



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —

Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release

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HOLLOWAY ASKS GOVERNOR FOR HELP WITH UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES

Responds to Recommendations from Task Force on Milwaukee County Finances

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway is urging Governor Jim Doyle to consider relieving the County of unfunded and underfunded state mandates.

The State Task Force on Milwaukee County Finances, commissioned by Governor Doyle in June, submitted its recommendations to him last Friday. Chairman Holloway acknowledges the hard work put into this project by the Task Force Co-Chairs, Mr. Sheldon Lubar and Secretary Michael Morgan. In particular, the Chairman is pleased the Task Force is asking the Governor to consider increasing financial support to counties for courts, juvenile justice, and shared revenue.

But Chairman Holloway hopes the Governor chooses to go further when crafting his 2007-2009 State Budget proposal to the Legislature. “These mandates have a tremendous effect on Milwaukee County and restrict our ability to provide quality-of-life programs,” Holloway said. State-imposed fiscal constraints, including restrictions on the property tax levy and rate, contribute to the County’s financial predicament. “Increasingly, the County is forced to use its own property tax dollars to carry out State missions, such as courts, freeway patrols, and human services,” Holloway added.

According to Attorney Jeremy P. Levinson, Chairman Holloway’s appointee to the Task Force, Wisconsin counties administer State programs, but the State should be held responsible for fully funding these functions. “Failing to do so shifts the funding burden from the State to local property tax payers,” Levinson wrote in a Minority Report submitted with the Task Force recommendations.

Chairman Holloway looks forward to working with the Governor to address these important fiscal issues facing Milwaukee County.

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