



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

*Milwaukee County*

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: March 11, 2013

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 13-155 on an audit on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Milwaukee County Executive and Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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I am vetoing County Board File No. 13-155 pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on February 7, 2013 requesting an audit on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Milwaukee County Executive and Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and authorizing the Chairwoman to seek an independent outside audit of county governance.

I am vetoing this resolution because the requested audits would be unnecessary and redundant. In the past decade there have been three separate audits that touched on this issue. The 2004 audit found the County Executive's budget and staff was well below the national average of similar counties while the County Board's budget and staff was well above the average. Despite this, the County Board did not meaningfully reform. Moreover, this resolution does not clarify what new information this audit could provide.

I welcome any scrutiny of this office, but instead of more audits our constituents deserve meaningful action.

I am also troubled that the resolution calls on the Chairwoman to select the firm to perform the "independent" audit. I am not questioning the Chairwoman's integrity, but believe the County should avoid the potential appearance of bias in undertaking this or any audit. We certainly do not want to send the wrong message to taxpayers that could undercut the perceived legitimacy of these audit results.

I ask the County Board to sustain this veto.