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Milwaukee County Board
3rd District Supervisor

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COMMITTEES
Parks and Culture, Chair
Personnel

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

SHELDON WASSERMAN

3RD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

Dear Neighbor,

It is truly an honor to serve you, and I am deeply humbled to continue representing our community. I love this job, and I never take your confidence in me for granted. In April, I was honored to take the oath of office and begin another term representing the 3rd District.

In May, I was reappointed as Chair of the Parks and Culture Committee, where I help oversee Milwaukee County's extensive park system and many of our most important cultural institutions, including Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee County Zoo, and Milwaukee Public Museum, among others. With 18 parks located within the 3rd District, this responsibility has a direct impact on the neighborhoods I represent.

I was also reappointed to the Committee on Personnel, which oversees policies affecting Milwaukee County's workforce, including employee compensation, benefits, labor relations, and other personnel matters.

Throughout 2026, my committee responsibilities placed me at the center of several important discussions affecting our residents and the future of Milwaukee County. I introduced legislation to begin phasing out the County's outdated OBRA retirement program, getting Milwaukee County out of the pension business. I worked to preserve public safety in our parks while addressing privacy concerns surrounding Flock cameras, and listened closely to residents as questions arose about a proposed 15-mph speed limit on the Oak Leaf Trail.

Looking ahead, several major decisions remain before us. Milwaukee County continues to face significant financial challenges as we develop the 2027 Budget. Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) is considering changes to its transit network, and Milwaukee County Parks continues to face a $500 million deferred-maintenance backlog.

Inside this newsletter, I've provided more information on these topics, and I've included a survey questionnaire that I hope you'll consider completing. You can do so by mailing the attached paper version back to my office, or by filling it out online using the QR code provided. Your input is extremely valuable to me, and I encourage you to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

If you want the most up-to-date insider Milwaukee County government news, I encourage you to sign up for my weekly emailed newsletter. Please join our list at: **county.milwaukee.gov/Wasserman**

As always, I remain committed to serving you and advocating for smart, community-driven investments across Milwaukee County. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Wasserman

Sheldon A. Wasserman
Milwaukee County Supervisor, District 3





Left: *Supervisor Wasserman signing his oath of office for the 2026-2028 term in April 2026.* ***Above:*** *Supervisor Wasserman speaking on the floor during a meeting of the Milwaukee County Board.*

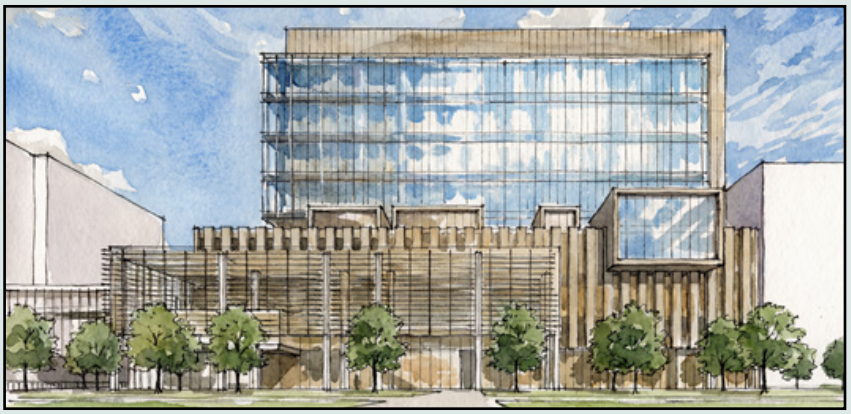
Investing in Justice: Courthouse Complex Project (IJCC) – A Major Long-Term Investment

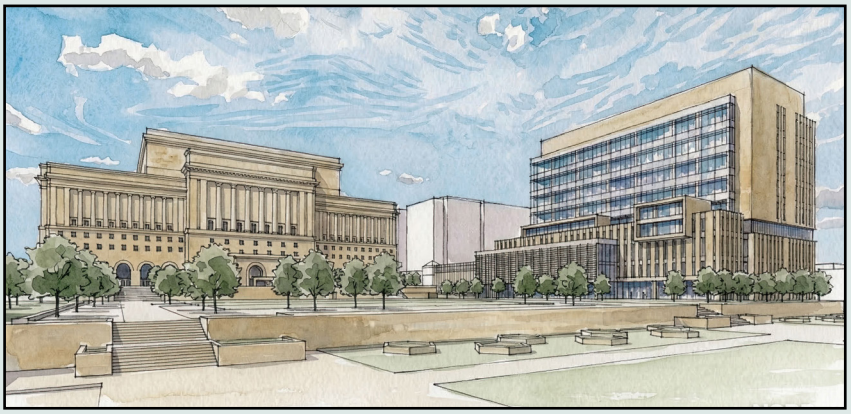
Milwaukee County's Public Safety Building is nearly 100 years old and houses criminal courtrooms and other essential components of our justice system. Decades of deferred maintenance have resulted in aging infrastructure, accessibility limitations, security concerns, overcrowding, and outdated building systems.

After years of discussions and delays, the Milwaukee County Board took a major step forward on October 1, 2026, voting 16-1 to approve approximately $858 million in project authorization for the Investing in Justice: Courthouse Complex (IJCC). The project will replace the aging Public Safety Building with a safer, more accessible, and efficient courthouse complex.

With this long-awaited decision made, the project can now move forward into its next phase of design and planning. I will continue monitoring its progress, costs, and long-term financial impact to ensure responsible oversight of this significant public investment.

Learn more about the project at:
county.milwaukee.gov/InvestinginJustice





The renderings above are conceptual design sketches of the proposed Public Safety Building replacement.

Flock Cameras – Balancing Park Safety and Privacy

This year, the Milwaukee County Board unanimously approved legislation, by a 16-0 vote, directing the removal of Flock cameras and automated license plate readers from Milwaukee County Park property. The decision followed significant concerns regarding the misuse of surveillance technology, unauthorized access to sensitive information, data sharing practices, and questions surrounding the company's transparency and contractual obligations.

As Chair of the Parks and Culture Committee, I introduced an amendment to ensure that removing Flock cameras would not compromise public safety in our parks. I worked with the Sheriff's Department to develop an amendment, which was adopted by the County Board. This authorized the Sheriff's Office to replace the Flock equipment with conventional security cameras that do not use license-plate reading or facial recognition technology and are not connected to external surveillance networks.

Maintaining appropriate public safety tools remains essential to ensuring Milwaukee County parks are safe and welcoming places for everyone. My amendment preserves conventional video surveillance capabilities while establishing stronger safeguards to protect residents' privacy.



OBRA Retirement System Phase Out

One of my major legislative priorities this year has been addressing Milwaukee County's Optional Benefit Replacement Arrangement (OBRA), a retirement program primarily serving seasonal, part-time, and temporary employees who are not eligible for the Wisconsin Retirement System and are not otherwise covered by Social Security through their County employment.

After reviewing the program, I became concerned that OBRA is no longer providing the meaningful retirement benefit our employees deserve. Since 2019, the average lump-sum payment has been approximately $501, while Milwaukee County has incurred average OBRA-related administrative costs of approximately $194,000 annually. During that period, benefits for nearly 47% of former employees eligible for payment were transferred to the state after repeated unsuccessful attempts to locate them.

In response, I introduced legislation to begin the process of phasing out OBRA for future participants and transitioning future OBRA-eligible employees to Social Security when legally and administratively possible. This would provide employees with a more portable benefit that can follow them throughout their working lives. Current OBRA participants would retain the benefits and rights they've already earned.

Changing a retirement system cannot happen overnight and requires legal, administrative, state, and federal coordination. My resolution begins that process. It's long overdue for Milwaukee County to get out of the pension business of administering its own retirement programs and to move towards a more sustainable system that better serves our employees.

Milwaukee County 3rd District Survey - *Your Opinion Matters!*

This survey is also available online at: www.tinyurl.com/2026District3Survey or through the QR code to the right. All responses must be completed and returned by January 15, 2027.

SCAN HERE TO TAKE SURVEY ONLINE

Please rank the following Milwaukee County services and priorities from 1-6. (1=highest, 6=lowest)

____ A. Milwaukee County Parks
____ B. Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS)
____ C. Milwaukee County Zoo
____ D. Senior Centers
____ E. Public Safety / Sheriff's Office
____ F. Other – please comment below

Additional Comments/Concerns:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

For e-updates, please provide your email:_____

Full Name: _____ **Address:** _____

To submit by mail, please send to:
Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Rm 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233

MCTS Financial Challenges and Service Changes

Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) continues to face significant financial challenges as rising operating costs and limited funding put pressure on existing service levels. As MCTS works to balance its budget, the system is evaluating changes to bus service intended to better align available resources with current ridership and community needs.

The proposed redesign, known as MCTS Forward, examines two approaches to operating within a reduced budget:

Ridership-Based Model:
Focuses on fewer bus routes with more frequent service, particularly in areas with higher populations and employment. Buses could arrive approximately every 15 minutes, but some neighborhoods could lose nearby service.

Geographic Coverage Model:
Prioritizes maintaining bus routes across more neighborhoods and communities throughout Milwaukee County. However, buses would operate less frequently, with wait times generally ranging from 30-60 minutes.

Both concepts assume a potential 25% reduction in service due to projected budget shortfalls. Neither is a final plan, and community feedback will help determine the direction of the redesign. As these plans develop, I will continue following the process closely and advocate for a transit system that is financially sustainable while maintaining accessibility to those who depend on it.

Learn more at **www.ridemcts.com/programs/mcts-forward**





3rd District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Sheldon A. Wasserman

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Safety on the Oak Leaf Trail

Milwaukee County Parks proposed establishing a non-enforced 15-mph speed limit on portions of the Oak Leaf Trail in response to safety concerns involving the growing variety of trail users. After hearing significant feedback from residents, I stopped the proposed legislation from moving forward so we could take a closer look at the underlying safety concerns and pursue a more targeted approach. High-powered e-motos and other unauthorized motorized devices present serious safety concerns on our trails, and I believe we need to focus on addressing those specific issues without unnecessarily restricting responsible trail users.



Get up-to-date information on
FREE Milwaukee County Attractions at:
county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

Service Guide for 3rd District Milwaukee County Residents

3rd District Milwaukee County Supervisor
Sheldon A. Wasserman ..... (414) 278-4237

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 3 Parks
Back Bay ..... (414) 962-8809
Bradford Beach ..... (414) 962-8809
Cambridge Woods ..... (414) 962-8809
Gilman Triangle ..... (414) 962-8809
Juneau ..... (414) 277-0851
Lake Park ..... (414) 962-8809
McKinley ..... (414) 273-5224
Prospect Triangle ..... (414) 962-8809
Riverside ..... (414) 962-8809
Veterans ..... (414) 962-8809
War Memorial & Art Center Grounds ..... (414) 273-5533

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

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

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

Municipalities
Milwaukee City Hall/Common Council ..... (414) 286-2221
Milwaukee Night Number ..... (414) 286-CITY (2489)

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