BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Steve F. Taylor
17TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE

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Taylor Introduces Resolution Seeking Financial Review of Potential Act 10 Repeal, County Costs

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee County Supervisor and Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Steve F. Taylor, has introduced a resolution requesting ongoing reports on the County's financial preparedness for potential changes to 2011 Wisconsin Act 10, including the costs associated with restoring collective bargaining rights for public employees.

Following the November election, Wisconsin is preparing for a change in state leadership, with Governor-elect David Crowley and incoming legislative leaders expressing support for reversing or repealing Act 10. The resolution points to potential changes that could significantly affect how Milwaukee County manages employee compensation and benefits, creating additional financial obligations for local government.

Taylor's resolution requests that the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance coordinate with the Department of Human Resources, Office of the Comptroller, Office of Government Affairs, Corporation Counsel, and other relevant County departments to evaluate the potential financial and operational consequences.

The review would examine potential increases in employee salaries and benefits, monitor state legislation and court decisions, and assess how state funding, property tax levy limits, and other revenue sources could affect the County's ability to absorb additional costs. The resolution also requests budget scenarios examining the financial implications with and without additional state assistance.

> *"Affordability was a central issue in the November election. Repealing Act 10 would undermine that goal, leading to higher property taxes, layoffs, and service cuts. For years, I have heard calls for adequate transit funding, greater assistance for seniors, expanded mental health and other health and human services, and more investment in parks and deteriorating infrastructure.*
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> *"Many of my colleagues hoped for a Democratic 'trifecta,' believing the outcome would bring us more revenue. They got their wish, but repealing Act 10 will redirect those dollars to employee salaries and benefits rather than the services taxpayers are requesting. The state's projected $3 billion surplus will be gone before you know it, and the rest of the wish list will fall on the backs of taxpayers.*
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> *"Repealing Act 10 will undoubtedly affect Milwaukee County's finances as well as its taxpayers. This resolution seeks to determine exactly how much it will cost us,"* said Taylor.

The resolution requests an initial informational report to the County Board during the March 2027 meeting cycle, followed by quarterly updates and additional reports when significant developments warrant attention.

In addition to requesting ongoing financial assessments, the resolution expresses the Milwaukee County Board's support for additional state funding to fully offset any increased costs resulting from changes to Act 10. Taylor's proposal seeks to ensure local governments are not left to absorb new financial obligations through reductions in County programs and services or increases in property taxes.

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By Supervisor Taylor File No. 26-XXX

A RESOLUTION

Requesting ongoing reports on Milwaukee County's preparedness for potential changes to collective bargaining laws under 2011 Wisconsin Act 10 and supporting state funding to offset any resulting costs

WHEREAS, 2011 Wisconsin Act 10, enacted on March 11, 2011, significantly limited collective bargaining rights for most public employees and changed how local governments manage employee compensation and benefits; and

WHEREAS, Act 10 was enacted alongside broader state budget measures that reduced financial assistance to local governments and imposed tighter restrictions on property tax levy increases; and

WHEREAS, an April 2011 Milwaukee County fiscal analysis (File No. 11-194) identified approximately $25.7 million in proposed state funding reductions for 2012 and found that the County had already included significant employee compensation and benefit savings in its budget; and

WHEREAS, the November 2026 elections resulted in changes in state leadership and control of the Wisconsin Legislature, creating the possibility of legislation modifying or repealing some or all of Act 10; and

WHEREAS, Governor-elect David Crowley has expressed interest in establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission to examine potential changes to Act 10 and their effects on state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, future legislation or court decisions affecting Act 10 may increase Milwaukee County's employee compensation costs and change its collective bargaining responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain whether such changes would be accompanied by additional state financial assistance or adjustments to property tax levy limits; and

WHEREAS, without sufficient state funding, increased employee costs could force Milwaukee County to reduce programs and services or increase the property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, as an administrative arm of the State, Milwaukee County values its partnership with state government and seeks to work together to carry out public policies, deliver essential services, and meet the needs of County residents; and

WHEREAS, ongoing financial planning will help Milwaukee County identify potential costs, prepare for changes in state law, and protect essential services and local taxpayers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors requests that the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance, in coordination with the Office of Government Affairs, Office of Corporation Counsel, Department of Human Resources, Office of the Comptroller, and other relevant departments, conduct an ongoing review of Milwaukee County's financial and operational preparedness for changes to 2011 Wisconsin Act 10; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the review should address the following:

1. Monitor state legislation, court decisions, and the work of any Blue Ribbon Commission examining Act 10.
2. Assess the potential impact of changes to collective bargaining on employee compensation, benefits, and other County costs.
3. Evaluate how state funding, property tax levy limits, and other revenues would affect the County's ability to pay for increased costs.
4. Examine budget scenarios with and without additional state funding or changes to property tax levy limits.
5. Assess the County's legal, financial, and operational preparedness for changes in state law.
6. Identify significant financial risks, potential service impacts, and steps needed to prepare for changes to Act 10; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance, in coordination with the departments and offices identified above, is requested to provide an initial informational report to the County Board during the March 2027 meeting cycle, followed by quarterly reports and earlier updates when significant new information warrants the attention of County policymakers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports additional state funding to fully offset any increased costs to Milwaukee County resulting from changes to Act 10, thereby avoiding reductions in County programs and services or increases in the property tax levy.