



DEANNA ALEXANDER

MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR



Supervisor Alexander

Milwaukee County Board
901 N. 9th Street, #201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Phone

(414) 278-4259

Email

Deanna.Alexander@
MilwaukeeCountyWI.gov

Jack Laufenberg

Legislative Assistant

Jack.Laufenberg@
MilwaukeeCountyWI.gov

Hello Neighbors,

Thank you for putting your faith in me to represent our community on the Milwaukee County Board. It is with a bittersweet feeling that I write this final newsletter. When I first ran for this office in 2011, many residents had no confidence in "politicians." Voters asked me to take a term limit oath and I agreed to serve no more than eight consecutive years, which I have now fulfilled. I want you to know that I will not be seeking re-election in 2020 – and most importantly, it is not because I wish to leave, but instead because I want to fulfil my promise to the voters. As they say, "Promises made; Promises kept."

As you select new representation in various offices this year, I encourage you to remember the importance of holding your elected officials accountable to the characteristics our community needs:

- **Does their "homework"** – makes efforts to learn new things and perform well.
- **Non-partisan / Bi-partisan** – can work with others in both political parties.
- **Professional and well-spoken** – you would be proud to see them speak with reporters on TV as your representative.
- **Principled** – is well grounded; will use logical principals to navigate difficult decisions.
- **Financial aptitude** – will make sound choices with taxpayer dollars.
- **Kind** – will never let their position and title go to their head.

Should you have any questions or concerns about county services between now and the April election, I will remain at your service and encourage you to reach out to my office. Thank you again for allowing me to represent you, and I look forward to continuing community involvement in other ways down the road.

May your family be comforted and blessed this holiday season!

Kindly,

Deanna Alexander



From left: 1. Supervisor Alexander attends seminars for Child Abuse Prevention Month. 2. Alderwoman Dodd and Supervisor Alexander host a "Jane's Walk" event to tour the Lindsay Park and Nash Park neighborhoods with law enforcement and residents. 3. Supervisor Alexander meets with State Rep. Barb Ditttrich to discuss state policies.

How Does the Legislative Process Work in Milwaukee County?

An issue in Milwaukee County is identified and requires a solution.

An elected Supervisor or Milwaukee County department submits a proposed solution (resolution, ordinance, funding).

Board Chairperson may refer the proposed legislation to one of the nine committees.

A committee listens to public and expert testimony on the proposed legislation, deliberates, and votes on the item.

If a committee recommends approval or rejection of the legislation, it is brought to the full County Board for debate and a vote.

If a majority of Supervisors vote against adoption, it does not pass.*

If a majority of Supervisors vote to adopt, the legislation passes.*

Sign = Law

The County Executive can sign or veto the legislation.

If the County Executive vetoes the legislation, it returns to the County Board, which can override that action with a two-thirds vote.

Override = Law

*Certain legislation, such as creating new employment positions, requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

With nearly one million residents, Milwaukee County has the largest population of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The County encompasses 19 municipalities from the City of Milwaukee to Brown Deer and River Hills in the north, Wauwatosa on the west, and Franklin and Oak Creek in the south.

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is a diverse group of 18 elected officials. Each Supervisor represents and serves about 53,000 county residents.

These part-time supervisors are elected in non-partisan even-year spring elections for two-year terms. They are paid a partial salary without benefits and many also work a separate full-time job.

The County Board meets monthly as a group before the public to discuss and vote on proposed policies and ordinances. Various committees meet in the weeks before each board meeting to consider the details of each proposal and to give the public an opportunity to appear and speak. The board accepts public comment cards or verbal testimony at committee meetings, but full board meetings are aimed at only making final decisions on committee recommendations and do not include comments from the public.

For more information about pending legislation, video recordings of past meetings, voting records, agendas, or information on additional scheduled meetings, please visit www.Milwaukee.gov/CLIC

2020 SPRING ELECTIONS



**Primary Election
Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

**General Election
Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

Visit BringIt.Wisconsin.gov online for more info on Voter ID and visit MyVoteWI.gov to view your ballot before going to vote! To receive text alerts, text **MKE VOTE** to **468311**.

Key Policies and Votes

The Milwaukee County pension system is horribly and unnecessarily complex and we have had many problems with errors, overpayments, and lawsuits. I sponsored a change to the ordinances (18-802) to help improve the accuracy of benefit calculations and to provide procedures for resolving payment errors in the pension system. This was approved by the board.



Supervisor Alexander speaking on legislation to the County Board.

We have heard numerous complaints from residents on the south end of the county about the Ballpark Commons project and how the contractor was allegedly not complying with environmental obligations to prevent pollution. I sponsored a resolution (19-618) to audit the entity's compliance with our contracts and other government regulations, and another (19-518) to develop a pesticide-use policy for the county's Parks department. Finally, in the environmental realm, I sponsored a resolution (19-293) to oppose giving a power plant the freedom to expel excess mercury effluent discharge into our waterways.

The state operates on a 2-year budget cycle, but the county operates on a 1-year budget cycle. I've seen a lot of resources, time, and money put into the budgeting process. I sponsored a resolution (19-410) supporting the state enabling local governments to enact a biennial budget process while ensuring fiscal controls, public review, and oversight of public monies.

If you were to visit a Milwaukee County committee meeting, you'd find that members of the public are allowed to fill out comment cards and may speak. However, once a matter goes from committee to the full board for a vote, public comment is no longer accepted. This is problematic because it means there is a blockage to receiving new information that might be important on the day of a vote. I believe the public should be allowed at least a limited amount of time to address elected officials at public meetings. I authored a resolution (19-618) to allow for public comments during all meetings of the County Board and this is currently in committee. While I believe it has a slim chance of passing into law, the conversation is important because it shows how elected officials making the decision feel about giving the public the chance to be heard. This will be heard for a second time in January 2020.

The Budget

While Milwaukee County's budget is large and complex, here are a few bite-sized updates about County taxing and spending:

The County currently spends over \$1 Billion per year - enough to stack piles of \$100 bills higher than the world's tallest building! This revenue is received by the county in several ways. About 35% comes from "direct revenue" like user fees – think of when you pay to play golf at a county park, or when a person's insurance company might pay medical fees for them to receive mental health treatment from a county-based provider. About 7% comes from sales taxes – paid on your purchases when you buy clothes or other goods. About 30% comes from federal and state grants or other "revenue sharing" programs. Most of the remainder comes from property taxes – the bill you pay to your municipal, county and school district governments based on the value of the real estate. (If you rent your home, your landlord passes on a portion of your rent to pay her property taxes).

The County Board has a duty to pass a budget that allocates the anticipated revenue coming in to needed government services. For example, about 25% of spending is for roads, transportation, and other public works; then about 10% of spending is for law enforcement and public safety. This year, I made several recommendations on improving the budget for 2020. I opposed continuing to give out free birth certificates for voting purposes, because I learned that many people were obtaining birth certificates in this manner without actually proving their identity; but the board approved the program anyway. I supported reducing funds that we give out as a grant for arts programs (like theaters and dance groups performing downtown) in order to prioritize supporting programs for the homeless, and preserving our historical society; but the board voted this down. For many years in a row I have been trying to get a lighted sign put up on Good Hope Rd. outside of Noyes Pool (no one knows it's there!) and am pleased to tell you the project was finally approved for 2020!

In the end, however, when all supervisors' changes were taken into account, we ended up with a budget that raises your property taxes and doesn't make as many responsible decisions as I would have liked to see; thus, I used my vote to say, "No, wait, this isn't right." However, the board as a whole did vote to move forward and approve the budget. I am optimistic that at least a long-needed project in our district will finally move forward and look forward to seeing the new sign.

Visit us on the web at County.Milwaukee.gov for a deeper explanation on the budget.



The County Board holds a public hearing every year to give taxpayers the opportunity to give their opinions on the proposed budget. Despite a budget that raises taxes, here you can see a view of the many empty seats at the hearing. If you would like to have an influence on our government, attending such hearings is an important step.

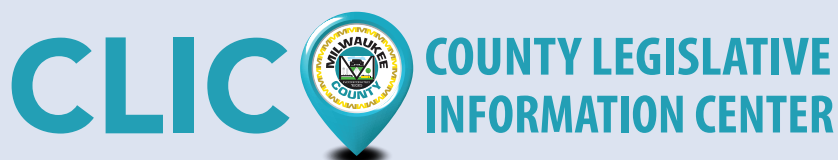
DEANNA
ALEXANDER
MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit 500



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In April 2018, Supervisor Alexander was re-elected for a third term and four new Supervisors joined the Milwaukee County Board. Here is the entire board together.



For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:
county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Key Government Contacts

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Supervisor Deanna Alexander	278-4259
County Executive	278-4211
Child Support	615-2593
Office For Persons With Disabilities	278-3932
Parks	257-7275
Sheriff (<i>non-emergency</i>)	278-4788
Transit	344-6711
Veterans Services	266-1234

CITY GOVERNMENT

EMERGENCY	9-1-1
City of Milwaukee	286-CITY (2489)
<i>(Street lights, potholes, garbage, litter)</i>	
Fire (<i>non-emergency</i>)	286-8948
Police (<i>non-emergency</i>)	933-4444

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Personal crisis or disaster?	Call 2-1-1
Report child abuse or neglect	220-SAFE (7233)
Looking for work?	EmployMilwaukee.org
Home Energy Assistance	270-4653

Supervisor Alexander invites you to enjoy these FREE County attractions:



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Free the first Thursday of every month for all visitors.
Visit www.mam.org for more information.



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Free the first Thursday of every month.
County residents get \$2 off every day.
Visit www.mpm.edu for more info and more free days.



MITCHELL PARK DOMES

Free the first Thursday of every month for County residents. Excludes holidays.
Visit www.milwaikedomes.org for more information.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO

Free admission on Family Free Days and certain Special Holidays.
Visit www.milwaakeezoo.org for more information.



CHARLES ALLIS ART MUSEUM

Free the first Wednesday of every month for all visitors.
Visit www.charlesallis.org for more information.



VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

Free the first Wednesday of every month for all visitors.
Visit www.villaterrace.org for more information.