

MIWM County Budget Update 11-13-2007

The county exec's budget vetoes are attached and supervisors will be asked to vote on these vetoes tomorrow at 1:30. **A number of our priority issues were included in the vetoes including funding for 211, IDAP, Fighting Back, and the additional \$600,000 for AODA services.** Funding for transit and paratransit was not vetoed.

Please call county supervisors today and ask them to override the vetoes and support these important safety net programs. There is just a small window of opportunity and your phone calls are very important.

Contact information is listed below along with veto information. In addition, we are asking you to please call in your RSVPs for the November 19 County Budget Breakfast - RSVP to Impact at 256-4808.

Veto information

Veto #11 Funding for 211 Phone Line [Levy Change from Board Action: -\$300,000]

Amendment 1A006

Amendment 1A056

These amendments provide an additional \$200,000 in tax levy to the Department of Health and Human Services and \$100,000 in tax levy to the Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division for the 211 phone line.

I am vetoing these amendments for a tax levy savings of \$300,000 to reduce the tax burden on Milwaukee County citizens. Unfortunately, the refusal of the State of Wisconsin to properly fund mandated human services has necessitated the use of millions of dollars of property tax levy overmatch to pay for those services in areas such as Income Maintenance, Disabilities Services, Delinquency Services and Behavioral Health. This unfortunate reality prevents us from utilizing tax levy to the extent we might otherwise desire to fund non-mandated human services such as the 211 line. It is also important to recognize that the budget still will appropriate \$200,000 for the 211 line per my original recommendation, which is a substantial contribution to this function.

Veto #12 Behavioral Health Division Purchase of Services Funding [Levy Change from Board Action: -\$302,016]

Amendment 1A001

This amendment provides an additional \$302,016 in tax levy to the Department of Health and Human Services-Behavioral Health Division for purchase of services contracts with the AIDS Resource Center and Fighting Back, Inc. for AODA prevention activities.

As noted above, unfortunately, the refusal of the State of Wisconsin to properly fund mandated human services has necessitated the use of millions of dollars of property tax levy overmatch to pay for those services in areas such as Income

Maintenance, Disabilities Services, Delinquency Services and Behavioral Health. This unfortunate reality prevents us from utilizing tax levy to the extent we might otherwise desire to fund non-mandated human services such as AODA prevention and education activities. It is also important to recognize that the budget still will appropriate more than \$500,000 for these contracts per my original recommendation, which is a substantial contribution to this function.

Veto #15 AODA Funding [Levy Change from Board Action: -\$600,000]

Amendment 1A074

This amendment provides an additional \$600,000 in tax levy in the Department of Health and Human Services – Behavioral Health Division budget for AODA services in 2008.

I am vetoing this amendment because I cannot support the use of tax levy to replace the lost Federal funding related to the Access to Recovery grant. It is also critical to note that the County's AODA budget still will be nearly \$18 million, which is \$4.5 million more than the amount provided prior to receipt of the original ATR grant.

Veto #17 Interim Disability Assistance Program [Levy Change from Board Action: -\$187,980]

Amendment 1A009

This amendment provides \$187,980 in tax levy and 1.0 FTE ESS position for the Interim Disability Assistance Program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

I have vetoed this amendment because providing bridge funding for persons awaiting Federal Social Security benefits is not the responsibility of local government, but rather the responsibility of the Federal Government. As such, these costs should not be borne by the local property taxpayer. Also, as noted above, the refusal of the State of Wisconsin to properly fund mandated human services has necessitated the use of millions of dollars of property tax levy overmatch to pay for those services in areas such as Income Maintenance, Disabilities Services, Delinquency Services and Behavioral Health. This unfortunate reality prevents us from utilizing tax levy to the extent we might otherwise desire to fund non-mandated human services such as IDAP. This veto reduces the property tax levy by \$187,980.

Milwaukee County Supervisors (* = member of Finance and Audit)

Note: If you are not sure who your supervisor is, call 278-4222 and ask for assistance. Or check out the web at <http://204.194.250.17/>

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