

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: January 5, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Sequanna Taylor, Chairwoman, Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

From: Emily Petersen, Government Affairs Liaison, County Board of Supervisors

Subject: File No. 23-10 – January Report

---

**Background**

Pursuant to File No. 23-10, this report is submitted as an informational report regarding legislative updates. The purpose of this report is to provide an update related to local, state, and federal policy developments, as well as an overview on the current state legislative session.

**2023-2024 State Legislative Session**

Inauguration of the new Legislature occurred on January 3, 2023. There were 24 new members sworn into the Assembly, including 16 Republicans and 8 Democrats. In the Senate, six new members were sworn-in, five Republicans and one Democrat. Republicans control the Assembly 64-35 and the Senate 21-11, with one vacancy in the 8<sup>th</sup> District.

As part of our ongoing intention to build positive relationships with representatives in the Governor’s Office and State Legislature, Supervisors and staff attended inaugural activities to discuss Milwaukee County priorities.

The tentative session calendar is as follows:

- January 10, 2023 - Floorperiod
- January 17 to 26, 2023 - Floorperiod
- February 14 to 16, 2023 - Floorperiod
- March 14 to 23, 2023 - Floorperiod
- April 18 to 27, 2023 - Floorperiod
- May 16 to 18, 2023 - Floorperiod
- June 6 to 30, 2023, or budget passage - Floorperiod
- September 12 to 21, 2023 - Floorperiod
- October 10 to 19, 2023 - Floorperiod
- November 7 to 16, 2023 - Floorperiod
- January 16 to 25, 2024 - Floorperiod
- February 13 to 22, 2024 - Floorperiod
- March 12 to 14, 2024 - Floorperiod
- April 11, 2024 - Last general-business Floorperiod
- April 16 to 18, 2024 - Limited-business Floorperiod

- May 14 and 15, 2024 - Veto Review Floorperiod
- January 6, 2025 - 2025 Inauguration

Additionally, all State Constitutional Officers were inaugurated on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Governor Evers will deliver his State of the State address to the Legislature on January 24, 2023.

### **2023-2025 State Biennial Budget**

Governor Evers worked with Legislative leadership to schedule the Biennial Budget Address for February 15, 2023. Following the delivery of the address, wherein the Governor will describe overarching budgetary plans, the Legislature will begin their process of reviewing and amending the budget. More information about the 2023-2025 State Biennial Budget process can be found in [File No. 22-1168](#).

To advance Milwaukee County's legislative agenda, as adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Chairwoman Nicholson and Government Affairs staff met with Governor Evers' Office to communicate budgetary priorities, including increases to shared revenue and the opportunity to implement a local option sales tax, increased funding for transportation and transit, dedicated funding for nonmandated services, such as parks and cultural institutions. Through our partnership with the Wisconsin Counties Association, we continue to hold discussions with stakeholders about the same priorities.

We will continue to communicate these priorities to the Governor's Office and State Legislators as the budget process moves forward over the next several months.

### **Updates on State Legislation**

As we prepare for the onset of the new legislative term in January, we continue to elevate the Board's policies related to increasing the County sales tax (File Nos. [21-547](#), [19-831](#), [19-161](#), and [18-751](#)).

With the start of a new Legislative Session, we will continue to engage State legislators through the larger Move Forward Milwaukee coalition (comprised of Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and the Greater Milwaukee Committee) and County Board leadership via individual meetings and events.

The Wisconsin Counties Association is restarting its County Ambassador Program (CAP) in alignment with the new Session and Milwaukee County Supervisors have signed on to participate. This program is a critical opportunity to educate legislators on Milwaukee County's fiscal situation and develop relationships at the County Board level. Members of the CAP Team will be at the Capital on January 25<sup>th</sup> to meet with legislators. By request, the Government Affairs Liaison scheduled meetings for CAP Team members on that day with the goal of discussing Milwaukee County's legislative agenda, including the local option sales tax. As Supervisors continue to want to be involved in discussions about legislative priorities, Government Affairs staff can schedule meetings with legislators by request.

New legislation related to the sales tax is anticipated for introduction in alignment with the next legislative cycle. More updates will be provided when available. Publicly available updates related to this initiative can be located [here](#).

cc: Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk  
Steve Cady, Director, Research Services Division