

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: March 7, 2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Joseph Czarnezki, Chairman, Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

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

Subject: File No. 22-17 – March Report

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**Background**

Pursuant to File No. 22-17, 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.

**2021-2022 Legislative Session**

The Assembly held its last session on February 24, 2022, and the Senate held its last session on March 8, 2022. Barring any unforeseen or emergency circumstances, the Legislature will be in recess until January 2023. In its last floor periods, the Legislature sent dozens of bills to the Governor, amongst them many election-related changes, which have been signaled as likely [vetoes](#).

**State Legislation**

For many years, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) has been attuned to the need for reform at the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake juvenile correctional facilities ([File Nos. 16-110](#) and [16-129](#)). In 2017, Wisconsin Act 185 was adopted, which will transition Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake into adult correctional facilities, permit the creation of new Type I facilities for Serious Juvenile Offenders (SJO), and establishes the county and/or tribal Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs) for non-SJO placements. Updates pursuant to progress made on Type I and SRCCCY facilities since adoption of 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 can be found for [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), and [2022](#). Recently, the Legislature took up [Assembly Bill 524](#) and [Senate Bill 520](#). These bills authorize approximately \$41 million in funding to construct a Type I facility in Milwaukee County. An amendment requires that the local municipality where the facility is to be constructed approved of the location, as well as the State's Joint Finance Committee. It is anticipated that the Governor [will sign the bill](#).

The County Board also adopted File No. [21-462](#) requesting the State end qualified immunity and supporting [Assembly Bill 186](#) and [Senate Bill 295](#). Although both bills have been introduced, neither have received hearings at the time of this report and will continue to be monitored.

The County Board has also enacted legislation in support of a local option sales tax and a reduction of reliance on property taxes, most recently through File No. [21-547](#), but also through File Nos.

[19-831](#), [19-161](#), and [18-751](#). While there has been no legislation introduced this session in support of that effort, Milwaukee County continues to lobby on this topic and seek out solutions that address our need to obtain financial security, address deferred maintenance, and improve our public services. We will continue to focus on this during the recess period before the new session begins.

### **File No. 22-296**

Last month, the County Board unanimously adopted, and the County Executive signed, [File No. 22-296](#), authorizing and directing the Government Affairs Liaison to request the United States Department of Justice examine the State of Wisconsin's shared revenue system within 30 days of adoption. On March 3, 2022, I transmitted Milwaukee County's request to the Attorney General via certified mail, with a certified copy of the resolution (attached to this document).

The resolution also requested the Government Affairs Liaison seek out "raw data from the State of Wisconsin for all 72 Wisconsin counties regarding the shared revenue payments and disbursements for the past ten years." On March 3, 2022, I transmitted Milwaukee County's request to the Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, with a certified copy of the resolution (attached to this document).

### **Congressional and Legislative Redistricting**

On March 3, 2022, the Wisconsin Supreme Court approved election maps submitted by the Governor. In November 2021, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that maps should minimize changes from the current maps, giving parties until December 15, 2021, to submit maps in alignment with those principles. The Wisconsin Supreme Court found that the Governor's maps made the least changes to both congressional and state legislative districts, while still complying with state and federal law. On March 7, 2022, the Wisconsin Legislature, joined by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty appealed the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to the United States Supreme Court.

If the Governor's maps are upheld, they will include five historically Republican congressional districts and three historically Democrat. The Assembly maps include 55 historically Republican seats and 44 Democrat seats and the Senate maps include 20 historically Republican seats and 13 Democrat seats.

### **Federal Legislation**

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Task Force, Milwaukee County continues to deliberate how to spend its ARPA allocation. In October 2021, [House Resolution 5735](#) was introduced: State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act. This bipartisan legislation allows States and local governments to use ARPA funds for infrastructure projects and extends the deadline for spending funds to 2026. The federal companion Senate legislation, [Senate Bill 3011](#), passed on October 19, 2021.

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. Many of the programs established in the Act are subject to the passage of a full-year 2022 appropriations act. Currently, a continuing resolution funds the Federal Government, which is set to expire on March 11, 2022. In the interim, competitive grant opportunities available through IIJA

to counties are beginning to open for applications, some of which Milwaukee County intends to apply for (for example, the [RAISE Grant program](#)).

The National Association of Counties has developed [comprehensive resources](#) to assist counties in understanding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, upcoming grant opportunities, and funding matrices. This information will be valuable as Milwaukee County continues to receive updated guidance on funding opportunities and disbursements.

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk  
Joseph Czarnezki, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
Willie Johnson, Jr., Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
Steve Cady, Director, Research Services Division  
Kenneth Smith, Research and Policy Analyst

February 28, 2022

Hon. Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Hon. Merrick Garland:

I am contacting you on behalf of Milwaukee County, seeking a legal opinion from your office. On February 3, 2022, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted, and the Milwaukee County Executive signed, the following [legislation](#):

*A resolution authorizing and directing the Government Affairs Liaison to request the United States Department of Justice examine the State of Wisconsin's shared revenue system.*

Specifically, the resolution requests that “the United States Department of Justice review examines the State of Wisconsin’s shared revenue system and funding formulas under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.”

A copy of the legislation is attached to this communication for your review. We look forward to your office’s response, which can be transmitted to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors upon completion.

Sincerely,



Emily Petersen  
Government Affairs Liaison  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

CC: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive  
Margaret Daun, Corporation Counsel, Milwaukee County

February 28, 2022

Director Lang  
Legislative Fiscal Bureau  
One East Main Street, Suite 301  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Director Lang:

I am contacting you on behalf of Milwaukee County, seeking information from your office related to shared revenue payments. On February 3, 2022, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted, and the Milwaukee County Executive signed, the following [legislation](#):

*A resolution authorizing and directing the Government Affairs Liaison to request the United States Department of Justice examine the State of Wisconsin's shared revenue system.*

The resolution requests “raw data from the State of Wisconsin for all 72 Wisconsin counties regarding the shared revenue payments and disbursements for the past ten years.” Would your Office be able to assist in providing us with this data?

A copy of the legislation is attached to this communication for your review. We look forward to your office's response, which can be transmitted to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for review.

Sincerely,



Emily Petersen  
Government Affairs Liaison  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

CC: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive  
Margaret Daun, Corporation Counsel, Milwaukee County