



Dear Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature,

The undersigned organizations join Milwaukee County in encouraging you to support its efforts to re-envision and invest in its courthouse complex facilities, where Milwaukee County provides state-mandated public safety services. A new public safety building is the single most important investment we can deliver to improve public safety in Milwaukee County.

Nearly a century old, the public safety building no longer meets the demands of modern justice. It produces a slow and inefficient justice system, undermines the county's ability to effectively provide state-mandated services, and directly produces negative public safety outcomes in our community. The building creates significant safety risks, as it fails to comply with Wisconsin Supreme Court standards, lacks secure pathways for in-custody defendants, compromises the safety of victims, jurors, staff, and the public, and consumes additional resources that generate significant costs for taxpayers. It is, in fact, crumbling beyond repair.

Investing in a new, modern facility will:

- Improve justice and safety in our community while saving taxpayer dollars,
- Significantly reduce strain on Sheriff staffing and local police departments, enabling resources to be reallocated to proactive community policing,
- Reduce repeat offenses by co-locating support services at the courthouse,
- Generate operational cost savings and efficiencies, and
- Eliminate court backlog and process more cases by reducing delays, mistrials and public safety incidents in Courthouse facilities.

Strong partnerships are key to improving outcomes and maintaining essential services. Nearly 80% of Milwaukee County's property tax levy is dedicated to state-mandated services, including mandates that are unique to Milwaukee County, which saves state taxpayers millions per year. At this level, continued local investment in state-mandated services is unsustainable as costs grow twice as fast as our ability to pay for them. A partnership with the State is necessary for Milwaukee to build a new facility that will positively impact public safety outcomes in the region and preserve important state-mandated public safety services.

When our partners in Madison deliver public safety investment opportunities for Milwaukee County, Milwaukee delivers results – they've done it before and will do it again. When the county and state invested resources to address the case backlog created during the pandemic, Milwaukee County reduced the time of disposition for a felony case from 303 days to 255 days, even while the courts processed an additional 1,500 felony cases annually. That significant improvement and reduction in the case backlog was realized because those state and federal resources were leveraged to add bailiffs and court support staff and implement technical and physical enhancements in the courtrooms.

Milwaukee County is unlike any community in Wisconsin as it is required to deliver critical, state-mandated public safety functions that no other county is required to provide – generating significant savings for taxpayers across the state. State partnership is essential to preserve these critical public safety services, address significant safety and constitutional concerns, maintain court operations, and protect taxpayers.

We urge you to support Milwaukee County's public safety needs and include funding for a new building in Milwaukee County's Courthouse Complex in the State's 2025-2027 Biennial Budget.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING - COALITION SUPPORTERS - BY GROUPING

June 5, 2025

Public Safety	Business	Business	Association / Interest Group	Government
Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge -ATF (MCLEEA)	3rd Street Market Hall	Marcus Corporation	Association of General Contractors - MKE	Forest County Potawatomi
Administrator WI DOJ - Div. of Criminal Investigation (MCLEEA)	AECOM	Marquette University	Building Advantage	City of Cudahy
Assistant Special Agent in Charge - DEA (MCLEEA)	AFSARI Construction Management	Medical College of Wisconsin	North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters	City of Franklin
Association of State Prosecutors	Ascension	Michael Best	Commercial Association of Realtors - WI	City of Glendale
Asst Chief of Milwaukee (City) Housing Authority (MCLEEA)	Aurora Health Care	Milwaukee 7 - Partnership for Econ. Development	Construction Business Group	City of Greenfield
Badger State Sheriffs' Association	Bartolotta Restaurants	Milwaukee Area Technical College	Forward 48	City of Milwaukee
Captain of United States Coast Guard (MCLEEA)	Bloom Companies, LLC	Milwaukee Bucks	Greater Milwaukee Committee	City of Oak Creek
Captain of Wisconsin State Patrol (MCLEEA)	BMO	Milwaukee School of Engineering	Greater Milwaukee Foundation	City of Shorewood
Chief Franklin Police Department (MCLEEA)	Children's Wisconsin	Milwaukee World Festival	Greater MKE Association of Realtors	City of South Milwaukee
Chief Glendale Police Department (MCLEEA)	Concord Group	MolsonCoors	HOAN	City of St. Francis
Chief of Brown Deer Police Department (MCLEEA)	Cross	Mount Mary University	IBEW - Local 494	City of Wauwatosa
Chief of Cudahy Police Department (MCLEEA)	Diamond Discs International	Mueller Communications	Menominee Valley Partners	City of West Allis
Chief of Fox Point Police Department (MCLEEA)	Erin Persky & Associates	NORR	Milwaukee Jewish Federation	Village of Bayside
Chief of Greendale Police Department (MCLEEA)	Fiserv	Nelson Schmidt	Milwaukee Workforce Hub	Village of Brown Deer
Chief of Greenfield Police Department (MCLEEA)	Forest County Potawatomi	Pabst Theater Group	MKE Building Construction Trades Council	Village of Fox Point
Chief of Hales Corners Police Department (MCLEEA)	Froedtert	Paradigm Shyft	MKE Downtown BID	Village of River Hills
Chief of Marquette University Police Department (MCLEEA)	General Capital Group	Plan North Partners	Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce	Village of West Milwaukee
Chief of Milwaukee Police Department (MCLEEA)	Generation Growth Capital	PS Capital Partners	NAIOP - Commercial Real Estate Development Assoc.	
Chief of Oak Creek Police Department (MCLEEA)	Gilbane	Quarles & Brady LLP	Near West Side Parnters	
Chief of River Hills Police Department (MCLEEA)	Gimbel, Reily, Guerin, Brown	Reinhart	Operating Engineers	
Chief of Saint Francis Police Department (MCLEEA)	Graef	Royal Capital Group	Rotary Club - City of Milwaukee	
Chief of Shorewood Police Department (MCLEEA)	Greenfire	Sabljak & Budisch	SEIU	
Chief of South Milwaukee Police Department (MCLEEA)	Groupware Technologies	Sprecher	Smart - Local 18	
Chief of Wauwatosa Police Department (MCLEEA)	Harley Davidson	Syslogic	Visit MKE	
Chief of West Allis Police Department (MCLEEA)	Husch Blackwell	T+M Partners	Wisconsin Broadband Workforce Coalition	
Chief of West Milwaukee Police Department (MCLEEA)	HUSCO	The Barry Company	Wisconsin Counties Association	
Chief of Whitefish Bay Police Department (MCLEEA)	ibc engineering services, inc	Trunk Branch Twig Bud		
Chief of Wisconsin State Capitol Police (MCLEEA)	Interstate Parking & Development	Town Bank		
Chief of Wisconsin State Fair Park Police (MCLEEA)	Johnson Controls	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee		
Director of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (MCLEEA)	JP Cullen	von Briesen & Roper, s.c.		
Enough is Enough	Kapur	War Memorial Center		
Fraternal Order of Police - Cream City Ledge #8	Klein & Hoffman	WE Energy Group		
Interim Chief Bayside Police Department (MCLEEA)	Komatsu	Wisconsin Center District		
Interim Chief of UW Milwaukee Police Department (MCLEEA)	Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee	Wisconsin Community Services, Inc		
Marshal of US Marshals Service (MCLEEA)	Lubar & Co	WRTP Big Step		
Milwaukee Bar Association		Zizzo Group		
MKE County Chief Judge				
MKE County District Attorney				
MKE County Deputies Association				
MKE County Office of Emergency Management				
MKE County Executive				
MKE County Law Enforcement Exec Association (MCLEEA)				
MKE County Sheriff				
MKE Fire Assoc (Local 215)				
MKE Police Association (Local 21)				
Resident Agent in Charge - US Secret Service (MCLEEA)				
Safe & Sound				
Sojourner Family Peace Center				
Special Agent in Charge - FBI (MCLEEA)				
Wisconsin Fraternal Order of Police				
Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association				
Wisconsin State Bar Association				



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Courts



WCA
WISCONSIN COUNTIES
ASSOCIATION



MMAC
METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE
ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE





**MOLSON
COORS** beverage
company



FOREST COUNTY
POTAWATOMI
Keeper of the Fire

Gilbane



CULLEN
THE TOUGH JOB EXPERTS

**MILWAUKEE WORLD
FESTIVAL, INC.**

MILWAUKEE7
Regional Partnership



**WISCONSIN
CENTER DISTRICT**
MEETINGS | CONVENTIONS | EVENTS

Marcus
CORPORATION

**T&M
PARTNERS LLC**
and KELBEN FOUNDATION

AGC ASSOCIATED
GENERAL
CONTRACTORS
GREATER MILWAUKEE

**THE
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WEC
Energy Group

**VISIT
MILWAUKEE**



**MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION**



Ascension



Children's
Wisconsin

Froedtert



Aurora Health Care®

fiserv.

Johnson
Controls



Greater Milwaukee
FOUNDATION
greater together

KOMATSU



Sprecher
BREWING CO.



War Memorial Center

NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



CARW

COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Lubar & Co.



**Michael
Best®**



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MILWAUKEE**
REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE SINCE 1916

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Reilly
Guerin
Brown**
LLP

GRGBLAW.COM

Quarles **Reinhart**

HUSCH BLACKWELL

von Briesen



MBA
MILWAUKEE BAR ASSOCIATION



**STATE BAR
OF WISCONSIN**



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

BE THE DIFFERENCE.

MATC **MILWAUKEE AREA**
Technical College


Mount Mary
UNIVERSITY

MSOE

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE


**MEDICAL
COLLEGE**
OF WISCONSIN

GENERAL CAPITAL

BMO



TOWN BANK[®]
N.A.
A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK



GENERATION
Growth Capital, Inc.

PS CAPITAL
PARTNERS

RC
ROYAL CAPITAL
A Venture & Holdings Company

Z|G
ZIZZOGROUP

MUELLER
COMMUNICATIONS



Sabljak &
Budisch

Nelson Schmidt

kapur
all in



INTERSTATE
PARKING COMPANY

3RD
ST.

MARKET
HALL



P THE
PABST
THEATER
GROUP

sys**logic**

The Bartolotta Restaurants

EST. 1993

HOAN

FORWARD 48



WRTP | BIG STEP





DIAMOND DISCS INTERNATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

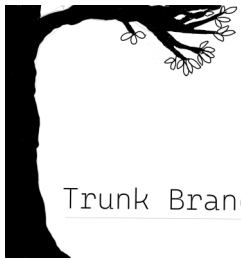


GREENFIRE
BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE

GR̄aEF

AECOM

NORR



Trunk Branch Twig Bud



CONCORD
GROUP



**Plan North
Partners**

Klein&Hoffman





OAKCREEK
— WISCONSIN —



Franklin
WISCONSIN

CUDAHY
EST. 1906



Glendale
Wisconsin
Rich Past • Bright Future



village of
BAYSIDE

VILLAGE OF
BROWN DEER

 City
of
Milwaukee | OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR





PARADIGM SHYFT
MULTIDIMENSIONAL JUSTICE SOLUTIONS



Rotary
Club of Milwaukee



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2025
TO: External Stakeholders
FROM: Alec Knutson, Government Affairs
RE: Mandated Services and Impacts

Uniformity Among All Wisconsin Counties.

- Legislators identified uniformity as a priority principle relative to state-mandated public safety services.
- No county receives funding for a public safety building or courthouse, but no county – other than Milwaukee – is required to implement unique mandates and absorb the related costs.
- State Legislators can achieve uniformity by addressing the unique mandates and pressures that are placed on Milwaukee (e.g., Expressway Patrol and DOC commitments at Milwaukee County's CRC).

Unique Mandates Prevent Public Safety Investments.

- Milwaukee's 2025 property tax levy was \$298.6 million – 80% diverted to state-mandated services.
- In 2025, \$212 million was utilized to subsidize state-mandated public safety services.
- Local dollars subsidizing state-mandated public safety services has increased by 64% since 2020 – nearly \$80 million.

Growth of Subsidizing Public Safety Mandates.

- The Wisconsin Policy Forum highlighted the steady increase of property tax levy required to support the public safety mandated services, warning that “unless new strategies are developed to control annual cost increases in the public safety function, the future impact of Act 12 in helping to resolve the county's structural deficit may be eclipsed”.
- Over the next 10 years, public safety state-mandated services will consume nearly an additional \$170 million in Milwaukee County, totaling \$381.34 million by 2036.

Benefit to the State of Wisconsin.

- Taxpayers across Wisconsin will realize annual savings by Milwaukee County executing services at the local level that the State of Wisconsin would otherwise implement.
- Milwaukee County can provide those services at a more efficient cost as compared to the state.
- By providing these services locally, Milwaukee County can provide a safer community through more efficient, responsive, and accountable law enforcement services

Expressway Patrol (\$17.25M)

- Per Wis. Stat. § 59.84(10)(b), Milwaukee County is the *only county* mandated to patrol the expressway. The Wisconsin Highway Patrol executes this function in the other 71 counties. This obligation has significant costs as urban expressway policing is a highly cost-intensive service.
- The 2026 Expressway Patrol budget is anticipated to be \$17.25 million, which directly saves the State and surrounding municipalities *at least* \$17.25 million. The cost is projected to increase to \$20 million and \$52 million by 2029 and 2046, respectively.
- Per Wis. Stat. § 110.07(2m), WI State Patrol is prohibited from conducting criminal investigations for incidents on or adjacent to the expressway in every county across the state. It is more efficient for MCSO to continue providing this service under appropriate reimbursement rather than turning the obligation over to municipalities or WI State Patrol, as it requires a significant amount of personnel time.
- Milwaukee is the 3rd smallest county by land size with roughly 1% of the state's total highways, but there were over 7 billion vehicle miles traveled in 2023, which was 30% more than any other county in the state.
- **In 2023, MCSO was one-fifth the size of the Wisconsin State Patrol but conducted more investigations than the entire WI State Patrol as MCSO conducted 499 investigations (5.4 per FTE) while WI State Patrol conducted 413 investigations or (00.93 per FTE).**
- If the state were to take over this service from Milwaukee County, there would be significant costs, service implications, and risks to public safety.
 - **Staff, Capital, and Technology Costs**
 - WI State Patrol S.E. Region must **increase sworn force staff (FTEs) by at least 120%**. In addition, the State Patrol will need to develop and train specific units, such as drone surveillance, K9, SWAT, and HAZMAT units, and purchase the necessary support systems.
 - Assume the purchase and storage of complex technologies to communicate, investigate, compile, analyze, and store data.
 - Build regional assets to serve as service stations, purchase squad cars, invest in squad repairs, purchase gasoline, etc. Over the past five years, local funding for squad cars, squad car repairs, and gasoline has averaged \$2.25m/year.
 - **Training**
 - MCSO has developed a highly specialized and comprehensive approach to urban freeway patrol, with unique training and operational strategies that make it particularly effective in managing the complexities of law enforcement on urban expressways.

CHART 1		
MCSO Expressway vs. WI State HWY Patrol (S.E. Region)		
	MKE Patrol	WI Patrol (S.E.)
Counties Patrolled	1	7
Sworn FTE (2025)	91	75
Citations (2024)	23,628	15,912
Citation Value (2024)	\$6,230,877	\$3,910,190
Avg Squad Car Use (miles)	200k per car	~100k per car

- Municipal Impacts
 - Per Wis. Stat. § 110.07(2m), the State Patrol is prohibited from being the primary law enforcement agency to conduct criminal investigations for incidents on or adjacent to the expressway.
 - As a result, local law enforcement would become the primary law enforcement agency to conduct these investigations.
 - Removing Expressway Patrol as a service for MCSO would result in an FTE reduction of MCSO's patrol units, which would negatively impact patrolling and investigative efforts within municipalities, county parks, navigable waterways, and providing municipal aid assistance in emergency events.
- Public Safety, Efficiency, and Commerce
 - Specialized tactics and training for policing urban expressways enable officers to respond quickly and effectively to incidents.
 - Their training also enables them to handle a wide variety of serious issues while prioritizing debris removal and restoring traffic flow to minimize disruptions, prevent further crashes, and ensure personnel safety.
 - As the most significant artery of commerce in the State of Wisconsin, reduced response times and enhanced efficiency are critical to Wisconsin's businesses.

Expressway Citation Revenue (\$6M)

- Citations issued by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office for infractions on the expressway generated over \$6m in fees in 2024 but only retained the traditional county split, which yielded roughly ~1M.
- In every other Wisconsin county, State Patrol provides patrol services **and** pays the county 50% of the base deposit where the citation was issued, even though the county provided no patrol services.
- Comparatively, in Milwaukee County, MCSO provides patrol services on behalf of the state **and** only receives the same 50% of the base deposit as every other county, even though the MCSO provides the patrol services.
- Allowing Milwaukee County to retain citation revenue would help support the cost of the mandated service.
- Alternatively, MCSO citations issued on highways could mirror municipal citations. In municipalities where a citation is issued for a municipal traffic violation, the municipality retains 100% of the base deposit.

CHART 2 WI State Patrol – Citation Amounts Issued by County (2024)*	
County	Amount
JEFFERSON	\$693,181
KENOSHA	\$951,471
OZAUKEE	\$153,854
RACINE	\$792,873
WALWORTH	\$202,661
WASHINGTON	\$359,420
WAUKESHA	\$756,732
Grand Total	\$3,910,190
*Note: All counties received funding without providing the principal patrol service within their county	

DOC Commitments at Community Reintegration Center (CRC) (\$28.7M)

- Milwaukee County is the *only* county in the state operating a Community Reintegration Center (formerly the House of Correction).
- In 2025, the CRC required \$69.5 million in tax levy funding and will generate roughly \$28.7M in savings for the State of Wisconsin.
- Milwaukee County's jail is operating under a judicial consent decree, which limits the number of individuals that can be housed within the facility.
- As a result, the State of Wisconsin DOC is unable to place individuals within the Milwaukee County jail.
- DOC placements and judicial sentences have placed individuals at Milwaukee County's CRC, *which is more costly to operate than a county jail*. The county does not have an opportunity to identify less expensive options to house these individuals
- **Every DOC commitment to the Milwaukee CRC costs the County \$145/day, while reimbursement from the State is either \$0/day or \$60/day, resulting in at least a \$28.7M annual loss for Milwaukee.**
- The CRC has served as a relief valve for the State of Wisconsin's Department of Corrections - Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF). In fact, this year, the **State of Wisconsin's Department of Corrections has placed more individuals at Milwaukee County's CRC than at the state facility** (see CHART 4).
- If Milwaukee County did not accept these commitments from DOC, the State would need to utilize other county facilities to place over 400 individuals.

CHART 3	
WI Dept. of Corrections Cost Per Person	
Facility Type	Daily Cost Per Person
Maximum	\$190
Medium	\$136
Minimum/Centers	\$147
Milwaukee County C/J/CRC	\$145

CHART 4	
Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (State Facility)	
Total Population Capacity	1040
Population on 4.30.25	654
Available Capacity on 4.30	386
DOC Commitments to MKE's CRC on 4.30	408

CHART 5							
WI Dept of Corrections Placements by Facility 2020-2025							
Facility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
MKE Secure Detention Facility (State)	11,314	11,426	15,308	18,156	18,619	7,755	82,578
Milwaukee County Jail / HOC	10,386	11,951	11,778	15,039	20,974	8,095	78,223
Racine County Jail	5,546	7,202	6,840	6,661	6,272	2,205	34,726
Kenosha County Jail	4,168	4,931	5,688	6,127	6,622	2,246	29,782
Waukesha County Jail	3,254	3,873	4,507	4,332	5,072	2,081	23,119
Washington County Jail	1,513	1,792	1,936	1,738	1,971	878	9,828
Walworth County Jail	1,097	1,523	1,612	1,761	1,723	631	8,347
Ozaukee County Jail	633	583	980	889	1,003	425	4,513
Total	37,911	43,281	48,649	54,703	62,256	24,316	271,116

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COSTS

2026-2036

		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
EXPENSES	Expressway Patrol (6% growth)	\$ (17,247,602.38)	\$ (18,282,458.52)	\$ (19,379,406.03)	\$ (20,542,170.40)	\$ (21,774,700.62)	\$ (23,081,182.66)	\$ (24,466,053.62)	\$ (25,934,016.83)	\$ (27,490,057.84)	\$ (29,139,461.31)	\$ (30,887,828.99)
	CRC Expense (static)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)	\$ (20,000,000.00)
	Debt Service Expense	\$ (15,388,125.00)	\$ (31,797,951.00)	\$ (25,587,029.00)	\$ (52,874,060.00)	\$ (53,809,062.00)	\$ (52,279,064.00)	\$ (50,749,066.00)	\$ (49,219,068.00)	\$ (47,689,070.00)	\$ (46,159,072.00)	\$ (44,629,074.00)
REVENUE	Citation Revenue	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000
	State Uniformity Support - \$40m (20 yrs)	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000.0	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000

MKE County Net Fiscal Impact \$ (9,235,727.38) \$ (26,680,409.52) \$ (21,566,435.03) \$ (50,016,230.40) \$ (52,183,762.62) \$ (51,960,246.66) \$ (51,815,119.62) \$ (51,753,084.83) \$ (51,779,127.84) \$ (51,898,533.31) \$ (52,116,902.99)

AVG Annual Debt Service = \$39M