

Raise Revenue for Milwaukee County: Invest in a strong community

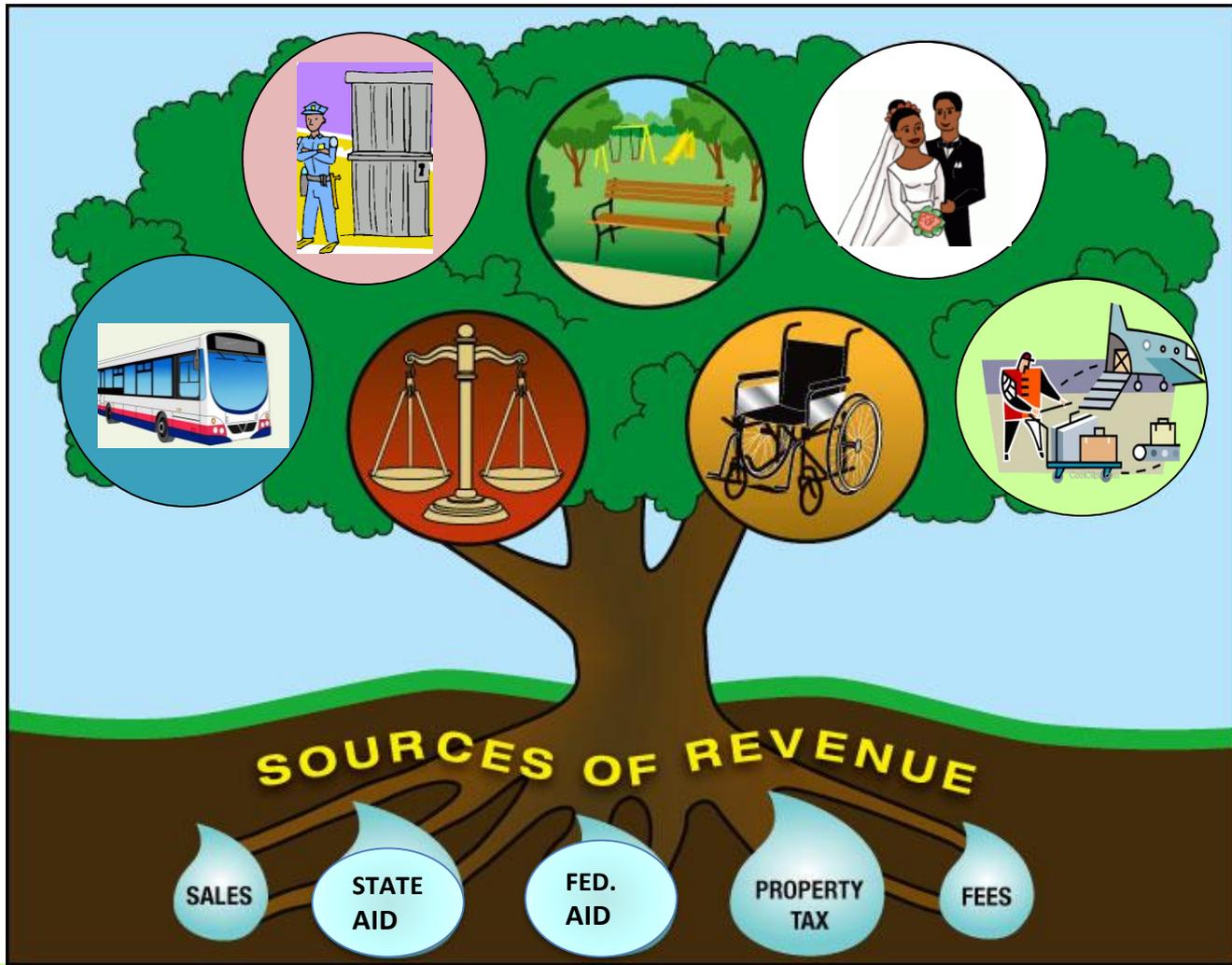
A presentation by the League of Progressive Seniors

<http://www.leagueofprogressiveseniors.com/>

A network of people over the age of 60 committed to help rebuild a Wisconsin that values all families and individuals, invests in critical public services and commits to real democratic decision-making at all levels of government.

The data presented in this powerpoint is from the 2018 Milwaukee County Adopted Budget and the Wisconsin State Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Raise Revenue for Milwaukee County:



Invest in a strong community

The County oversees vital community services:

Public Safety – the sheriff, courts, jails and highways

Support for the vulnerable - the elderly, people with disabilities, the poor, the mentally ill.



Recreation and the arts - the parks, pools, lakes, rivers, museums and cultural events

Public Transportation and the Airport

Vital information– birth, death, divorce and legal records

Legal Interactions- marriage, divorce, child custody, land use, civil contracts, wills and probate.

Strong communities with good public services require stable revenues to cover costs, but Milwaukee County is financially challenged



Every year County leaders struggle with budget cuts that lower the quality of life in Milwaukee.



Milwaukee County has been forced to cut costs

Department	2015	2018	
Public Safety	\$178 million	\$115 million	
Administration	\$133 million	\$95 million	
Parks, Recreation and Culture	\$112 million	\$64 million	
Courts and Judiciary	\$66 million	\$51 million	
Debt Service	\$61 million	\$49 million	
General Government	\$15 million	\$ 8 million	
Legislative/Executive	\$5 million	\$2 million	

Large Cuts in Public Safety, Parks, Recreation and Culture and the Courts.

Annual Response to County Budget Struggle?

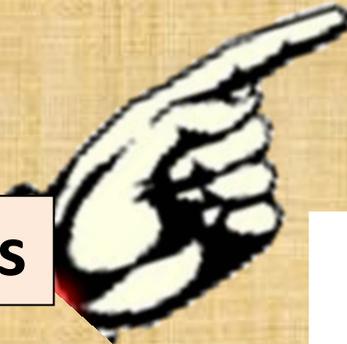
THE BLAME GAME

County Board

County Executive

County Workers

Taxpayers



**THIS IS
GETTING US
NOWHERE!!!!**

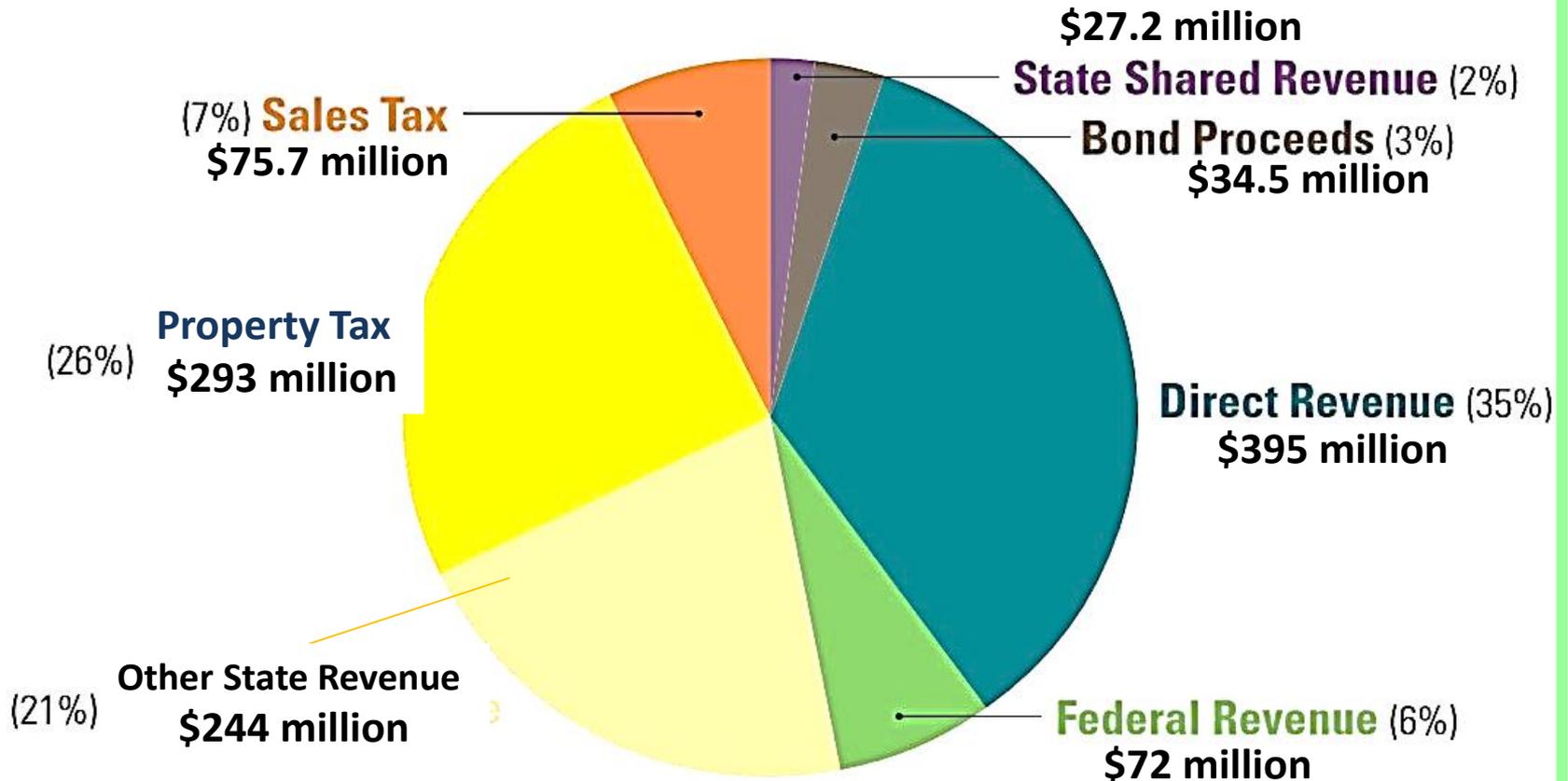
We're here to move past blaming

- We see people in need who aren't getting help, because of limited funding for public programs
- We don't want to take money away from one good program to plug holes in another needed service



Where can we find additional revenue to pay for valuable County programs that make Milwaukee a safe, secure and supportive place to live?

The 2018 Milwaukee County Revenue Budget



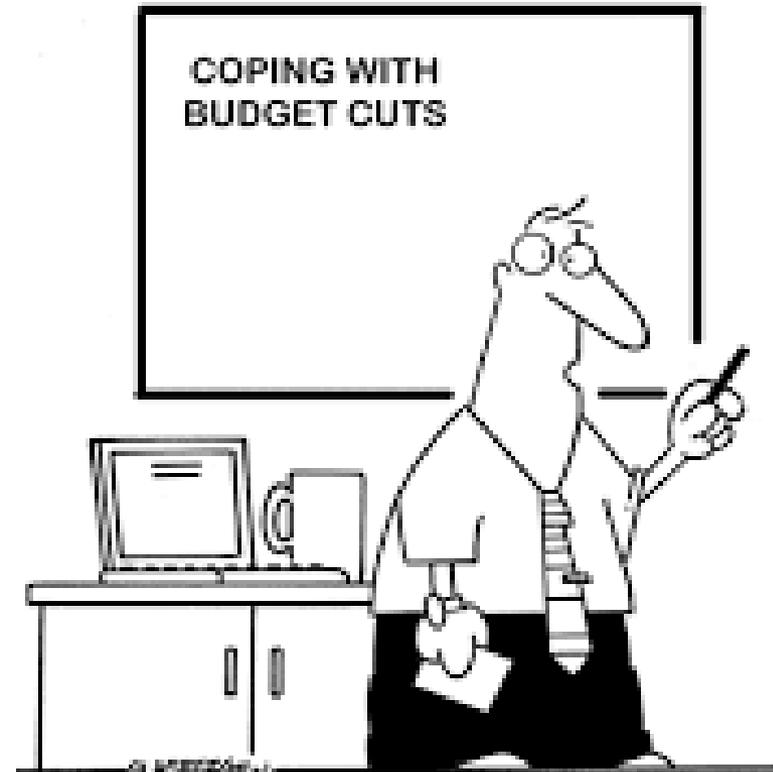
Total:
\$1,148,961,485

Wisconsin State Government runs the local show

Under Wisconsin's constitution, the state has power to regulate local government fundraising. The state decides:

- How much local government can raise with property taxes
- How much local government can raise with a sales tax/fees
- How much aid the state gives directly to local government

Milwaukee County (and other local government statewide) have maxed out sales tax and most property tax. Shared revenue from the state is going down.



Whenever something goes wrong, the first question we must ask ourselves is: "Can this problem be fixed with duct tape?"

Blood from a stone – local fees

Counties and municipalities can impose user fees:

- Motor registration fee (**aka wheel tax**)
- User fees such as parking meters, recreation fees, etc.

Both hurt low income seniors.



Milwaukee residents already pay a city wheel tax of \$20 and a county wheel tax of \$30. In a 2017 referendum, three out of four County voters said NO to the wheel tax.

Plans to put parking meters on the lakefront and in parks impact low-income families who rely on parks for recreation and relief from heat.

Local government got shortchanged as power and revenue flowed to state government

While state tax collections increased, the amount shared with local government was slashed.

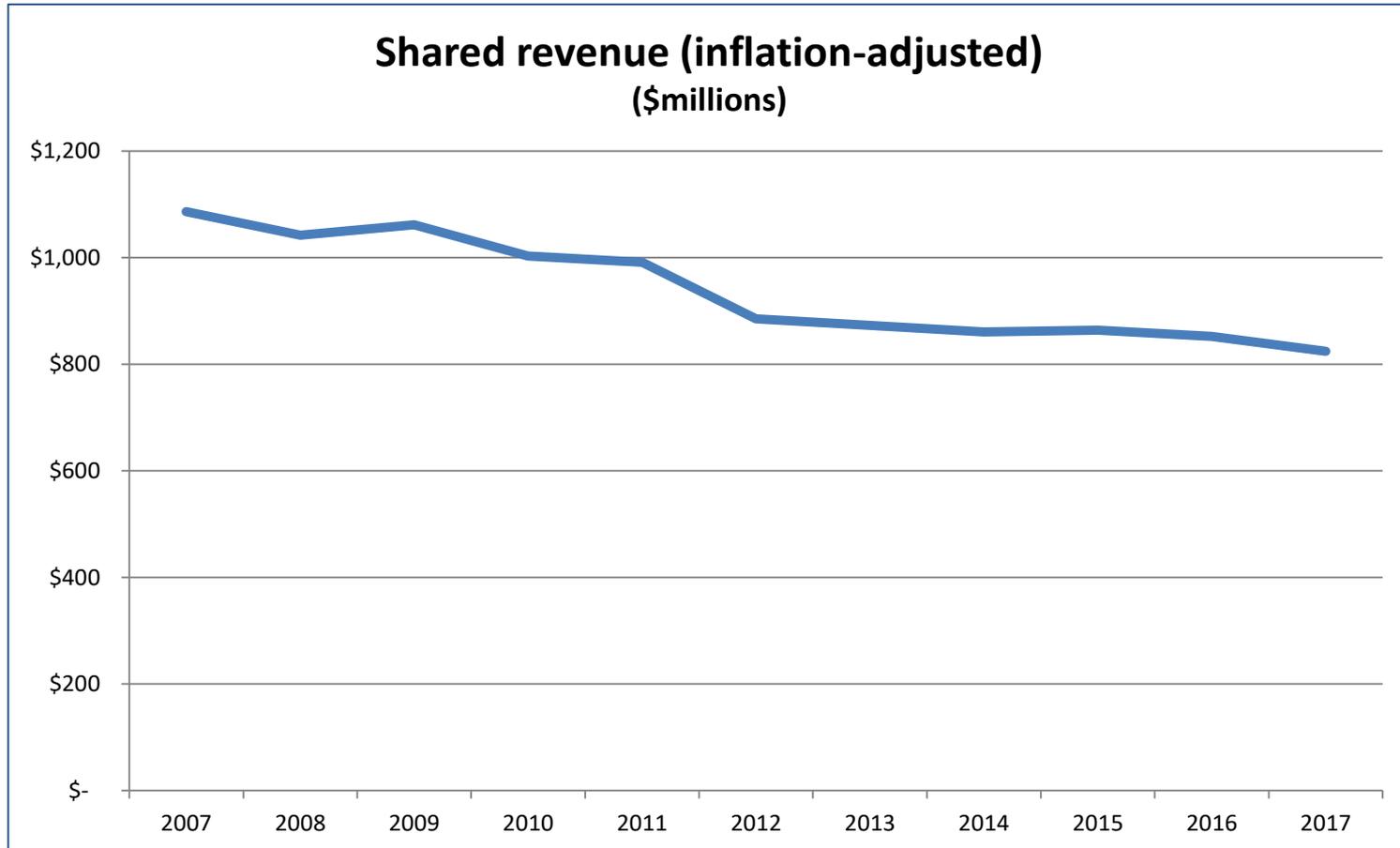


Wisconsin's practice of sharing state taxes with local governments dates back to 1911, when **90%** of the state income tax was sent to local governments.

It was called the “return to origin” shared tax system.

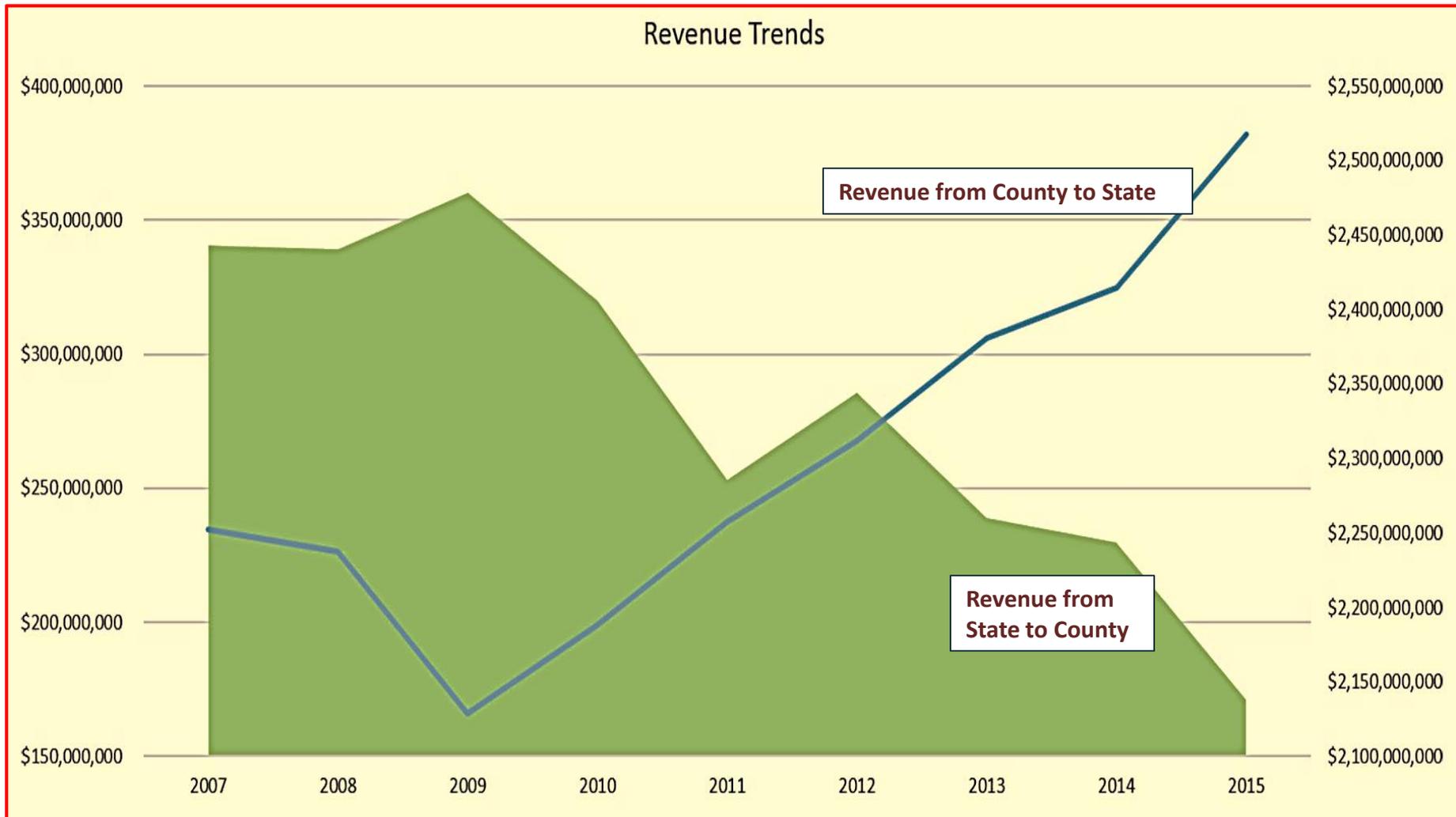
By 2016, the share returned to local government had dropped to **11%**.

State aid to local government has fallen \$262 million in the past decade



**Restoring state aid to its level of ten years ago
would bring \$16 million to Milwaukee County.**

Milwaukee County receives only 47% of the sales tax and income tax raised in Milwaukee County. The rest stays with the State.



How we can get our County back on track

Number One Plan for Milwaukee County—and every other local government in Wisconsin—to get necessary money is to **PUSH** the state to increase funding for shared revenue programs.

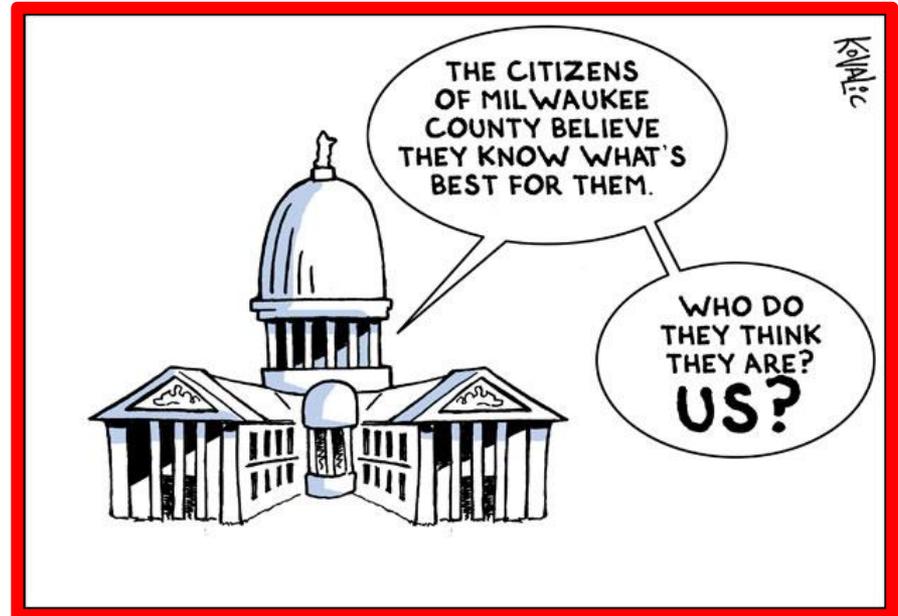


How we can get our County back on track (cont.)

Plan number two:

The state allows counties to create a local sales tax of 0.5%.

Let county officials have the power to increase that to 0.6%.



The increase would be hardly noticed by consumers. On a \$100 purchase, the additional sales tax would be a dime.

But for Milwaukee County, it would yield \$15 million.

How can we make these changes?

It's time to talk about these bigger issues with Milwaukee County voters.

The Blame Game publicity has left people feeling frustrated and distrustful of County government.

It is important that County residents understand that there is a way to fix the problem if we work together.

Restore local control to local government.

