

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County FORWARD Together

FALL/WINTER 2026

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

Dear Neighbors,

It continues to be an honor to serve the residents of the 17th District, representing the City of Franklin and the City of Oak Creek, on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. As your representative, I'm proud to share this newsletter highlighting some of the work I've done to stand up for taxpayers, invest in capital projects, protect our local priorities, and keep Milwaukee County accountable to the people who fund it.

Milwaukee County continues to face serious financial challenges despite the one-time infusion of state funds in 2025 and the passage of the sales tax increase in 2023. Most notably, these challenges stem from the pension system enacted by the County Board over 25 years ago, which has cost taxpayers over a billion dollars in deferred maintenance costs and debt, due to budgets being balanced around its ballooning costs.

I've been consistent from day one: fiscal responsibility must come first. Every dollar the County spends comes from hardworking taxpayers, and I take that responsibility seriously as the Chairman of the Committee on Finance. My priorities are clear: protecting our parks, ensuring public safety, maintaining our infrastructure, supporting economic growth, and respecting our seniors. These are the core services the government should provide, and we must prioritize responsible funding before expanding into new programs we simply can't afford.

As your Supervisor, I remain dedicated to advocating for the residents of Franklin and Oak Creek and ensuring your tax dollars are used wisely to promote long-term fiscal stability. I believe in common sense, accountability, and conservative fiscal management.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

All My Best,

Steve F. Taylor
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 17th District



Supervisor Taylor, sworn into his role as the 17th District Supervisor during the 2026 Organizational Meeting by Judge Mark Kapocius from the Village of Greendale Municipal Court.

Get In Touch With Supervisor Taylor

*Visit my website at **county.milwaukee.gov/SteveTaylor** to contact my office.*
*I welcome your thoughts on any matter concerning Milwaukee County. You can also email me at **Steve.Taylor@milwaukeecountywi.gov** to sign up for my e-newsletter, Privileged to Serve.*

Steve F. Taylor

Milwaukee County
17th District Supervisor

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Website
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SteveTaylor

Committee Assignments

Finance Committee, Chairman

Capital Improvements Committee, Chairman

Community, Environment, & Economic Development Committee, Member

Parks and Culture Committee, Member

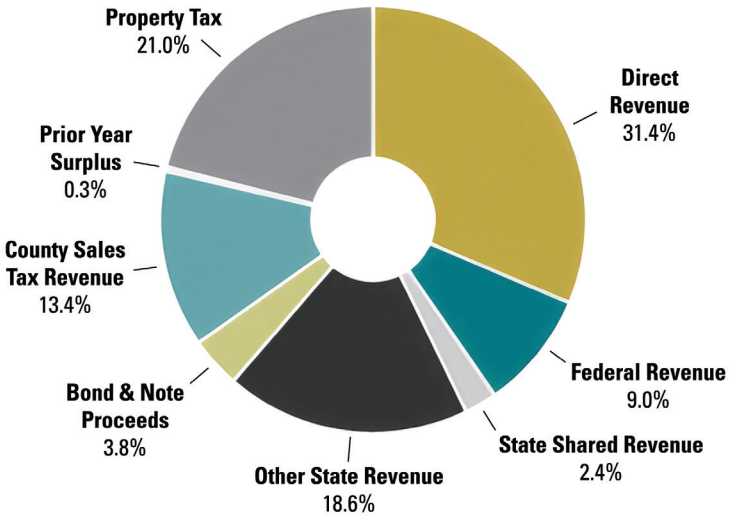
2027 Milwaukee County Budget Highlights

Milwaukee County's 2027 Budget addresses ongoing fiscal challenges by stabilizing funding sources, helping close the projected 2027 deficit and supporting vital services. Before the passage of Act 12, projected deficits were expected to reach $110 million by 2028. In collaboration with Chairwoman Nicholson-Bovell, I helped advance a budget amendment that maintained support for community partners, including IMPACT 211, Milwaukee Market Match and Eviction FREE MKE, while preserving tax levy funding for programs in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Parks Department. The amendment also prioritized public safety, closed the budget gap and reduced the property tax levy by nearly $700,000 compared to the County Executive's original proposal.

I also authored two amendments focused on strengthening capital project planning and oversight. One calls for a study of the County's future ownership of McKinley Marina, which has an estimated $50 million in capital needs over the next five years. The other requests a review of capital projects in the 2024-2026 Adopted Capital Budgets and an explanation of how projects are prioritized, scheduled, designed, and managed through construction.

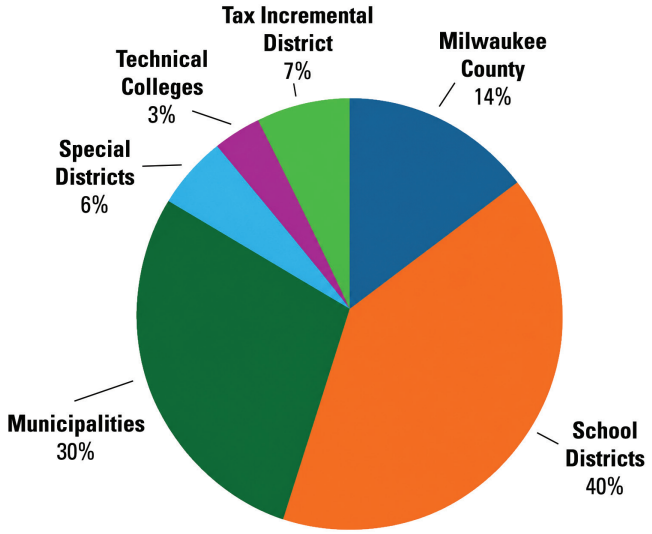
Composition of 2027 Budgeted Countywide Revenue

Milwaukee County now relies more on direct revenue such as golf fees, beer garden sales, and zoo admission for its operations than any other source.



2025 Distribution of Property Taxes in Milwaukee County

The various taxing entities in Milwaukee County collect approximately $2.1 billion in property taxes annually. Of this total, Milwaukee County government makes up about 14%.



17th District Capital Projects

WH028701 S. 13th St. - Oakwood Rd. to W. Puetz Rd. Reconstruction

Design is on track for the roadway improvement project on S. 13th St. (CTH V) from W. Oakwood Rd. to W. Puetz Rd. in the City of Oak Creek. The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) began the design phase of the project in early 2025. The proposed improvements include reconstruction of the roadway, including consideration of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2028 and remains one of the highest priorities in the upcoming Milwaukee County Capital Improvements Committee budget requests.

WP054901 Bender Park Breakwater Reconfiguration

Bender Park needs a permanent solution to address its aging breakwater and improve safety. Dredging completed this spring provided temporary relief, but it does not resolve the underlying problem. A new breakwater would help maintain access to and from Lake Michigan while reducing the need for repeated dredging. With the project expected to cost more than $8 million, I will continue working with our federal congressional delegation to pursue support for this long-term investment. The project design was included in the 2027 Capital Budget.

WH026501 W. College Ave. - S. 26th St. to S. Howell Ave.

The start of design work has been delayed for the W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) roadway improvement project, from S. 26th St. to S. Howell Ave. in Oak Creek and Milwaukee. The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) had planned to start the design in early 2025; however, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) unexpectedly overprogrammed the 2025 funding

In the Community – 17th District Updates

Bender Park Project Updates



Supervisor Taylor cut the ribbon during the Bender Park Boat Launch reopening ceremony.

Bender Park Boat Launch Finally Open

The Bender Park Boat Launch officially reopened on May 19, 2026, following the completion of many crucial improvements to the launch area restoring a vital point of access to Lake Michigan for boaters, anglers, first responders, and visitors throughout Milwaukee County.

The Bender Park Boat Launch opened in 1999 and provided a critical shelter point during unsafe lake conditions. Heavy sediment buildup has repeatedly blocked access, leading to dredging being required in 2007, 2011, and 2013 to maintain the site, which was closed until this year due to sediment overflow. Project plans were developed and submitted throughout 2024, with construction funds approved through the 2026 Capital Budget. While the project faced delays due to permitting, consulting, and rising construction costs, residents and visitors can once again access and use the boat launch.

Oak Leaf Trail Extension through Bender Park

The Milwaukee County Parks Department was granted 80% of project funding in 2020 for a 1.9-mile Oak Leaf Trail extension through Bender Park. The Oak Leaf Trail Extension was officially completed on September 17, 2026 and ensures the infrastructure in Milwaukee County Parks remains accessible, welcoming, and safe for generations to come.

With the completed trail connections to the north end of Bender Park, this extension to the south edge of Milwaukee County expands access to Bender Park and strengthens connections within Milwaukee County's broader Oak Leaf Trail network by providing residents with additional opportunities to walk, bike, and enjoy the outdoors. I'm proud to have supported this project and the Milwaukee County Parks Department for investing in the Oak Leaf Trail and the 17th District community!



Supervisor Taylor and members of the Parks Department celebrated the opening of the new Oak Leaf Trail Extension. Photo credit: Eddee Daniels

Bender Park Roadway and Stormwater Management

Funding for this project was allocated in 2023, with the designs for both the Bender Park Roadway and the adjacent drainage area currently in development. Construction activity began in fall of 2026 and is expected to continue through spring 2027.

This project will improve both drainage and the roadway. Improvements will include slope stability, stormwater best management practices, landscaping, guardrails, green infrastructure, improvements to utilities, and natural area restoration. Traffic-calming measures, including speed bumps and barriers, will be installed in the Bender Park parking lot to improve safety.

for the Surface Transportation Program (STP), resulting in a delay in the start of the project for a year. The proposed improvements include reconstruction of the roadway from S. 26th St. to S. 13th St. and reconditioning of the roadway from S. 13th St. to S. Howell Ave., including consideration of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2029 or 2030, depending on WisDOT scheduling.

TBD-998685 Signal at College Ave. & 20th St. Intersection

The traffic signal replacement at the College Ave. and 20th St. intersection is past the initial project design phase and is expected to be up for discussion during the 2029 Capital Improvements Committee meetings. This is one of the two safety improvement projects on W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) in the Cities of Oak Creek and Milwaukee that has been rescheduled to be jointly constructed with the new roadway improvement Project WH026501 on W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) from S. 26th St. to S. Howell Ave., with an anticipated start to construction in 2028.

The proposed improvements include positively offsetting the eastbound and westbound left-turn lanes on W. College Ave. (CTH ZZ) at both intersections for better visibility of oncoming traffic, replacing traffic signals with indications for every lane, installing 4-section flashing yellow left-turn arrows, enhancing pavement markings, and improving pedestrian curb ramp accommodations.

Supervisor Steve F. Taylor
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

> **"Any definition of a successful life must include serving others."**
> ***– George H.W. Bush***

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Bender Park Friends Group

A huge thank you to the Friends of Bender Park, founded in July 2025, for continuing to tirelessly advocate for Bender Park!

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

MPM Milwaukee Public Museum
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

Service Guide for 17th District Milwaukee County Residents

17th District Milwaukee County Supervisor
Steve F. Taylor..... (414) 278-4263

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 17 Parks
Bender Park .....(414) 762-1550
Clement's Park .....(414) 257-7275
Falk Park.....(414) 762-1550
Grobschmidt Park.....(414) 281-6289
Johnstone Park.....(414) 766-7920
Riverton Meadows Park .....(414) 257-7275

Milwaukee County Sports Complex.....(414) 281-2694

Milwaukee County Zoo .....(414) 771-3040

Milwaukee Public Museum.....(414) 278-2728

Municipalities
Franklin.....(414) 425-7500
Oak Creek.....(414) 766-7000

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