



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release
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WALKER'S CAMPAIGN PLEDGE PARALYZES HIS ABILITY TO LEAD

Vetoed affect Parks, Courts, and Human Services demanded by Milwaukee County residents

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway is responding to three key areas affected by vetoes to the 2008 County Budget, issued by County Executive Scott Walker this morning. “The County Executive has taken a huge whack at Parks, a hit to Courts, and blows to safety net and prevention programs,” Chairman Holloway stated. “Many of these vetoes involved amendments that passed by supermajorities, some of them even unanimously. He vetoed them knowing that the Board would override and he could continue to claim he didn’t raise taxes.”

Parks

In what has become an annual occurrence, the County Executive has proposed yet another huge blow to the Milwaukee County Parks System, whacking close to \$3 million from the Parks budget with his veto axe. “While the County Executive’s proposal would add seasonal workers in the summer, many of the tasks performed in the winter, including equipment and building maintenance and snow removal, would have to be outsourced. Restoring funding for 50 full-time parks workers to handle these tasks was the right thing to do,” Chairman Holloway explained.

Courts and Child Support Enforcement

The Courts are taking nearly a \$2.5 million hit thanks to the County Executive’s vetoes. “It’s imperative that we have a fully functioning Courts system to maintain law and order,” Chairman Holloway said. “His veto of funding for Child Support Enforcement means it will be harder to collect child support payments owed by deadbeat parents.” In addition, the County Executive is refusing to provide briefings to the County Board after transitioning to a GPS-based home detention monitoring program for the Community Correctional Center.

Safety net services

The Executive also vetoed funding for the Youth Sports Authority, founded by Supervisor Roger Quindel, and the Safe Alternatives for Youth program, founded by Chairman Holloway in 2003. “Those vetoes are short-sighted,” Chairman Holloway said. “If we don’t invest in programs like these, our long-term costs will go up. The State charges Milwaukee County approximately \$100,000 to send one juvenile to a state correctional institution for one year. Imagine the effect on property taxes if the County Board didn’t preserve intervention programs like these.”

Tax levy

The County Executive chose a home on Milwaukee’s south side as the backdrop for announcing his vetoes to the local media. Under the budget adopted by the County Board, which would preserve these important programs demanded by our citizens but vetoes by the County Executive, the tax levy would rise by 3.73%. That translates into a \$4.74 increase next year on the County portion of the property tax bill for that particular home in Milwaukee. “Does the County Executive really think an extra \$4.74, or 40 cents a month, will force someone out of their home?” Chairman Holloway asked. “Imagine the impact on property owners if the County Board didn’t play the responsible role, leading to our Courts system deteriorating, or residents not getting the necessary treatment for substance abuse or mental illness. We had to step up to the plate, because the County Executive’s ‘no tax increase’ campaign pledge paralyzes him from doing the right thing. The County Executive’s ‘no tax increase’ mantra would make Milwaukee County bob up and down like a ball in water, with no progressive vision to move the County forward.”

The County Board will consider all of the County Executive’s vetoes in reference to the 2008 County Budget on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse. A two-thirds majority (13 votes) is required to override.

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