

2nd District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Willie Johnson, Jr.

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Fall 2026

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

County Board Finance Committee

Milwaukee County Pension Study Commission

Milwaukee County Disadvantaged Business

Enterprise Steering Committee

Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation
Board of Directors (President)

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Community Insurance Corporation
Board of Directors

MEMBER

County Board Personnel Committee

County Board Judiciary, Law Enforcement,
and General Services Committee

Milwaukee County Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Milwaukee Community Justice Council
Executive Committee
(Evidence Based Decision Making Policy Team)

Milwaukee County Local Emergency
Planning Committee

Wisconsin Counties Association
Board of Directors (Past President)

Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council

Milwaukee County Historical Society
Board of Directors

National Forum for Black Public Administrators

Three Harbors Council of Scouting America
Executive Committee and Board Member

Economics Wisconsin Board of Directors

100 Black Men of Milwaukee, Inc. Board of Directors

Dear Neighbors,

It continues to be an honor to represent District 2, including Riverwest, Lincoln Park, and parts of Glendale and Brown Deer, on the Milwaukee County Board. I remain committed to working hard for our community's growth and well-being, and I'm excited to share what we've achieved together in 2026.

This year, Milwaukee County made major investments in services and infrastructure that matter to our families. For example, we secured nearly $13.9 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grants to modernize the MCTS bus fleet, deploy traffic signal priority on our corridors, and improve travel times. We also won a $14.7 million grant to upgrade transit facilities, which will lower costs and increase reliability for all MCTS riders. In addition, we are putting nearly $3 million into bicycle/pedestrian trail and bridge improvements to connect more neighborhoods and parks. These steps will expand transit access and greener commuting options for seniors, workers, students, and small-business communities in our District.

On housing and social services, the County Board voted to provide $2.5 million in rental assistance to help unhoused residents find shelter and stability. We also relaunched the Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center on MLK Drive after a $4 million renovation fully upgraded the facility. These improvements mean seniors have a safer, more welcoming place to gather for meals, recreation, and vital services (with easier bus access, too). I'm particularly proud that Milwaukee County and our state partners made this possible with grant funding, a result of our shared advocacy for resources.

As your Supervisor, my office has worked alongside County leadership to maintain balanced budgets and vital services. Milwaukee County has closed each fiscal year with a budget surplus, a testament to our team's fiscal discipline and focus on core needs. This financial stability lets us invest in priorities like improved transit, parks, public safety, and care for older adults and children without large tax increases.

None of these achievements happen without community input. I've enjoyed connecting with many of you at events this year. Hearing your perspectives on transit, park improvements, housing, and services has guided our agenda. I encourage all constituents and local groups to stay engaged: please reach out, share your ideas, and let us know how County government can serve you better.

This year I accepted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Team Impact Christian University. I was also proud to join the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County's Diversity Leadership Society. Both honors reflect my continued effort to build connections across our region to uplift our neighborhoods.

As we head into 2027, I remain focused on issues that matter to you: improving MCTS service and affordable transit options, investing in our parks and trails, expanding housing support, strengthening our services, and keeping the County accountable and transparent. My office is always here to help with County programs or concerns you have. We're listening and ready to serve.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we are making District 2 and Milwaukee County a better place.

Sincerely,

Willie Johnson, Jr.

Willie Johnson, Jr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor, District 2



Supervisor Johnson, Jr. speaking on the floor during the May meeting of the Milwaukee County Board.

MCTS Forward



MCTS Forward is a 12- to 18-month project that will chart a fresh course for how the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) can strengthen and connect communities throughout the County. Through conversations about the community's goals for transit, the project will help shape a new transit network based on those goals and priorities.

The reason behind the system redesign is that operating costs at MCTS are rising faster than the revenue available to cover them. To address future MCTS budget shortfalls, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has designated transit funding as the County's number one advocacy priority to the State of Wisconsin. If proper state funding is provided for transit, current bus service levels will remain the same.

However, without additional funding, a looming budget gap could force bus service reductions, followed by additional cuts in the years ahead. A 25% reduction in service would keep the current budget in balance through 2028, 2029, and 2030, providing a three-year financial outlook.

The future of Milwaukee County transit is a community conversation. The first phase of public input for MCTS Forward took place through October, with more than 25 community engagement opportunities over six weeks and survey responses representative of our County's population.

The feedback gathered during the concepts phase will help the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors make informed decisions about transit priorities and the design of a future transit network.

The next phase of public input is scheduled to begin in spring 2027, when MCTS moves from concepts to proposed designs under the direction of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

As your County Supervisor, I recognize the importance of keeping our communities connected and ensuring residents have opportunities to share their perspectives on the future of public transit. Whether you ride the bus, drive, work, own a business, or simply care about transportation in Milwaukee County, your voice matters.

I encourage all residents to stay informed and participate in the conversation as MCTS Forward continues to develop. Visit **RideMCTS.com/MCTSForward** for updates and information about the next opportunity to provide input this spring.

Together, we can continue working toward a transit system that supports the needs of our communities and the future of Milwaukee County.

Medicare Counseling Available to Wisconsin Residents

Wisconsin residents who need assistance understanding Medicare can access free, unbiased counseling through the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Trained benefit specialists provide information and assistance with Medicare coverage, enrollment, costs, and available options. These services can help Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers better understand their benefits and make informed decisions about their health coverage. To learn more about Medicare counseling or find assistance, visit **www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/benefit-specialists/medicare-counseling.htm**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH SERVICES

2026 Legislative Items Sponsored or Co-sponsored by Supervisor Johnson, Jr.

- **26-306**: A resolution urging the Governor of Wisconsin and the State Legislature to enact a comprehensive, sustainable transportation and transit funding solution
- **26-337**: A resolution to safeguard constitutional rights and ensure equal application of the law through responsible local governance and equitable federal funding
- **26-341**: A resolution expressing solidarity with the residents of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties in Minnesota and encouraging the people of Milwaukee County to uphold the rights protected by the U.S. Constitution
- **26-453**: A resolution establishing the Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce to Address the Food Access Crisis in Milwaukee County.
- **26-470**: A resolution requesting a proactive flood prevention and preparedness plan that includes intergovernmental coordination and climate resiliency funding for Milwaukee County
- **26-447**: A resolution condemning the detention of Salah Sarsour, demanding his immediate release from federal custody, and calling for the protection of his constitutional due process rights.
- **26-515**: A resolution condemning the detention of Elvira Benitez Suarez and supporting her ability to remain with her family in the United States.
- **26-543**: A resolution affirming Milwaukee County's commitment to election integrity, support for election workers, and opposition to the intimidation of election officials and voters
- **26-688**: A resolution urging members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation to protect access to mobility for citizens of Wisconsin by ensuring funding levels for all federal transportation programs, including transit, are sustained in the final version of the BUILD America 250 Act

Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. Honored with Doctoral Degrees

In September 2025, Everlasting Covenant Kingdom Worship Ministries International, Inc. conferred a Doctor of Philosophy in Humanitarian Studies Degree. He was also awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree in November 2025 with an application from Team Impact Christian University.

2027 Recommended Budget Compared with 2026 Adopted Budget

EXPENDITURES	2026 ADOPTED	2027 RECOMMENDED
Administration	$ 83,674,310	$ 86,801,929
Capital Improvements	$ 107,038,625	$ 162,318,563
Countywide Non-Departmentals	$ 110,708,903	$ 110,771,582
Courts and Judiciary	$ 40,077,291	$ 41,052,809
Debt Service	$ 50,312,981	$ 60,100,412
General Government	$ 11,409,456	$ 11,798,136
Health & Human Services	$ 398,634,122	$ 402,328,897
Legislative & Executive	$ 2,724,559	$ 2,755,924
Parks, Recreation & Culture	$ 82,276,754	$ 83,918,612
Public Safety	$ 176,203,573	$ 176,868,233
Transportation & Public Works	$ 357,870,192	$ 368,800,693
Total Expenditures	$ 1,420,930,766	$ 1,507,515,790
REVENUES		
Operating		
Sales Tax	$ 195,595,113	$ 202,440,942
Other Direct Revenue	$ 422,967,898	$ 443,492,720
State Shared Revenue	$ 35,549,140	$ 36,858,295
Remaining State Revenue	$ 275,154,920	$ 275,362,262
Total Federal Revenue	$ 94,119,039	$ 89,394,308
Prior Year Surplus (Deficit)	$ 5,000,000	$ 5,000,000
Indirect Revenue	$ 0	$ 0
Operating Revenue Subtotal	$ 1,028,386,110	$ 1,052,548,527
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT		
Sales Tax	$ 0	$ 0
Bond Proceeds	$ 56,811,722	$ 58,018,832
Other Direct Revenue	$ 17,775,700	$ 28,271,243
Remaining State Revenue	$ 6,400,000	$ 6,059,581
Total Federal Revenue	$ 2,542,400	$ 45,731,702
Capital Revenue Subtotal	$ 83,529,822	$ 138,081,358
Total Revenue	$ 1,111,915,932	$ 1,190,629,885
Property Tax Levy	$ 309,014,834	$ 316,885,905 *Change 2.55%*
Grand Total Revenue	$ 1,420,930,766	$ 1,507,515,790

The graphic above compares the County Executive's 2027 Recommended Budget with the 2026 Adopted Budget. The 2027 recommendation includes approximately $1.508 billion in expenditures, compared with $1.421 billion in 2026, and proposes a property tax levy of $316.9 million, a 2.55% increase over the 2026 adopted levy. These figures are not final. The County Board is reviewing the recommended budget and will consider amendments before voting on a budget. Following the Board's vote, the budget will proceed through the County Executive's review and any potential veto process. Once final action is complete, updated figures will be available in the adopted budget online.

2026 Black History Month Celebration at the Milwaukee County Courthouse



Supervisor Johnson, Jr. delivered remarks recognizing the importance of honoring Black history and preserving the legacy of generations whose contributions continue to shape our communities.



Supervisor Johnson, Jr. was joined by Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Supervisors Priscilla E. Coggs-Jones, Felesia A. Martin, and Sequanna Taylor in celebrating Black History Month.

2-1-1 Get Connected. Get Answers.

IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. **Simply dial 2-1-1**. If you want detailed information, please go to: **www.impactinc.org/impact-211**.

Enjoy Free Milwaukee County Attractions! Visit county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

MPM Milwaukee Public Museum
One free day remains at current location - December 3, 2026. Stay tuned for free days at the new location in 2027.
800 W. Wells St., Milw.
(414) 278-2728
www.mpm.edu

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum
Free for SNAP, EBT recipients, military and indigenous families. Also, free on Garden Open Day in June and Doors Open.
2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milw.
(414) 271-3656
www.villaterrace.org

Milwaukee Art Museum
Free every day for kids 12 and under and WI K-12 teachers. Thursdays 4-8 p.m. pay what you wish.
700 N. Art Museum Dr.
Milwaukee
(414) 224-3200
www.mam.org

Charles Allis Art Museum
Free the first Thursday of every month.
1801 N. Prospect Ave.
Milwaukee
(414) 278-8295
www.charlesallis.org

Milwaukee County Zoo
Check website for Family Free Days and other discounted admission. Parking fees still apply.
10001 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee
(414) 256-5412
www.milwaukeezoo.org

betty brinn children's museum
Free admission on the third Thursday of each month (excluding groups).
929 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee
(414) 390-5437
www.bbcmkids.org

War Memorial Center
Free and open every day 8 a.m.-close.
750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.
Milwaukee
(414) 273-5533
www.warmemorialcenter.org



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MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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MILWAUKEE, WI
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Energy Assistance is Available

Through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, qualified Milwaukee County residents can receive a one-time annual payment to make your heating and electric bills more affordable!

1. See if you qualify.

Go to **KeepWarmMKE.org** to check income guidelines and see if you qualify. 175,000 county residents will. You may also qualify for services like furnace repair, weatherization and crisis benefits.

2. Make an appointment or complete your application online.

- Apply October 1 - May 15.
- Visit **KeepWarmMKE.org** or
- Call **270-4MKE (4653)**. Dial 211 for after-hours help.

3. All appointments are conducted by phone.

A team member will call you at your scheduled appointment time to process your application.

CLIC COUNTY LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER

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

Service Guide for 2nd District Milwaukee County Residents

2nd District Milwaukee County Supervisor
Willie Johnson, Jr. ..... (414) 278-4233
Aging and Disability Resource Center .. (414) 289-6874
Airports
Mitchell International Airport ..... (414) 747-5300
Timmerman Airport ..... (414) 461-3222
Child Support Services ..... (414) 615-2593
Clerk of Circuit Courts ..... (414) 278-4190
Community Reintegration Center ..... (414) 427-4700
County Board of Supervisors ..... (414) 278-4222
County Clerk ..... (414) 278-4067
County Executive ..... (414) 278-4211
County Treasurer ..... (414) 278-4033
Courts
Civil Division (small & large claims) ..... (414) 278-5362
Criminal Division ..... (414) 278-4538
Children's Division ..... (414) 257-7700
District Attorney's Office ..... (414) 278-4646
Election Commission ..... (414) 278-4060
Emergency/Public Safety
Sheriff General Information ..... (414) 278-4700
Sheriff (non-emergency) ..... (414) 278-4788
TDD Emergency ..... (414) 278-5252
Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) ..... (414) 585-1163
Emergency Management (24 hours) ..... (414) 257-4709
Suicide Prevention/Intervention ..... (414) 257-7222
Mental Health Crisis ..... (414) 257-7222
Fraud Hotline ..... (414) 93-FRAUD
Health and Human Services ..... (888) 947-6583
Jury Services
General Information ..... (414) 278-4469
Reserve Juror Message ..... (414) 985-6000
Marcus Performing Arts Center ..... (414) 273-7121
Medical Examiner ..... (414) 223-1200
Milwaukee Art Museum ..... (414) 224-3200
Milwaukee County Historical Society .. (414) 273-8288
Milwaukee County Parks ..... (414) 257-7275
Organized Sports ..... (414) 257-8030
Golf Office ..... (414) 257-8024
Boerner Botanical Gardens ..... (414) 525-5601
Mitchell Park Domes ..... (414) 257-5600
District 2 Parks
AC Hanson Park ..... (414) 352-7502
Algonquin Park ..... (414) 352-7502
Brown Deer Park ..... (414) 352-7502
Estabrook Park ..... (414) 964-0064
Havenwoods State Forest ..... (414) 527-0232
Kern Park ..... (414) 964-0064
Lincoln Park ..... (414) 964-0064
Meaux Park ..... (414) 964-0064
Smith Park ..... (414) 461-0839
Wyrick Park ..... (414) 461-0839
Milwaukee County Sports Complex ..... (414) 281-2694
Milwaukee County Zoo ..... (414) 771-3040
Milwaukee Public Museum ..... (414) 278-2728
Municipalities
Brown Deer ..... (414) 371-3000
Glendale ..... (414) 228-1700
Milwaukee City Hall/Common Council ..... (414) 286-2221
Milwaukee Night Number ..... (414) 286-CITY (2489)
Office of Persons with Disabilities ..... (414) 278-3932
Register in Probate ..... (414) 278-4444
Register of Deeds ..... (414) 278-4021
Rent Assistance ..... (414) 278-4894
Senior Centers
Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center ..... (414) 263-2255
Kelly Senior Center ..... (414) 481-9611
Washington Park Senior Center ..... (414) 933-2332
Wilson Park Senior Center ..... (414) 282-5566
Serving Older Adults ..... (414) 933-2332
Transit System - www.ridemcts.com
Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares ..... (414) 344-6711
Customer Comments ..... (414) 937-3218
Transit Plus ..... (414) 343-1700
UW-Extension ..... (414) 615-0507
Veterans Services ..... (414) 266-1234
Victim/Witness Service ..... (414) 278-4667