

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

July 18, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

On Wednesday, I vetoed the resolution to hold a referendum on a \$130 million tax increase.

At a time when fuel and food costs are so high, proposing a \$130 million is NOT the way to stimulate the economy. Furthermore, a \$130 million tax increase will make Milwaukee County into a tax island. Currently, Racine and Waukesha counties do NOT have a sales tax. If approved, this \$130 million tax increase would put our county a full 1.5% higher than our neighbors to the south and west. In addition, a major increase in the sales tax is likely to drive more people to make purchases on the Internet where there is not sales tax.

Supporters of the resolution on the \$130 million sales tax increase claim that it will lead to property tax relief. In 1991, members of the County Board said the same thing when they enacted the original .5% sales tax. From 1992 to 2002, property taxes went up 55%. History shows that property taxes will NOT go down but are overall tax burden will go up. Furthermore, lawyers for the county note that nothing in the resolution or referendum question can legally bind the County Board to provide property tax relief.

Bottom-line: we should work to add more jobs in Milwaukee County and this region and adding a \$130 million tax increase is not the answer. Working to protect our parks and improve our transit system through plans we have to add more hours of labor in the parks and to support transit through the use of our airport are better options - that do NOT raise taxes.

Scott



Sales Tax Veto



County Executive Walker vetoed a county board resolution for a sales tax referendum at a news conference held at Art's Cameras Plus in Greenfield on Wednesday. The resolution, if passed, will put a citizens advisory referendum on this fall's ballot to levy an additional 1% sales tax increase for Milwaukee County. Joining County Executive Walker at the news conference [photo above] were Tony Miresse -owner of Art's Cameras Plus; supervisors Paul Cesarz and Joe Rice; Chris Tackett - Wisconsin Merchants Federation; Marne Stücker - Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors; Steve Baas - Metro Milwaukee Association of Commerce; and supervisors Joe Sanfelippo and Mark Borkowski.



US Bank Championship



County Executive Walker joined Gus Gnorski of Fox6 for the opening of the US Bank Championship, taking place through Sunday, July 20 at Brown Deer Golf Course. The Brown Deer Park Golf Course has been ranked as one of the five best municipal courses in the nation by Golf Digest magazine. The U.S. Bank Championship attracts more than 100,000 spectators annually and some of the best talent on the PGA circuit. More information on the event can be found at www.usbankchampionship.com

TITANIC tickets on sale



Admission tickets went on sale on Thursday, July 19 for the *TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition* at the Milwaukee Public Museum. The exhibit will open October 10. More information on the exhibit and ticket sales can be found at www.mpm.edu.

Ethics Code resolution signing



County Executive Walker signed a resolution updating the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics resulting from the work of a two-year Code of Ethics Study Committee spearheaded by Supervisor Joe Rice on Thursday, July 17. He was joined by Deputy Corporation Counsel Bob Andrews, Charles Mulcahy, Hannah Dugan, and County Board research analyst Rick Ceschin (Photo above). Dr. Joan Prince and Professor Charles Clausen also contributed to the study committee efforts, but were unable to attend the signing.

Community Events

County Executive Walker attended the US Bank Championship Celebrity Long Drive Competition, and Pro Am Night. Walker was also present at the opening ceremony for Festa Italiana on Thursday, July 17.