



Daniel J. Diliberti
Milwaukee County Treasurer
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N 9th St. Room 102
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Press Release

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TREASURER DILIBERTI CALLS FOR FISCAL REFORM IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the wake of the recently released Public Policy Forum report on Milwaukee County's financial condition, Milwaukee County Treasurer Dan Diliberti endorsed the call for county fiscal reform called for in that report.

"The Forum has provided a thoughtful analysis of what ails the County," he said. "It is doing its job by acting as a government watchdog and sounding the alarm about county finances."

Diliberti thanked the Forum for taking on the difficult job of providing an independent, non-partisan analysis of Milwaukee County finances. Many of the conclusions, he added, paralleled the recommendations of the recent report on the impact of the recession on County government.

"The Forum's conclusions present a clear picture of changes needed in County government," he added. "It points out the need for: (1) an independent fiscal analysis and annual county revenue projections that are free of the politics of budgeting; (2) a reorientation of local government functions with a clear focus on core county services; (3) an inventory of County assets and liabilities; and (4) diversification of county revenue sources.

"I believe that the Forum's report can serve as an excellent starting point for an informed and well-grounded discussion on the role and viability of County government in this community."

In follow-up to the report's conclusions, Diliberti suggested that serious consideration should be given to a previous Forum recommendation to give the Controller greater independence in the budget process.

"Wally Morics, the City's Comptroller, is an excellent role model for how the Comptroller's independent oversight over revenue projections can contribute to improved government financing practices. There is no doubt that this independence has contributed to sound City budgets," Diliberti said. "A good dose of what the Forums' financial doctors recommend — such as putting the parallel position of County Controller in a more independent position - could be good medicine for the county's budget ailments."

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