public safety with the addition of new community tools. We solidify safety net services for the least among us by restoring funding to homeless shelter support and indigent burials, which the county executive cut in his proposed budget. We have invested in our front-line public safety officers in county parks by providing them mental health training and body cameras.

Our residents want their award-winning county parks restored to the glory that keeps everyone proud of living here. They want improved transit service. We can do more.

The non-partisan Public Policy Forum has estimated, "county-owned parks and cultural institutions need about \$246 million to fund deferred maintenance over the next five years." In a recent report, the forum added that the County Executive's Recommended 2015 Budget, "does not appear to make a meaningful dent in the comprehensive capital needs of the parks and cultural institutions...this challenge will continue to grow and should be addressed in a meaningful way."

We have taken a bold step with our historic initiative to commit \$10 million in new capital funding to reverse the downward spiral of the crumbling infrastructure in our parks. This one-time infusion of resources is just the shot in the arm our parks need to help nurse them back to health while public demand is high and interest rates are near all-time lows.

Our budget also invests in our cultural assets, another source of

pride that adds value to our county. We reversed the arbitrary cuts that would have compromised our prized, public attractions such as the Villa Terrace, Historical Society and Charles Allis Museum. We are lucky to be the home of some of the most popular cultural destinations in our region. Our continued ownership comes with responsibilities, but also ensures accessibility for all to enjoy.

It is up to us to take the state's largest public transit system to the next level. In 2015, our riders will be using smart cards to travel around and outside of Milwaukee County. Our county is growing, and we need to grow opportunities to match it. We have some of the highest fares in the region combined with a lack of service to suburban economic development zones for job seekers. The status quo simply isn't good enough. The board's forward-thinking plan will bring new service to thriving job centers in Brown Deer and Oak Creek.

Our seniors, and residents living with disabilities, depend on a vibrant transit system for their independence. In Milwaukee County, the median income of the head of a household over the age of 65 is about \$31,000, making it dead last in the state.

Our older adults have contributed so much to our society and should not be faced with the difficult decision between buying prescription drugs or a bus pass to get to their doctor appointment. The GO Pass makes these choices easier. We can join other cities across the country, such as Pittsburgh and Jacksonville, that have similar successful programs.

The board wisely listened to county residents who expressed discontent with the county executive's proposal to close wading pools, reduce educational services at the Wehr Nature Center and privatize zoo concessions to an out-of-town bidder.

We also provided a fair, balanced approach to employee compensation and retention. Human capital is valuable. We are losing our competitive edge when it comes to hiring the most talented, diverse workforce to deliver the county services we enjoy and depend on.

County Board members hold town hall and public meetings to hear directly from our constituents. With a proposed increase of slightly more than 1%, which is below the rate of inflation, we have provided value to the people of Milwaukee County. Our proposed budget should make for a good conversation at your dinner table. Everyone around the table will benefit from new transit routes, free rides for seniors and people with disabilities, an improved parks infrastructure, world-class cultural attractions and enhanced public safety.

Milwaukee County News Updates

Groundbreaking at the Milwaukee Art Museum

Recently we broke ground on the Milwaukee Art Museum's Campaign for the Future! The Milwaukee County Board played a critical role by unanimously approving the historic agreement between the Milwaukee War Memorial and Art Museum.

Our \$10 million investment in this important partnership helped leverage millions of private donor dollars.

This investment will pay off for future generations to come and will take our great county to the next level as we honor our veterans while providing great, public access to some of the best art in the world.

Read more about the Plan for the Future here: <http://mam.org/campaign/>



Pictured: Director Dan Keegan and Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic



Pictured: Ray Krueger, Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, Supervisor Taylor, Supervisor Borkowski and Director Dan Keegan

Chairwoman Dimitrijevic Discusses Proposed Budget on WUWM's Lake Effect

I was honored to be back on WUWM Lake Effect today to discuss why the County Board's proposed budget meets our community's needs and moves Milwaukee County forward.

Listen in!

<http://wum.com/post/thursday-lake-effect-shortcoming-proposed-county-budget-milwaukee-bucket-list-guide>



Milwaukee County News Updates

County Board Listens to the Public at the Annual Hearing on the Budget



Supervisors hear from residents at our hearing on next year's County budget.
Pictured: Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and Supervisors: Weishan, Mayo, Cullen, Taylor, RomoWest



Chairwoman Dimitrijevic who served on the Milwaukee County Commission of Aging for a number of years discusses senior issues with Chairperson Viola "Vi" Hawkins.

Congratulations County Supervisor-Elect Martin Weddle!

We look forward to working with you on the County Board as you represent 5th District constituents.



Milwaukee County News Updates

Special Presentations at the November Meeting of the Board of Supervisors



The Board joined Supervisor Bowen in recognizing Andre Lee Ellis and the We Got This organization at its November 6th meeting.

Pictured: Chairwoman Dimitrijevic, Supervisors: Bowen, Haas, Johnson, Lipscomb, Rainey, Romo West, Mayo with Andre Lee Ellis and family.

On November 6th the Board honored the Día de Los Muertos Parade, Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and First Vice Chairwoman Romo West recognized Anna Maria Contreas and Jessianne Celeste Contreas for their work to make the Día de Los Muertos Parade a success.

Pictured: Chairwoman Dimitrijevic, First Vice Chairwoman Romo West, and Supervisor Bowen with Anna Maria and Jessianne Celeste.



In the Community

Huge Improvements Coming to South Shore!

<http://bayviewcompass.com/improvements-planned-for-south-shore-beach/>



Save the Date



Milwaukee County Winter Farmers' Market!

The sixth season of Milwaukee County Winter Farmers' Market will operate at Mitchell Park Domes November 1 through April 11 on Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. No markets will operate on November 29 and December 27. FREE parking available and INDOOR shopping!

Visit <http://www.mcwfm.org/> for more information.

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors

Chairwoman Dimitrijevic spoke to neighbors at the 20th Annual Gathering of the Layton Boulevard West Neighbors. The Silver City neighborhood is thriving with new businesses and a diverse, engaged group of residents on Milwaukee's near South Side.



Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame 2015

The Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame 2015 application is now available! Nominations are due February 9, 2015.

For additional nomination information, contact Jill Knight or by calling (414) 289-6794 or visit www.milwaukee.gov/county/aging