

Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

March 27, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

Now that it is clear that neither the federal or state "stimulus" plans have the kind of tax cuts I envisioned, let me clearly lay out my position on the use of the "stimulus" funds in Milwaukee County.

The criteria I outlined back in January to protect the taxpayers:

- 1. No matching funds required by Milwaukee County***
- 2. No long-term federally mandated financial commitments***
- 3. Expenditure of requested funds will not obligate the county to new operating or maintenance expenses***

Once the federal legislation process became clear, we jumped into action. With my approval, our head of the Department of Transportation and Public Works submitted a list of \$66 million in highway projects and \$12 million in bridge projects to the state for potential funding. These projects meet all of the mentioned criteria and are part of our long-term plans for the county. Other departments are considering similar requests.

We will review every program and prepare applications where appropriate, but we did not create a "wish list" of things we do not need and cannot afford. Spending money that comes with strings attached when we cannot afford to pay it back is exactly what got this country – as well as many businesses and individuals – in financial trouble. I believe that we should not make that same mistake here in Milwaukee County.

Click on link to read full column:

<http://tinyurl.com/cjdyna>

Scott

Walker releases Financial Reform proposal



County Executive Walker held a news conference this week to present his Financial Reform strategy for long-term fiscal sustainability for Milwaukee County. The reforms outlined in his plan include:

- Employee wage and benefits reform
- Service delivery reform
- Use of county assets reform
- Budget process reform

Of these, reforming employee pay and benefits is of highest concern. Wages and benefits comprise 48% of the county budget. If these costs are not controlled, delivery of services will be affected. Privatization, elimination of non-core services, and opportunities for regional cooperation will be pursued in the 2010 budget and beyond.

County assets can also be leveraged to help close long-term structural challenges. Leasing airport operations holds the potential to provide hundreds of millions of dollars in net proceeds. (Chicago just got a winning bid of \$2.5 billion for Midway Airport in Sept.) And the budget process must undergo a comprehensive review of financial policies, and modify the method for budgeting for legacy benefit costs so the true costs are transparent to citizens and elected officials.

County Executive Walker will use his Financial Reform plan as the platform for his 2010 county budget.

Click here to view full proposal: <http://tinyurl.com/dcec9g>

Swing into Spring!



Dozens of golfers joined County Executive Walker to officially open Milwaukee County golf courses. Of the 15 courses, Brown Deer, Currie (front 9), Dretzka, Grant, Greenfield (front 9), Hansen (front 9), Oakwood and Whitnall are open. Visit www.countyparks.com for updated course information and specials available.

County Green Print



County Executive Walker and Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic are joined by Jim Krol of Honeywell, Stevan Keith – Sustainability Engineer for the county, Sup. Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, and John Berget – Energy Advisor with Focus on Energy to highlight completion of the first phase of energy-saving projects. Focus on Energy presented a check for \$73,482 for energy efficient upgrades at the Courthouse complex that included retrofitted light fixtures, installation of light and motion sensors, and upgrades to the heating and cooling systems. A projected \$3 million in savings is expected over the next decade.

Veterans Job Assistance



The Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office (VSO) has a representative from the Dept. of Workforce Development every Wednesday from 9am – 3pm to assist veterans in their job search. The Bureau of Apprenticeships also meets with veterans on the second Wednesday of every month from 9am – 3pm to advise veterans on jobs in the trades. No appointment is necessary to meet with these representatives.

They join the Dept. of Health and Human Services that provides services by appointment two days a month for FoodShare and medical assistance. The VSO is located at Building 4 at the Zablocki VA Campus at 5000 W. National Avenue. Contact Jim Duff at 414.382.1753 for more information.

Community Events



County Executive Walker went on-air at WMCS-1290 this week with new afternoon host Earl Ingram (above). He also met with the Community Justice Council and the editorial board of the Business Journal.

Subscribers to E-Update

Beginning April 3, the Executive Update from the county executive will be emailed through the E-Notify system on the website server the county shares with the city from MilwaukeeEnotify@milwaukee.gov.