

Fall, 2007

16th District
Milwaukee County Supervisor

John F.
WEISHAN Jr.



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Milwaukee
County **Report**

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Advisory referendum

How it reduces property taxes

The referendum question that will be before the public on the February 19, 2008 ballot, would let our community lower property taxes and address the needs of Parks, Transit and Local Public Safety.

The proposal would change the sales tax by 1%. Half of the revenue generated would go to lower property tax by approximately \$60 million; the other half would be split between Parks, Transit and Local Public Safety (approximately \$20 million each).

Q&A

- Q:** What is included in Parks, Recreation & Culture activities?
- A:** It is defined as funding for: The Milwaukee County Parks Dept., Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee Public Museum, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, War Memorial Center, Charles Allis/Villa Terrace Museum, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee County Funding for the Arts, U.W. Extension and the Milwaukee County Federated Library System contribution.
- Q:** How does this help Transit?
- A:** With an increase in transit funding we could preserve routes and decrease fares. Having a transit system that is affordable and gets you to where you want to go is a major component of a growing economy.
- Q:** What is Local Public Safety?
- A:** \$20 million of sales tax revenue would be directed to the 19 local municipal governments of Milwaukee County, based on population. This would help defray the costs of providing your local police, fire, and paramedic services.
- Q:** How much property tax relief?
- A:** \$60 million of sales tax revenue will be used for property tax relief. This equates to approximately

\$170 on the average Milwaukee County home, valued at \$165,000. Milwaukee County will have reduced its tax levy by 25%. Lowering the tax levy and your County property tax bill will help attract people and businesses to our area.

- Q:** Can the money be spent on other County services?
- A:** NO! The State of Wisconsin will require that the revenue collected be placed in segregated accounts to be used only for Property Tax relief, Parks, Transit and Local Public Safety purposes.
- Q:** Why we **need** it?
- A:** Taking Parks, Recreation & Culture activities off the property tax levy will enable Milwaukee County to make an investment in areas that attract the companies of the 21st century, creating jobs and economic security for the future. Having a transit system that allows residents to affordably and easily move about our community adds to the economic vitality of our county. Providing a safe place to live, work and raise a family is the most basic element of any community. Milwaukee County must address its public safety concerns and develop the resources to make our community a safe community.

The change in the sales tax will help our community move forward and develop, leaving behind the old images of the rust belt and creating a new economic future for all of Milwaukee County.

Advisory Referendum Question

"Shall the State of Wisconsin grant Milwaukee County the authority to levy a one percent (1%) county sales and use tax, the revenue of which will be dedicated to property tax relief of \$60 million or more and the funding of Milwaukee County parks, recreation and culture programs and services, transit and municipal public safety programs and services?"

YES ____

NO ____

Milwaukee County's Green Print

The Green Print is a set of initiatives that will help county government become more energy efficient and environmentally sound. As the County Board reviewed the future energy needs of the County, it became apparent that major upgrades in our infrastructure and energy use policies were needed. The Green Print provides the first steps in developing a truly new approach to the environment and energy use for Milwaukee County. The energy savings from this new policy will help reduce the need for property tax increases and promote Milwaukee County as a positive example of sustainable environmental stewardship.



Highlights of the Green Print:

- Retrofitting County buildings with high performance energy efficient equipment.
- Requiring departmental energy audits
- Purchase of hybrid and alternate fuel vehicles
- Examine possible uses of renewable energy (Solar & Wind power)
- Establish new grassland and prairie reserves
- Develop storm water runoff plans for county facilities
- LEED certification for county construction projects

* The Green Print expresses our community's deep concern for the environment and provides the foundation for long-term energy savings for Milwaukee County.

McCarty Park Changing Room Update

Renovations to the changing room areas of McCarty Park swimming pool are scheduled for this fall, with demolition of the old changing areas starting around the end of October. Improvements will include a new more convenient entrance point, new changing and shower areas, and new coin operated storage lockers. The renovations will be completed by the beginning of the 2008 swimming season. These upgrades to the pool will make your swimming experience more enjoyable and is an overall positive for the entire park.



Homestead Tax Credit

Looking for a way to lower your property taxes or rent? If your household income was less than \$24,500, you may be eligible to receive the Homestead Tax Credit of up to \$1,450. You must be a legal resident of Wisconsin for the entire year, over 18-years of age and not claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return (unless over 61-years of age). Use the State tax form and booklet H-EZ or call the State at (608) 266-8646. If you need help call 1-800-829-1040 which is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. You may be able to apply for recent past years if eligible.

Update on the Kinnickinnic River

Over the last few years, there have been some very serious erosion problems along the Kinnickinnic River Parkway leading to Jackson Park. The Milwaukee County Parks Department along with MMSD and the Army Corps of Engineers are in the process of developing a solution to the problem. Currently the proposed project will place revetments along five heavily eroded sections of the Kinnickinnic River between 43rd Street and 60th Street. The erosion control measures will protect several City of Milwaukee storm sewer outfalls, a section of the Kinnickinnic Parkway and a section of Jackson Park Drive. The anticipated timetable for construction to begin is the spring of 2008. The erosion control measures will hopefully improve the river and provide the protection to property owners and Milwaukee County parkland.

Town Hall Meetings

West Allis City Hall
October 10th
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Alcott Park
October 16th
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Jackson Park
Boathouse
October 17th
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

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