

Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County FORWARD Together



THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

November 2017



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY ASSIGNMENTS:

Board of Supervisors,
2nd Vice-Chairman

Economic & Community
Development -- Chairman

Parks, Energy & Environment

Milwaukee County
Commission on Aging

Milwaukee Regional
Innovation Center, Board of
Directors

Milwaukee Art Museum, Board of
Trustees

Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council

Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving nears, I hope that you and your family are healthy and happy. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recently passed the 2018 Operating Budget. The focus of this year's controversy was between the County Executive and the County Board.

The County Executive proposed a \$30 increase to the wheel tax which was something that the voters in my district opposed in the upper 80th percentile. The ultimate budget which I supported eliminated the wheel tax increase, reduced spending, reduced borrowing, reduced the levy tax increase, and increased our contingency fund to deal with emergencies. Overall it was a far more responsible and balanced budget. The Board basically said to all departments that they needed to do more with less, something that many of you do in your own households.



Supervisor Taylor speaking at a press conference regarding the 2018 Budget.

I want to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. As the holiday season approaches, I am thankful for the opportunity that you have given me to be your elected representative. As always, please feel free to contact my office with any concerns you have regarding Milwaukee County.

As I have stated in the past, it is an honor to serve you. And, together with your help, we can continue to Move Milwaukee County Forward.

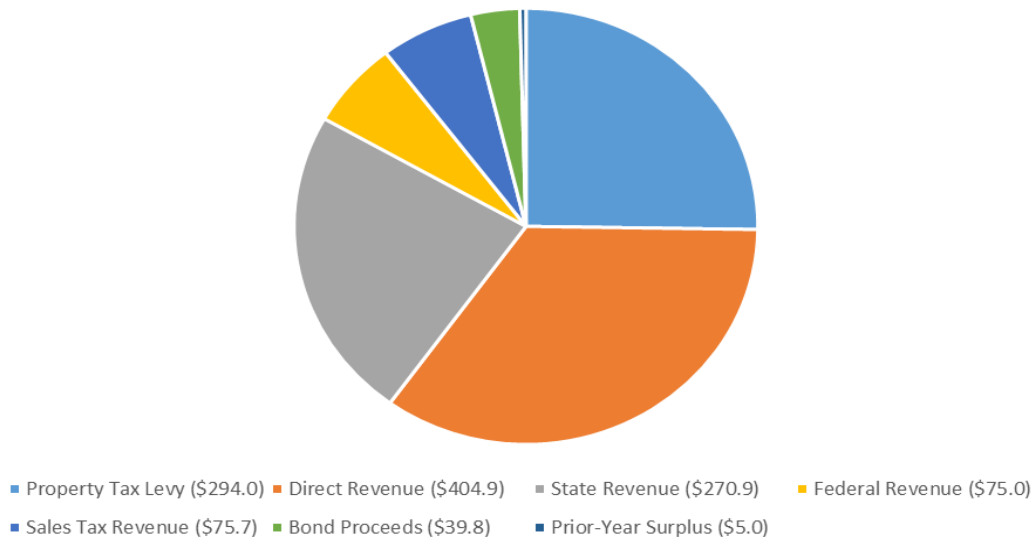
All My Best,

2018 MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET RECAP

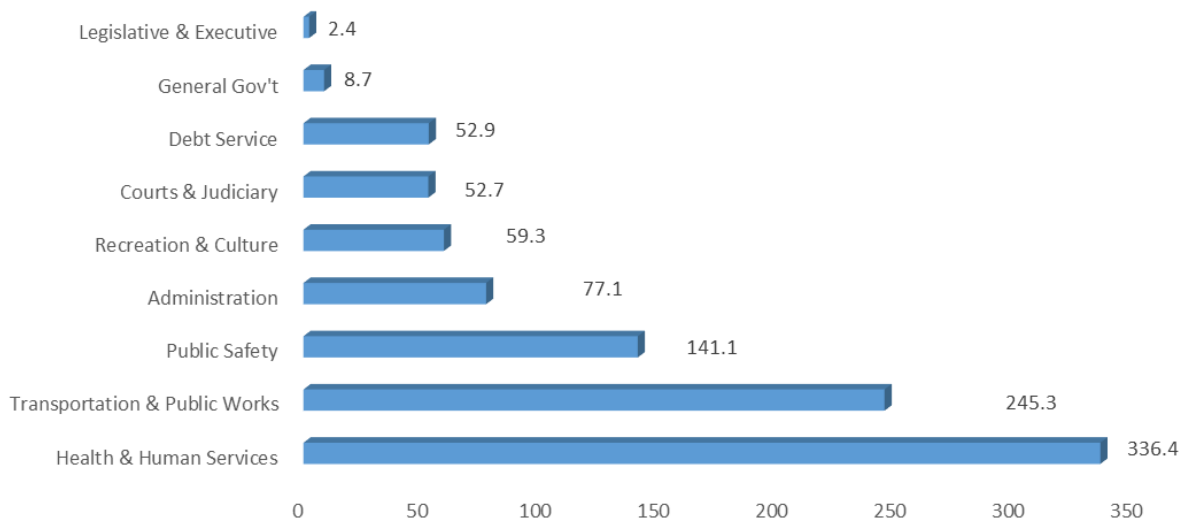
The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2018 Milwaukee County budget on Monday, November 6th. County Executive Chris Abele's initial proposed budget reignited last year's debate over the wheel tax as he proposed a \$30 increase to raise the already existing wheel tax to a total of \$60; this was ultimately rejected by the County Board. Instead, the adopted budget chose not to rely on the income from a non-existent \$60 wheel tax and instead was based in reality: the onus was put on each individual department to tighten up their operations in order to reduce spending. Departments were asked to look closely at themselves and trim expenses by 0.75% each, thus contributing the \$16 million that needed to be saved in order to account for the \$14.7 million in forecast revenue that was irresponsibly based on a \$60 dollar wheel tax without any other proposed alternatives.

The final approved and balanced budget for 2018 totaled \$1.15 billion, an increase of about \$42.6 million from last year's. Furthermore, the 2018 property tax levy was set at \$292.8 million which means that most homeowners will not pay more property taxes to the county. (Please note that both graphics below are based on data from the County Executive's initially proposed budget and do not reflect the final budget adopted on November 6th, 2017.)

2018 Proposed County Budget



Milwaukee County Expenditures (in millions)



DEPARTMENT ON AGING

Supervisor Taylor cosponsored an amendment in the face of the County Executive's initial recommended budget which called for \$200,000 worth of cuts to the Department on Aging and its senior centers. The Milwaukee County Board unanimously adopted (18-0) the amendment and in response, Supervisor Taylor issued the following statement:

"I support Milwaukee County tightening its belt, but not at the expense of our seniors. Restoring funding that the County Executive proposed to cut from the Department on Aging's budget allows us to look at the feasibility of providing crucial services in more efficient manners, either by working with other alternative," said Supervisor Taylor who currently serves as a member on the County's Commission on Aging.



Supervisor Taylor speaking at the County Board of Supervisors budget adoption meeting.

Supervisor Taylor specifically wants to thank Department on Aging Director of Administration Jon Janowski who he worked with closely while crafting this amendment. In the end, it not only helped to prevent cuts but it also directed that any plan or contract for senior center programming must require that senior centers are open five days a week, 52 weeks a year.

JERRY SCHAEFER RETIREMENT



On November 1st, Franklin's very own Jerry Schaefer stepped down from his post as the city's Superintendent of the Department of Public Works. Jerry was first hired by the city of Franklin on February 1st, 1975 as a truck driver for the Department of Public Works (DPW). As time went by, Jerry's hard work led to promotions, first to Heavy Equipment Operator in 1979 and then to the DPW's Superintendent in 1988. Ever since then, Jerry has demonstrated his dedication and commitment to his position by always working hard to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Franklin. As superintendent, Jerry oversaw the DPW which is in charge of maintaining 166 miles of Franklin city streets, 18 miles of sidewalk, 15 parks, 9,300 curbside trees, 90+ miles of storm sewers, 3,300 catch basins and manholes, 150 vehicles, public lands, and 5 Highway Department buildings. Congratulations on a much-deserved retirement, Jerry; enjoy this newfound time off and relax!

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The County Board met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 2nd and proceeded to meet again on Monday, November 6th, for the adoption of the 2018 Budget.

The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will be held on Thursday, December 14th in Courthouse Room 200. To view the votes on all actions taken by the County Board and its committees, please visit the [Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center](#).

WEHR NATURE CENTER

Homemade Holidays

Saturday, December 2nd, 11:00 am-3:00pm

The Wehr Nature Center invites you to bring your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, the neighborhood gang, or scout group to Wehr to create homemade treasures from natural, re-cycled, and re-purposed products. Projects include tree cookie coasters, pencil holders, recycled crayons, and much more! \$6 per child, \$5 for Friends of Wehr, \$1 for additional crafts (first 3 projects come with admission fee). [Click here](#) for more information.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 16th, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Help count birds wintering at Wehr! Meet some of the most talented birders in the area as we count birds in the most important and longest-running bird count. Results will be submitted to the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. Potluck lunch provided. No fee to participate, but pre-registration is required by December 15th; [click here](#).



Please [click here](#) for the entire Milwaukee County Parks Event Calendar

Milwaukee County Free Days!

Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County residents ONLY with valid photo ID on the following days:



FREE the first Thursday of each month!

Free for all visitors. Visit mam.org for additional details.



"Thank You Thursdays" from 9 am-8 pm!

Free general admission to MPM on the first Thursday of each month. Visit mpm.edu for additional details.



2016 Free Days:
Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Oct. 8, Nov. 5,
Dec. 3

Special Holiday Free Days:
Thanksgiving, Christmas Day &
New Year's Day

Visit milwaukeezoo.org for additional details.



FREE on Mondays from 9 am-Noon!

Excludes major holidays. Visit milwaukeedomes.org for additional details.

BOERNER CORNER

Sunday Brunch

Sunday, December 3rd, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Zilli Hospitality Group welcomes you to Boerner Botanical Gardens to experience fine cuisine amid a spectacular natural setting. Introducing ZHG's Sunday champagne brunch year-round. The Garden Room's floor-to-ceiling windows bring the beauty of this horticultural showplace right to your table every time of year. To register or for more details, [click here](#).

Holiday Gift Fair with Santa

Sunday, December 3rd, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

This December the Friends of Boerner offer you a chance to skip the holiday shopping mall madness and enjoy a relaxed morning with Santa and FBBG's own take on a holiday market- filled with gift ideas for your loved ones ranging from the quirky to the sublime. For more information call (414) 525-5661 or [click here](#).

Origami Ornaments

Tuesday, December 12th, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of origami as Kristina Paris demonstrates how to create unique paper ornaments; then make your own! Use them for the holidays as well as year round! All supplies provided. Ages 16 and older, please. For more information or to register, [click here](#) or call (414) 525-5653.

BoernerBREWtanical Series

Thursday, December 14th, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Discover local Milwaukee breweries, their history, process, and taste their beers! The brewery participating on this date is MobCraftBrewing. Registration is HIGHLY recommended at least 3 days prior to the session. \$15 for the general public, \$10 for Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens members. You must be 21 years old to participate. For more information or to purchase your ticket, please [click here](#).