



November 2009 E-NEWS

**Rice's Record
2008-2009**

Committee Attendance
and Voting Record

100%

County Board Meeting
Attendance

100%

**Committee
Assignments**

Judiciary, Safety and
General Services

Parks, Energy and
Environment

Economic and
Community
Development

Member:

Milwaukee County
Research Park Board

Milwaukee Regional
Medical Center Board

War Memorial Board
of Directors

District 6 Constituent Survey

One of the most important parts of my job is finding out your opinions on various issues facing Milwaukee County. In that spirit, I ask that you [complete a short survey](#) with questions on issues pertinent to the County. Please take a moment to let me know where you stand on those issues. I value your opinion and read each survey response personally.

2010 Budget Deliberations

Milwaukee County is in the midst of adopting its 2010 Budget. This budget is clearly the toughest Milwaukee County has ever faced, with a structural deficit of \$80 million. Despite this challenge, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker proposed a budget that would not increase the property tax levy while maintaining core services. I share the County Executive's efforts to control spending. Given the current economic climate, Milwaukee County residents and businesses can ill afford another tax increase.

As of this writing the County Board Finance and Audit Committee has added a total of \$1,685,169 over the 2009 adopted levy and created a wheel tax of \$20 on each vehicle registered in Milwaukee County. The final impact of the 2010 Budget on the tax levy will be determined on November 18th when the County Board will consider the potential vetoes from the County Executive.

Despite an honest effort from both the County Executive and the County Board to effectively deal with the immense challenges the County faces, it is clear that fundamental change in the way Milwaukee County operates and raises revenue is needed. I am working to find ways to change employee fringe benefit levels and keep the budget in line with taxpayers' ability to pay.

Milwaukee County Parks Receive National Award



Despite shrinking resources and a great deal of deferred maintenance our county park system continues to be a resource enjoyed by county residents. The value of our parks was recently recognized by the National Recreation and Park Association with a Gold Medal Award which honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, and resource management.

Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff, and elected officials.

Congratulations to Milwaukee County Parks on this award!

Paratransit Funding

The State of Wisconsin informed Milwaukee County that it intends to cut \$2 million in funding to TransitPlus, which provides transportation to residents with disabilities.

In response, I have co-sponsored a budget amendment which makes certain that in case the State takes away the funds in 2010, Milwaukee County will maintain the paratransit service 3/4 mile from the fixed route system. The amendment also ensures no service reduction in case the funding is available throughout the balance of 2010.



I feel it is important that disabled residents have access to transportation options that allow them to get to their jobs, doctor appointments and other activities.

This is another unfortunate example of the untenable situation of county government being mandated by state or federal governments to provide services without sufficient funds to carry out those mandates.