

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 17, 2022

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. 22-17 – November 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.

**2023-2024 State Legislative Session**

Inauguration of the new Legislature is scheduled for January 3, 2023. The 2023-2024 Legislative Session begins thereafter.

Following the Fall 2022 election, Republicans secured 22 seats in the Senate and Democrats 11. In the Assembly, the split is 63 seats for Republicans and 36 for Democrats. Neither party achieved a supermajority, otherwise known as a veto proof majority. Both houses held leadership elections and the results are as follows:

| Senate                       |                    |                          |                   |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Republicans                  |                    | Democrats                |                   |
| <b>President</b>             | Chris Kapenga      | <b>Leader</b>            | Melissa Agard     |
| <b>President Pro Tempore</b> | Patrick Testin     | <b>Assistant Leader</b>  | Jeff Smith        |
| <b>Leader</b>                | Devin LeMahieu     | <b>Caucus Chair</b>      | Chris Larson      |
| <b>Assistant Leader</b>      | Dan Feyen          | <b>Caucus Vice-Chair</b> | Dianne Hesselbein |
| <b>Caucus Chair</b>          | Van Wanggaard      |                          |                   |
| <b>Caucus Vice-Chair</b>     | Joan Ballweg       |                          |                   |
| Assembly                     |                    |                          |                   |
| Republicans                  |                    | Democrats                |                   |
| <b>Speaker</b>               | Robin Vos          | <b>Leader</b>            | Greta Neubauer    |
| <b>Speaker Pro Tempore</b>   | Kevin Petersen     | <b>Assistant Leader</b>  | Kalan Haywood     |
| <b>Leader</b>                | Tyler August       | <b>Caucus Chair</b>      | Lisa Subeck       |
| <b>Assistant Leader</b>      | Jon Plumer         | <b>Caucus Vice-Chair</b> | Jill Billings     |
| <b>Caucus Chair</b>          | Rob Summerfield    | <b>Secretary</b>         | Kristina Shelton  |
| <b>Caucus Vice-Chair</b>     | Cindi Duchow       | <b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>  | Lee Snodgrass     |
| <b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>      | Treig Pronschinske |                          |                   |

### **Updates on Adopted Legislation**

At its September meeting, the County Board unanimously adopted, and the County Executive signed, [File No. 22-600](#) urging the State of Wisconsin to keep Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center open and reconsider alternative sites for the construction of a Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Facility.

The Department of Health and Human Services periodically provides updates on the “implementation of a Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth in Milwaukee County, under 2017 Wisconsin Act 185” in Reference [File No. 22-35](#). More information on the history of 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 and its funding challenges can be found [here](#).

The State Department of Corrections (DOC) [announced](#) their selection for Milwaukee County’s Type I facility on August 9, 2022. The facility, proposed to be located on Milwaukee’s northwest side, was subject to approval by the City of Milwaukee as part of [2021 Wisconsin Act 252](#). Legislation in favor of the location was [adopted](#) by the Common Council and signed by Mayor on August 12, 2022. Since the announcement, DOC held community listening sessions on September 28, November 16, and November 19.

The Common Council is required to approve a zoning change for the proposed location as the next step in the process. Then, the location will be reviewed by the State Building Commission before bidding and construction begins.

### **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](#)).

Although the Legislature has been in recess, State legislators continue to be engaged by the larger sales tax 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.

In August, Republican legislators were invited to Milwaukee to [receive briefings](#) on the fiscal health of Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee and potential solutions moving forward. In October, a similar meeting was held in Milwaukee County to brief Democratic legislators with the same information. These meetings were valuable opportunities to provide accurate information about the important reforms made to improve our fiscal health, demonstrate restraint, and educate on reforms enacted by the County. In November, a [panel](#) of business and public safety leaders convened to highlight the importance of City and County services and the sustainability of those resources. Community supporters are encouraged to reach out to their local representative about the sales tax. Endorsements and updates on the coalition’s activities can be found at [moveforwardmke.com](#).

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.

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