



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release

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**CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY RELEASES PLAN TO
RESTRUCTURE MILWAUKEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Change to County Administrator model would not apply until 2012-2016 term

Requires approval from State lawmakers and from County voters via referendum

Changes are based on State Assembly Bill introduced by Scott Walker

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway is introducing a resolution to seek state legislation to transition to a County Administrator model in Milwaukee County. “Many citizens in Milwaukee County, from all walks of life and political backgrounds, have been calling for a restructuring of County government to remove the political gridlock that we have experienced for a number of years now,” Chairman Holloway said. “Having heard and considered all of these concerns, I believe the time has come to seriously rethink the structure of Milwaukee County government.”

“For many years, the County Executive form of government seemed to be the best approach. In the last decade, however, this form of government appears to be failing many of our citizens,” Chairman Holloway explained. “We must instead refocus our efforts to be proactive on behalf of our residents and insist that we are serving them in the most efficient and responsible manner.”

In 2002, when he served in the State Assembly, Scott Walker introduced legislation to remove the County Executive requirement and transition to a County Administrator model in Milwaukee County. Representative Jeff Stone, then-Senator Peggy Rosenzweig, and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce all registered in favor of the legislation. Representative Walker’s bill passed 90-9 in the Assembly, but was not brought to a vote in the State Senate. Despite the setback, Scott Walker continued to advocate for this change after he was elected Milwaukee County Executive.

“This is not about me, or Scott Walker, or F. Thomas Ament,” Chairman Holloway continued. “I will not be here in 2012 when this change would take place. I am looking decades down the road to make sure that we can take politics out of the governing process in Milwaukee County.”

The proposed change would still provide direct representation for voters, and would not occur until the 2012-2016 term. Chairman Holloway will no longer be in County government at that time, but believes the process to reform County government should begin now. This change would require action from the State of Wisconsin and approval by the residents of Milwaukee County via a referendum.

“It’s time for the County Board to bring this resolution forward for Scott Walker to sign,” Chairman Holloway added. “Milwaukee County must evolve for the greater good in the 21st century. This would be a major, but much needed, change in our County. I am asking all residents to join me in my vision to move Milwaukee County forward.”

Candidates for Administrator positions typically possess advanced degrees, extensive experience in public administration, and strong managerial experience. A County Administrator is expected to work in partnership with elected officials to develop sound approaches to address challenges, build a consensus within the County, reduce staff overlap and save a considerable amount of property tax dollars.

Among the 200 other counties in the United States with populations of at least 250,000, the most prevalent form of government is the council-manager model. Only 11 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties use the County Executive form. Most have appointed County managers. According to the International City/County Management Association, the National Civic League has endorsed the council-manager form of government as the preferred form of local government structure. The benefits of this model include reducing unnecessary overhead and attracting a high-caliber individual to serve as the administrative head of the County.

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