8th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

STEVEN SHEA

(414) 278-4231 • 901 N. 9th Street, Room 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233

steven.shea@milwaukeecountywi.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/shea

Committee Assignments

Intergovernmental Relations, Vice-Chair

Judiciary, Safety, and General Services • Parks, Energy, and Environment

FALL 2019

Dear Neighbors,

It is an honor to serve as your Milwaukee County Supervisor. I have enjoyed meeting fellow citizens of the South Shore suburbs at meetings, events, parades, parks, beach clean-ups, and town halls this year.

I am consistently impressed by how dedicated our residents are to helping us improve the South Shore for everyone. That dedication is just one of the things that makes representing District 8 a distinct pleasure. Thanks to each of you who has organized to renew or maintain our area's parks and beaches, stood with me to preserve our district's public transit, or volunteered for one of our many community events and festivals. If you have changes that you'd like to see, don't hesitate to call my office.

The rumor keeps going around that Kelly Senior Center is going to be closed. There is no plan to close it. If there ever is, I will fight to the last against it. Also, there is a rumor going around that our parks will be sold off. There may be people out there that would like to see this happen, but I will fight tooth and nail against them. Our Milwaukee County Parks are part of a great heritage given us by those Milwaukee County generations that came before us. It is our duty to preserve them and I pledge to do just that.

Please consider joining me for the County Board's Annual Public Hearing on the 2020 Milwaukee County Budget on November 4 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts at 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Steven Shea

Steven Shea
Milwaukee County Supervisor
8th District

Thanks to You, South Shore Transit Preserved

All or part of Milwaukee County Transit bus routes 48, 52, 55, and 80 were on the chopping block due to a lack of shared revenue from the state government in Madison. The County Executive and MCTS announced 16 lines were in peril, including most lines serving our district. The response from residents in District 8 was immediate. They asked me to work to save the bus routes they take to get to work, school, church, Kelly Senior Center, and the doctor's office.

One citizen told me she had just bought a house after saving up for twenty-five years. She bought the house that she did because it was on a bus line that takes her to work. A month after moving in to her home, she found her bus was in danger of being eliminated. I started an online petition to save these routes. I am very happy to report the response has been fantastic. 1,142 residents of Saint Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, and Oak Creek signed the petition before I presented it with signers' names to Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele. The following day, he found money to restore our bus routes.

Along with you, others helped organize to save our transit, including the bus operators' union, ATU 998, Mayor Erik Brooks of South Milwaukee, Supervisor Logsdon from District 9, and many others. Mayor Brooks and I rode the 52 bus from Milwaukee to South Milwaukee to show solidarity with riders. Fellow Supervisor Patti Lodgson of District 9 and I rode the portion of Route 80 that was also on the chopping block. All of these routes were restored.

I felt great relief that Milwaukee County Transit System South Shore bus routes have all been restored in County Executive Chris Abele's 2020 Recommended Budget Preview.

Riding threatened bus routes with South Milwaukee Mayor Erik Brooks, South Milwaukee Schools Superintendent Jeff Weiss, School Board member Dave Maass, Alderman Craig Maass, and Supervisor Patti Logsdon, and meeting some of the kids who rely on the Milwaukee County Transit System to get to and from school every day.

Workers, students, educators, older adults, and people with disabilities use Milwaukee County public transit to access work, school, high quality health care, shopping, and social opportunities that our beautiful county offers. I support a healthy and modern transit system in Milwaukee County that equitably promotes people's mobility.

Balancing our Budget and Solving the County's Biggest Challenge

Thanks to the hundreds of you who attended our listening session at the Kelly Senior Center about our options for generating sufficient revenue.

Setting and adopting a balanced 2020 budget will be a difficult process of many hard choices. Choices about where to cut - instead of where to invest - due to a lack of adequate revenue. Available funding for next year is $15 million less than what we need to maintain services and operations at current levels, which means we must cut $15 million to balance the 2020 budget.

It's important for all county residents to know that the root cause of our annual budgeting challenges is a structural deficit, which leads to a lack of adequate revenue. In other words, the cost of county operations - providing services, staffing and maintaining facilities - goes up every year due to inflation, but those costs increase at a faster pace than available funding sources can keep up.

Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Supervisor Jason Haas, and Supervisor Steven Shea drew hundreds to the Kelly Senior Center to discuss solutions to the county structural deficit.

2020 Milwaukee County Budget Timeline

- ✓ **APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2019**
  Departments begin planning for the following year's budget, presenting plans which are used as suggestions by the County Executive to develop his Recommended Budget.
- ✓ **OCTOBER 1, 2019**
  On October 1st, the County Executive presents his Recommended Budget to the County Board.
- ✓ **OCTOBER 1-8, 2019**
  The County Comptroller reviews the Recommended Budget and publishes their annual "Overview."
- ✓ **OCTOBER 10-15, 2019**
  Departments brief the Finance & Audit – Budget Committee on their budget requests.
- **OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 6, 2019**
  County Supervisors present amendments to the Finance & Audit – Budget Committee, which recommends adoption or rejection.
- **NOVEMBER 4, 2019**
  The County Board holds a public hearing on the budget.
- **NOVEMBER 12, 2019**
  The County Board votes on amendments to the budget and then adopts the full budget.
- **NOVEMBER 19, 2019**
  Possible County Board meeting to consider County Executive vetoes (if any).

Due to this structural deficit, Milwaukee County has cut a cumulative $278 million out of its budgets since 2012, an average of $30 million each year. These kinds of cuts are unsustainable, which is why County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., launched the Fair Deal initiative over a year ago.

The Fair Deal proposal offers a number of solutions for fixing the problem of inadequate revenue. One of those solutions is to give Milwaukee County voters control over the decision to bring in additional revenue, through a binding referendum that could be held as soon as next spring.

The idea for a one percent sales tax increase, with 25 percent of the new revenue dedicated to property tax reduction, seven percent going to public health, and the remainder split fairly between the county and municipalities, has the support of county and municipal leaders, business and community leaders, and a growing number of state legislators.

Increasing the current sales tax within Milwaukee County from 5.6% (with 5% to the State of WI, 0.5% to the County, and 0.1% to the Stadium District - which is expected to expire in 2020) to 6.6% is projected to bring in $160 million annually in new, additional revenue, with $40 million going to reduce property taxes, $10 million to public health, and $55 million for county operations and infrastructure.

Milwaukee County has been forced to put off necessary maintenance in our parks and facilities and delay important investments in cultural venues and other public infrastructure for too long. As budget cuts grow larger by the year due the growing structural deficit, public services that many of us and our neighbors depend on are increasingly at risk.

We have an opportunity to solve our greatest challenge, but we need everyone to join in the effort if we are going to succeed. Find out how you can help at **www.milwaukee.gov/fairdeal**.

Crusherfest 2019

On June 8, I spoke at the unveiling of a statue dedicated to South Milwaukee's favorite son, wrestler Reggie "The Crusher" Lisowski. When I was a little kid watching The Crusher on B&W TV back in the 1960s, I never dreamed I'd be speaking at the unveiling of his statue. Crusherfest 2019 was a piledriver of a success. The crowd far exceeded expectations. Organizers sold out of Crusherfest T-shirts almost instantly. It was a pleasure to meet The Crusher's children Larry, Dawn, and Sherri, as well as his old nemesis, James "Baron Von" Rashke. The statue of "Da Crusher" is an instant classic. Congratulations to all the organizers and volunteers for a job well done.

Supervisor Shea at Crusherfest and unveiling of the Crusher statue. Like many other representatives, he took the opportunity to honor the Lisowski family and present them with a County Citation memorializing the working-class hero.

County Board Unanimously Passes Homelessness Resolution

This year I was proud to co-author and introduce a "Code Blue" resolution. The legislation helps us to make sure warming rooms are open in Milwaukee County when the temperature falls below 32 degrees.

In the public hearing where we introduced the proposal, I explained: "People should not be out long-term in freezing temperatures. This year we had some Milwaukee County residents who did freeze to death. In a civilized society, that just shouldn't happen."

Thank you to my fellow Supervisors, constituents, and the housing advocacy community for unanimously supporting this proposal that I co-authored with another educator on the board, County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor. While more can be done, this is one step in the right direction.

Supervisor Shea and Supervisor Taylor, co-authors of the Code Blue resolution, stand with homeless advocates from Street Angels Outreach, the Hunger Task Force, and Housing Director James Mathy.

Promoting Voting Access and Youth Employment

Milwaukee County's Free Birth Certificate Program will continue through the end of this year. The Free Birth Certificate Program helps people get a photo ID for voting purposes, or, for youth aged 15-21, to apply for a job.

The Board of Supervisors provided funding in the 2019 county budget to cover the cost of accessing and printing 1,000 birth certificates. In response to public interest, Register of Deeds Israel Ramon approved funding for an additional 400 birth certificates through the end of the 2019. The program is available to anyone born in Wisconsin.

Those who wish to take advantage of the Free Birth Certificate Program can stop in to the Register of Deeds office at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, located at 901 N. 9th Street, Room 103, or by visiting **bit.ly/MKEBirthCert** for more information.

It typically takes 10-15 minutes to request and receive a copy of a birth certificate in person after an application has been completed and submitted.

2019 SPRING ELECTIONS

Spring Primary Election
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Spring General Election
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Visit **MyVoteWI.gov** to register to vote, find your polling place and view your ballot. For text alerts, text **MKE VOTE** to **468311**.

Enjoy These FREE Milwaukee County Attractions www.milwaukee.gov/freedays

Thank You Thursday
Free general admission to MPM on the first Thursday of every month.
Visit **mpm.edu** for more info.

Family FREE Days & Special Holidays
2019: 11/2, 12/7, Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.
Visit **milwaukeezoo.org** for more info.

FREE for all visitors the first Thursday of every month
Visit **mam.org** for more info.

FREE the first Thursday of every month for County residents
Excludes major holidays.
Visit **milwaukeedomes.org** for more info.

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
Visit **charlesallis.org** for more info.

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
Visit **villaterrace.org** for more info.

Steven Shea
County Supervisor, 8th District
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT 500

CLIC COUNTY LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER

For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Milwaukee County Board Unanimously Backs Pesticide Policy

Supervisor Shea and his co-sponsors Marina Dimitrijevic and Jason Haas celebrate the passage of his resolution calling on parks to create a pest management plan to curb pesticide use on county lands.

Many of you have asked me about the pesticide policy in Milwaukee County Parks. Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic and I introduced a resolution this year directing the Milwaukee County Parks Department to create a written pesticide use policy and to publish it on its web site. I am happy to say that it passed unanimously. Hopefully, the Milwaukee County Parks website will be updated by the time you receive this newsletter.

Supervisor Shea in the Community

Supervisor Shea hosts representatives from the South Shore at a listening session at Kelly Senior Center. Participants included Supervisor Shea, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Representative Christine Sinicki, Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Senator Chris Larson.