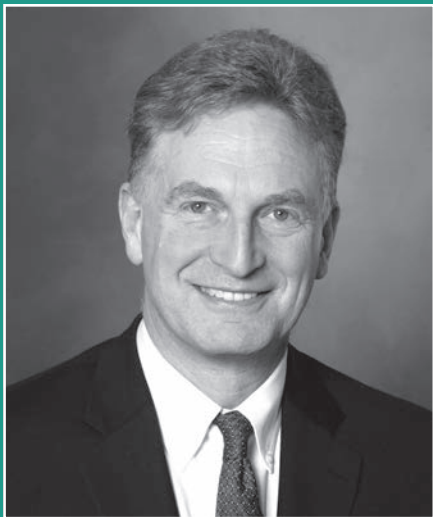


SHELDON WASSERMAN

3RD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2016



SHELDON A. WASSERMAN
Milwaukee County Board
3rd District Supervisor

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COMMITTEES

Finance & Audit, Vice-Chair
Parks, Energy & Environment
Intergovernmental Relations
Capital Improvements

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for the third district. When I was elected to the County Board in April, I was appointed to three committees, one of which is Finance and Audit, where I serve as Vice Chair. This seven member committee takes the County Executive's recommended budget, analyzes it, and makes changes. It is considered the most important committee to serve on, and one learns how Milwaukee County government truly works. It has been an eye-opening experience and I would like to share with you what I have learned.

Unfortunately, the County is still dealing with legacy costs, such as pension and healthcare obligations to its retirees. In addition to our legacy costs, we also have to deal with nearly \$250 million in deferred maintenance costs for our parks system, which is quickly losing its status as one of the best in the nation, and an antiquated HR computing system that urgently needs a \$15 million upgrade. We are also facing transit costs that include \$82 million in capital upgrades that are overdue now, plus an additional \$28 million in annual operating costs starting within the next five years.

The Wisconsin Legislature has limited the tools available to Milwaukee County government for generating revenue. The sales tax and property tax levy are capped, user fees are already high, and more bonding (the credit card) is a bad option. The only tool Governor Scott Walker and Legislative Republicans have told us to use is a vehicle registration fee (VRF), or wheel tax.

County Executive Abele wanted a \$60 wheel tax, but supervisors felt that this was too much, too soon. A \$30 wheel tax generates about \$13.5 million, a fraction of what is needed, but it's a start. The wheel tax was supported by the Milwaukee Manufacturers and Commerce, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Public Policy Forum, the County Comptroller, and a variety of community groups.

My fellow supervisors and I listened to our constituents and we not only cut the proposed \$60 wheel tax in half, but we also cut spending by \$13.5 million, and reduced the County Executive's proposed property tax increase. I personally offered amendments to the County Executive's budget that cut thousands of dollars from the budget, such as dropping unnecessary memberships to organizations, and cutting non-essential services. There will be more cuts to come. Due to a lack of user fees, the transit system left a hole in the budget, which I proposed to address through new revenue in user fees from our parks and cultural institutions.

I appreciate your support and assistance in evaluating our choices and making decisions about our future. Please send me your email address so I can include you in this process. I believe very strongly in direct representation of the people, and your opinions will certainly affect my vote. If you are interested in a longer, more detailed version of this letter, please visit my district web page at www.milwaukee.gov/Wasserman.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Wasserman
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 3rd District

If you would like to receive periodic updates on County news and events in our community, sign up for my e-newsletter at:
www.milwaukee.gov/Wasserman

SHELDON A. WASSERMAN

Milwaukee County Supervisor, 3rd District



Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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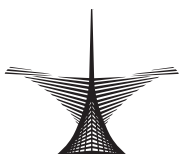
Supervisor Wasserman shaking hands with Milwaukee County Clerk Joseph Czarnecki following his swearing in ceremony.

Supervisor Wasserman invites you to enjoy FREE Milwaukee County attractions!

mpm
MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC MUSEUM

Free to all the first Thursday of every month, sponsored by Kohl's. County residents get \$2 off every day.

800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee
(414) 278-2728
www.mpm.edu



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Free the first Friday of every month for all visitors, sponsored by Meijer.

700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee
(414) 224-3200
www.mam.org



Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for Milwaukee County residents. Excludes major holidays.

524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee
(414) 257-5611
www.milwaukeedomes.org



2017 Free Days: 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee
(414) 256-5412
www.milwaukeezoo.org

2017 MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET & POLICY UPDATE

BUDGET/POLICY ITEM OVERVIEW	County Executive (CEX) Abele 2017 RECOMMENDED BUDGET	County Board of Supervisors 2017 ADOPTED BUDGET	Supervisor Wasserman BUDGET AMENDMENTS & VOTES
ESTABROOK DAM - POLICY	CEX recommended removal of the Estabrook Dam (Separate budget item)	The County Board supported reconstruction and continued annual maintenance of the dam at the cost of millions of dollars.	Voted in favor of removal in support of environmental concerns and to save millions of dollars in long and short term costs.
LAKE PARK RAVINE BRIDGE	CEX Budget proposed \$500,000 in vehicle registration fees (VRF) and \$2 million in private contributions for the Ravine Bridge; \$100,800 of VRF funding for the Steel Arch Bridge	Approved \$500,000 in general obligation bonds and \$2 million in private contributions for the Ravine Bridge; \$100,800 in general obligation bonds for the Steel Arch Bridge	Combined both amounts to create a \$600,800 down payment for the Lake Park Ravine Bridge
COURTHOUSE EVENTS/ WEDDING RECEPTION VENUES	NOT included in CEX budget	Approved a feasibility study related to renting courthouse space as a venue for events, wedding receptions, etc.	Authored the amendment and voted in favor of study to bring in revenue. Millions of dollars are spent on events in Milwaukee County venues each year, decreasing your tax burden.
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL	NOT included in CEX budget	Approved amendment directing Corporation Counsel to provide a report by January 2017 detailing policy & procedure for elected officials to seek outside legal counsel to eliminate frivolous lawsuits	Authored the amendment and voted in favor (no tax levy impact)
LIVING WAGE/MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCE (MWO) - POLICY	Accelerate MWO for all employees and contractors (minimum 20 employees) by 1.68 % annually through 2015 to reach \$15.00 hourly by 2021	Approved the accelerated minimum wage formula through 2021, and thereafter, annual increases tied to the rate of inflation	Voted in favor
BUS RAPID TRANSIT	Fully fund \$43,775,000 project in 2017 with \$7,775,000 in VRF and \$36,000,000 in Federal Section 5309 Small Starts funds	Approved \$21,225,000 in 2017, with \$1,968,487 in VRF funds, \$1,256,513 in bonding, and \$18,000,000 in Federal Section 5309 Small Starts funds. In 2018, the remaining \$22,500,000 will be funded, but offset with \$18,000,000 in federal revenue and \$4,500,000 in local match financing	Voted in favor
GO PASS	\$5.00 fee per card and \$.25 per ride	Beginning in 2017, a \$5 fee will be charged for GO Pass applications, renewed every three years. GO Pass users will pay a \$1 daily fare. Implementation is TBD per the workgroup	Voted in favor

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2017 Milwaukee County budget totals about \$1.1 billion in expenditures.

- About \$387 million of that comes from direct revenue (fees)
- \$291 million from property taxes
- \$392 million in state and federal aid
- \$74 million from the .5% sales tax
- \$40 million in bonds proceeds
- \$5 million from last year's surplus

Milwaukee County has five primary sources of revenue, and our options for new revenue are limited:

- Direct revenue, in the form of fees like zoo admission, bus fares, and the new VRF (*which must be spent on transportation*)
- A sales tax, which is capped by state law at .5% (*or half a cent on the dollar*)
- Property taxes, which are also capped by state law (*this year's budget levies about \$4 million of the allowable \$6.4 million increase*)
- Proceeds from municipal bonds (*borrowed money we must repay*)
- Federal and state aid, which we don't control

Of the \$1.1 billion, the greatest expenditures include:

- \$340 million goes to health and human services
- \$328 million for transportation and infrastructure projects
- \$157 million for public safety
- \$131 million for county administration
- \$92 million for parks, recreation and cultural institutions
- \$65 million to the courts
- \$51 million to pay down debts
- \$3.4 million for legislative and executive branch administration

Other numbers:

- The 2017 property tax levy will total \$291,077,828; last year it was \$286,985,125
- The 2017 property tax levy is a 1.43% increase over last year, or just over \$4 million
- The 2016 property tax levy was a 1.45% increase over the previous year, about \$4.1 million
- A \$30 wheel tax would generate about \$13.6 million in new revenue in 2017
- A \$60 wheel tax would generate about \$27.1 million in 2017