



Rice's Record 2010-2011

County Board Meeting Attendance

100%

Committee Assignments

Health & Human Needs

Judiciary, Safety & General Services

Personnel

Member

Milwaukee County
Research Park Board, Director

Milwaukee Regional
Medical Center, Board Member

Milwaukee County War
Memorial Corporation, Director

How to Reach Me

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

Phone: 414-278-4243

Fax: 414-223-1380

E-mail:

joseph.rice@milwcnty.com
www.County.Milwaukee.gov/Rice

Joseph A. Rice
Milwaukee County Supervisor

November, 2011

Dear Neighbors:

Thank you for taking the time to read the Rice Report. It has been an eventful year, and I am pleased to provide this overview of news and my activities as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. I hope you will find it informative.

Our county government continues to struggle with serious fiscal challenges – these become most evident when enacting next year's budget. This edition of the Rice Report outlines the budget choices facing county government. Also provided is a summary of Milwaukee County redistricting results; a review of recently enacted legislation; and my assessment of the impact of State law changes on county operations.

Also included is a Constituent Survey that I hope you will take the time to fill out and return to my office. I always carefully review all responses, so I encourage you to freely share all your concerns and opinions pertaining to Milwaukee County. In addition to sending in the survey response, please feel free to contact my office any time with questions or comments concerning county government – I take these very seriously and look forward to responding to all of them.

Many thanks for the opportunity to represent your interests on the County Board.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Rice
Milwaukee County Supervisor – District 6

Stay in Touch With Supervisor Rice

Please contact my office by using the "Contact Supervisor Rice" form located on our website (www.County.Milwaukee.gov/Rice). Fill out all the provided fields and submit your question – we will receive it immediately. Contacting Supervisor Rice is quick, easy and saves you the cost of postage or a phone call. All messages sent during business hours are reviewed immediately. Feel free to contact our office and offer comments regarding any matter concerning Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County 2012 Budget Preview

The County Board is in the midst of analyzing and amending the County Executive's proposed 2012 budget. The proposed budget totals \$1,221,166,445 in expenditures, with the property tax levy remaining at the 2011 level of \$269,554,701.

County Executive Abele's 2012 recommended budget seeks to close a \$50 million structural deficit chiefly through two changes; First, the budget uses tools provided by recent state law changes to save \$24.7 million by reducing the costs of employee benefits. These savings come in the form of benefit plan and cost shifting strategies that place a greater share of the financial burden upon employees for health care and pension costs.

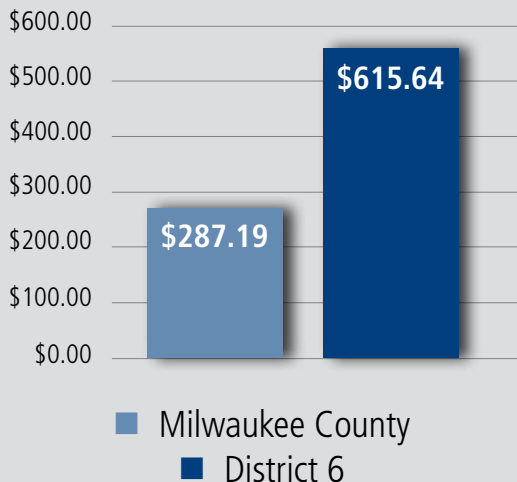
Second, the proposed budget imposes over \$10 million in reduced funding for the Sheriff's Office. It will be up to the County Executive to demonstrate whether these cuts will have a detrimental impact upon public safety.

Milwaukee County has recently received \$12.7 million in federal funding to enhance its transit services. The funds

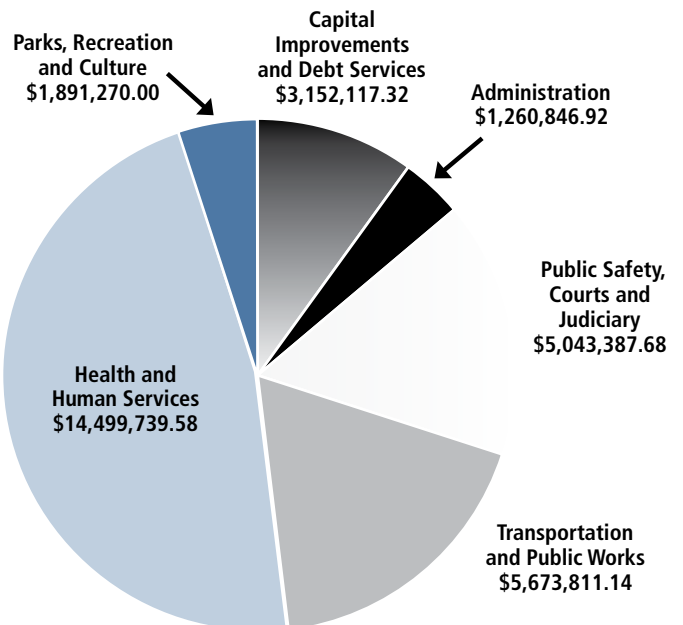
will create new express bus routes starting next year between North 124th Street and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and another from Bayshore Town Center Mall to Mitchell International Airport. These funds were yet to be awarded at the time County Executive Abele proposed his 2012 Budget. While I am pleased that the funds have been granted, prudent budgeting should not rely upon assumed resources.

The 2012 recommended budget was submitted to the County Board of Supervisors by the County Executive on September 29. The Board reviewed and amended the budget throughout the month of October and adopted it at its November 7th meeting. The County Executive's vetoes are considered on November 16th.

2011 Sixth District Per Capita County Property Tax Burden Compared to Milwaukee County Average



District 6 Tax Levy Expenditures by Function



*Source: Milwaukee County Department of Administration

It's Time To Reform Milwaukee County



The writing on the wall has been clear for some time now. Milwaukee County government is in need of reform. From notable community leaders to people at the grass root level come clarion calls for fundamental change in county government. Due to structural defects, legislative/ executive balkanization and

duplication of services with local municipalities, County government reform is overdue.

District 6 residents have also weighed in on the matter: 82% of respondents to my 2010 constituent survey favor reducing the number of Supervisors serving on the Milwaukee County Board. But it is not just the size that is of concern – nearly half of the respondents declare having no confidence in county government's ability to manage its finances and avoid service disruptions.

This is why I proposed an advisory referendum on the April 2012 ballot asking citizens whether they support reform of

Milwaukee County government through a reduction in both size and compensation of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The referendum questions would read:

Do you support compensating the position of Milwaukee County Supervisor at a level that reflects the position being considered part-time in nature?

Shall the size of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors be reduced from the current number of eighteen (18) Supervisors to nine (9) Supervisors?

The County Board also rejected, by a 4-15 vote, the proposal I co-sponsored to reform the governance structure of the Milwaukee County Board at its September 2011 meeting. The principal changes included lowering annual pay for Supervisors from \$50,090.00 to \$15,000.00, eliminating pension benefits for all Supervisors, holding the County Board meetings in the evenings and making the County Supervisor position part-time. The estimated annual savings of this reform amount to \$800,000 annually.

Milwaukee County Prescription Drug Discount Card

So far, Milwaukee County residents have saved more than \$1.2 million by using the Milwaukee County Prescription Drug Discount Card offered through the National Association of Counties (NACo). The free card offers an average savings of more than 20% off common retail prescription prices. Even bigger savings can be realized through the mail order service, which offers three month supplies of certain medications for up to 50% off.

No enrollment forms or membership fees are required. Regardless of age or income, any Milwaukee County resident without prescription drug coverage can receive the discount. To obtain a card, contact Supervisor Rice at **414-278-4243** or visit www.caremark.com/naco to print out a card instantly.

State Law Changes Benefit Milwaukee County



The enactment of the new State law pertaining to collective bargaining ushered in an era of opportunity for Milwaukee County. That opportunity includes the ability to bring greater accountability measures to the labor-management relationship and to reward employees for productivity and performance. With that comes a responsibility to establish reasonable work rules, handbooks, and related procedures to guide the new dynamic.

This new landscape will help Milwaukee County address long-term budget deficits through benefit and other contractual changes that were not able

to be achieved through negotiations with collective bargaining units. In July of this year, the County Board approved the changes in employee benefit contributions and is already on track to realize significant savings in the months to come.

Governor Scott Walker is to be commended for providing Milwaukee County with the means to better manage expenses without layoffs or raising taxes. State government has provided the tools to achieve the savings necessary to manage our budget, and it is now our duty to use those tools to properly manage and maintain county services without massive tax increases or layoffs.

NOT ABOVE THE LAW

On September 26, 2011 Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Jane Carroll issued a ruling that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors violated the Open Meetings Law when it voted upon a tentative redistricting plan without proper notice. Following State law, I acted as a "private attorney general" in seeking a legal resolution due to the Board's clear violation of the public's right to know. The Court ordered that the Board as a whole and County Board Chairman Lee Holloway each pay forfeitures to the state for the violations, as well as pay costs and fees.

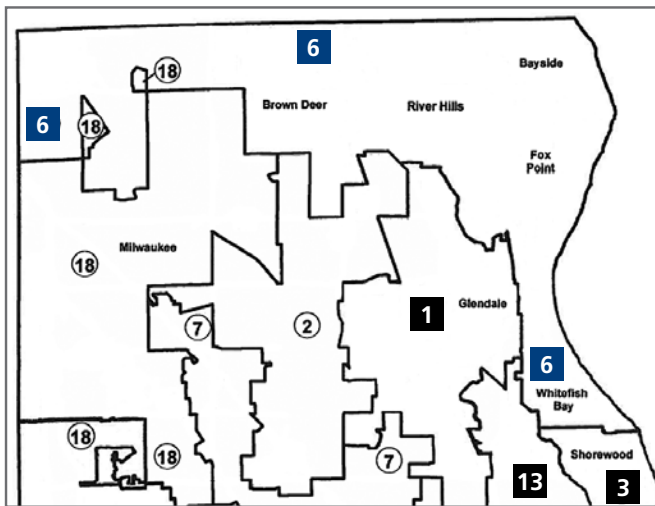
Flawed County Redistricting Impacts North Shore Communities

State law requires that counties redraw supervisory district lines every decade in order to account for the changes in population.

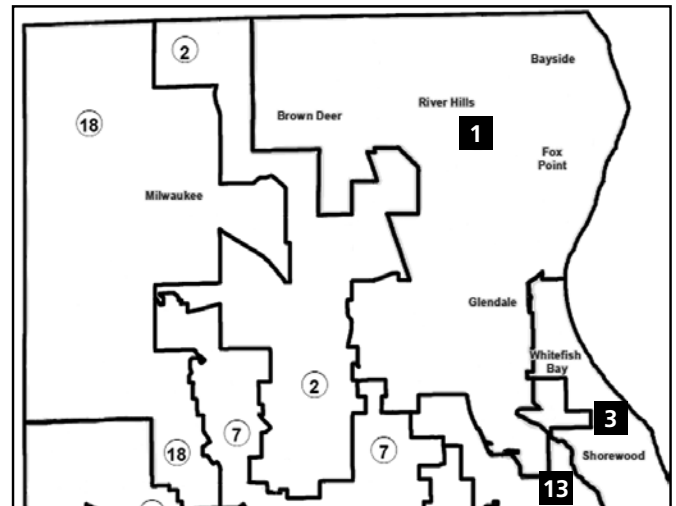
In 2010, I proposed that an independent commission perform county redistricting in order to remove politics and potential self-interest from the process. The County Board rejected that idea and reverted to the status quo which allows Supervisors to essentially choose their own constituency as maps are drawn.

The adopted plan reduces the number of Supervisors from 19 to 18. As noted in the maps below, the new plan adjusts the district lanes to split up the traditional communities of interest in the North Shore. Criticism of the process and plan came from municipal leaders, media outlets and North Shore residents. The changes from the redistricting plan will become effective following the April 2012 Spring election.

Old map of North Shore Districts*



New map of North Shore Districts*



* Source: Milwaukee County Redistricting Committee



BROWN DEER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

I joined the members of the Brown Deer Senior Citizens Club in recognizing Mr. August "Augie" Zanowski, who was named the

2011 Brown Deer Citizen of the Year. The award is presented each year by the members of the Brown Deer Senior Citizens Club to an individual who demonstrated strong commitment to bettering the community and contributing to the safety, welfare

and quality of life of Brown Deer residents.

Mr. Zanowski's tireless involvement with a wide range of community organizations has made him well deserving of this award. Congratulations on your achievement, Augie!



Milwaukee County 6th District Constituent Survey

Fall 2011

One of the most important parts of my job is finding out your opinions on various issues facing Milwaukee County. Please complete and send your survey using one of the following methods:

Mail: 901 N. 9th Street, RM 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233 • **Fax:** (414) 223-1380

Online: Complete the survey online at www.county.milwaukee.gov/Rice

Please know that I value your opinion and read each survey personally.

- Milwaukee County is projected to have a structural deficit of \$106 million by 2014. How do you think this deficit should be closed?
 - Tax increases
 - Spending cuts
 - Other _____
- Do you support restructuring Milwaukee County government by spinning off certain functions (such as parks and transit) to separate regional authorities?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- If such new authorities are created, how should they be funded?
 - Sales Tax
 - Wheel Tax
 - Property Tax
 - Other: _____
- What are the **three** most important issues facing Milwaukee County? (Rank 1-3)

___ Crime	___ Race Relations
___ Declining Property Values	___ Stormwater/Flooding
___ Economy/Jobs	___ Taxes
___ Government Inefficiency	___ Traffic/Transportation
___ Healthcare	___ Other _____
___ Public Education	_____
- The following programs account for approximately 70 % of county spending. If a reduction in services were to be made, where should spending cuts be made? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural attractions (e.g. museums)	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Service Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Highway Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit/Buses
<input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoo
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
- How satisfied are you with the services provided by Milwaukee County?
 - Very Satisfied
 - Somewhat Satisfied
 - Dissatisfied
 - Very Dissatisfied
 - Unsure
- Do you support a reduction in the number of County Board Supervisors?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- If you said "Yes," what number of Supervisors do you think is appropriate?
 - 15
 - 9
 - 5
 - Other: _____
- Do you support tax breaks for businesses that bring jobs to Milwaukee County?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- How much confidence do you have in the ability of Milwaukee County government to manage its finances and avoid major service disruptions?
 - Much Confidence
 - Some Confidence
 - No Confidence
- Do you approve of Governor Walker's efforts to revise collective bargaining laws in order to reduce the cost of government operations?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Should the position of Milwaukee County Supervisor be full or part time (with corresponding reduction in salary and benefits)?
 - Full Time
 - Part Time
 - Unsure
- How satisfied are you with my work as your Milwaukee County Supervisor?
 - Very Satisfied
 - Somewhat Satisfied
 - Dissatisfied
 - Very Dissatisfied
 - Unsure
- Do you support the installation of a streetcar system in the City of Milwaukee as proposed by Mayor Tom Barrett?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure



Tape Here

Tape Here

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Supervisor Joseph Rice
Milwaukee County 6th Supervisory District
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233



Your Opinion Counts

Comments

INSTRUCTIONS: Please fold the survey in half, tape the gray boxes at the top of this page, add postage and mail.

Please add comments, suggestions and requests below:

Additional Information (Optional):

If you would like to receive a copy of the results of this survey and updates on county news, please supply your e-mail address.

Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



Legislative Roundup

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

At its July meeting, the County Board voted 13-5 to extend health benefit coverage to domestic partners of eligible active Milwaukee County employees and their dependents. I opposed this resolution as I believe increasing fringe benefits and expanding eligibility to non-employees is unwise in light of the financial difficulties facing Milwaukee County.

SICK TIME CAP

The County Board took action to close the loopholes in granting sick leave to returning employees. At the July 28 meeting, the County Board approved a resolution that requires returning employees to "re-earn" their sick time and vacation time - meaning that should they leave county employment, they lose the previously earned sick leave benefits if they decide to come back. The county's new policy is much fairer to the taxpayers, and will prevent future abuse.

PENSION BACKDROP STUDY COMMISSION CREATION

The Milwaukee County Board created a task force to explore the possibilities of rolling back some of the generous pension backdrop benefits enacted in 2001. With nearly \$70 million of County expenditures in 2010 going toward the pension fund, it is imperative that all options be carefully reviewed to rein in these burdensome expenses. The task force will report to the Board periodically, and I look forward to implementing sensible recommendations.

O'DONNELL PARKING STRUCTURE REPAIR

The County Board voted to approve the necessary repairs to the O'Donnell Parking Structure following last summer's tragic accident. It was important that the structure be repaired as quickly as possible, as many institutions depend on it as primary parking facility and it is estimated that the County was losing \$100,000 per month in revenue while the structure was closed. While I did vote to approve the required repairs, I voted against installing decorative aluminum panels at an additional cost of \$1.2 million as I felt that this expense was unjustified. Milwaukee County is still in the process of determining the future best use for the facility as part of overall lakefront development, with some plans suggesting that the parking structure be demolished or remodeled.

SALE OF COUNTY LAND

During its September meeting, the County Board approved yet another extension to RSC and Associates' contract to commence development on the Park East parcel first approved in December of 2007. The inordinate delay in realizing a viable project stems in part from the burdensome and unrealistic development restrictions enacted by the County Board in the form of the Park East Redevelopment Compact (PERC). I have opposed the PERC in the past and continue to do so on the grounds that these requirements, while implemented in good spirit, are cumbersome for developers and have done little to create value for County taxpayers.

Ensuring Veterans Receive Their Due Recognition



Earlier this year, the County Board unanimously approved a resolution I introduced to seek a "fast-track" process for determining and presenting military honors for World War II and other aging veterans. The resolution was offered at the request of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, a veteran's organization that flies WWII veterans to Washington D.C. to visit their memorial.

In light of the fact that nearly 900 WWII veterans die daily, many of them deserving of recognition, we should be doing everything we can to expedite honors and show our gratitude for these veterans' contributions. Representatives of Stars and Stripes Honor Flight testified

before the County's Health and Human Needs Committee about the delays veterans have experienced and cited the struggle of World War II veteran Orville Lemke from Milwaukee who served with the US Army as a Communication Specialist. Mr. Lemke spent the last eight years of his life seeking the records that entitled him to a Purple Heart. He died on Christmas Eve in 2010 while federal officials still had not located the records.

Receiving a Purple Heart or other honor recognition is a very significant moment in a life of a veteran and it ought not be compromised by bureaucratic delays.



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT 1630

Supervisor Joseph Rice
Milwaukee County 6th Supervisory District
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

Enjoy FREE admission to Milwaukee County attractions!

Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents **ONLY** with a valid photo ID on the following days:

Milwaukee Art Museum
Free the first Thursday of every month
Free for all visitors, visit www.mam.org for additional information

Milwaukee County Zoo
Free Days for 2011: Dec. 3
Free Days for 2012: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 3, Apr. 14, Nov. 3 & Dec. 1
Special Holiday: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day 2012 & 2013
Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org/visit/hoursfee.php for additional information

Milwaukee Public Museum
Free on Mondays
Visit www.mpm.edu/visit/free-days for additional information.

Mitchell Park Domes
Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.
Excludes major holidays, visit www.milwaukeehomes.org for additional information.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY AT MILWAUKEE COUNTY



Again this year, the American Legion co-hosted Student Government Day with the County Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the program is to increase

student interest in government and citizenship. Students from 19 area high schools were paired up with County Supervisors and joined them on the Board Floor during the County Board meeting – some of them even cast votes on behalf of their respective Supervisors! The students also got the opportunity to tour the Courthouse, Milwaukee County Jail, and other county facilities.

This year, I hosted Ms. Emily Feldmesser from Nicolet High School. Emily is a Junior with aspirations to pursue a career in diplomacy and international relations. Good luck with your endeavors, Emily!

REPAIRS UNDERWAY FOR DOCTOR'S PARK

Many of you have contacted my office concerning the poor condition of Doctor's Park's parking lot and roadway leading to the picnic tables, as well as the damage caused to the park's ravine walkway and bridge by the flooding that occurred in July of 2010. I am pleased to inform you that the Milwaukee County Parks Department has secured funds and is in preparation stages to perform these much needed repairs.

The revenue for the repairs will be provided by the Milwaukee County Capital Improvements Fund and a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition to repaving the parking lot and the roadways, the repairs will include the replacement of an adjacent section of eroded asphalt surface pavement, the inspection of storm sewer lines, the repositioning and stabilizing of pipe, and the replacement of eroded subsurface stone.

Consider Joining Friends of Doctor's Park Group!

With a mission of providing a forum for citizen involvement and input regarding the preservation and management of the Milwaukee County Parks System, members of the nonprofit organization Parks People - Friends of Milwaukee County Parks and their North Shore neighbors have formed the Friends of Doctor's Park neighborhood group. Clean, well maintained parks build neighborhood pride, offer passive and active recreational opportunities for families, and enhance the quality of life in Milwaukee County. Direct citizen involvement is crucial to maintaining great parks. This is an opportunity to do your part. For more information on how to join, please contact Ms. Kim Caviggiola at **414-702-2256** or email her at KCaviggiola@rwbaird.com.