



Agenda

1. Department Purpose and Structure
2. Outcomes
3. Budget

Department Purpose

- The Office represents a partnership between the Board and the Executive.
- Represent the interests of Milwaukee County and its residents before local, state and federal governments, including private sector.
- Government Affairs staff are working to ensure the County has sufficient resources to achieve its vision.



Department Purpose

- Proactively build relationships for collaboration with external partners.
- Work with county departments to understand operational issues and assist in creating solutions at the state and federal level.
- Research, analyze, and track legislation impacting Milwaukee County.
- Project manage and track significant initiatives or issues that cut across different departments/agencies of the county.



Department Structure

- **Staff (2 FTE)**

1. Government Affairs Director, Office of the County Executive – Alec Knutson
2. Government Affairs Liaison, Milwaukee County Board – Fred Ludwig

- The structure of the office is the result of state law.



Department Structure - 2013 Wisconsin Act 14

- “In any county with a population of 750,000 or more, if the county has an office of intergovernmental relations or a department or subunit of a dept that provides lobbying services for the county, that office, department, or subunit shall employ one individual who is responsible for representing the interests of, and reports to, the county executive and one individual who is responsible for representing the interests of, and reports to the county board.”



Department Structure – Wis. Stat. 59.17(2)

- County executive is the chief executive officer of the county.
- Primary duties are to coordinate and direct all administrative and management functions of the county government not otherwise vested by law in other elected officers.
- The staff member of the office who represents the interest of and reports to the County Executive will be vested with the administrative authority of the office under the direction of the executive, which includes, but is not limited to, administration of the office budget, matters of registration and licensing with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission (WEC), and county managerial decisions.



Outcomes

- Increased Revenues

- Not including sales tax, OGA has partnered with County staff to secure roughly **\$200 million** for Milwaukee County over the past 4 years.

- Improved Relationships

- Generated a new perception of Milwaukee County as a valued, productive, and solutions-focused partner.
- Elevates Milwaukee County's ability to secure beneficial outcomes.



Outcomes – State Budget 2023-25

- **County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO).** 25% annual increase of \$330,200
- **Victim Witness Appropriation.** \$1.5M increase in 2023-24 and \$1.9M in 2024-25. Allows for a 60% reimbursement to counties for services provided.
- **911 Fund.** Increases funding for public safety answering points grants (911 call centers) from \$6M to \$18M and GIS grant program from \$1.5M to \$6M.
- **Public Defender/District Attorney.** Increased wages and compensation structure.
- **Private Bar Reimbursement.** Increased from \$70/hr to \$100/hr.



Outcomes – State Budget 2023-25

- **General Transportation Aid.** 2% increase each year of the biennium.
- **Mass Transit Operating Assistance.** 2% increase of \$2.3 million.
- **Paratransit Aids.** \$400k increase.
- **Aging Disability Resource Centers.** \$7.5M increase.
- **Adult Protective Services.** \$2M increase.



Outcomes – Congressionally Directed Spending

- Office of Government Affairs has been **the most successful local government in the state relative to the number of projects awarded funding through the Congressionally Directed Spending process.**
- The office has created a model that other local governments and external entities have looked to replicate. Success is a result of a partnership between SBP, Government Affairs, and department staff.



Outcomes – Congressionally Directed Spending

- \$10 million - Clean diesel buses for Milwaukee County Transit System.
- \$2.5 million - Milwaukee County Transit System safety improvements.
- \$2.5M - Mental Health Emergency Center (public-private partnership)
- \$5 million - Housing rehabilitation and funding for first-time homebuyers
- \$2 million - Medication-assisted treatment.
- \$3 million - Construction of a new full-service community wellness center.
- \$4 million - Improve water quality/rec. space at Vets + Washington Parks
- \$2 million - Affordable housing development gap financing.
- \$6.5 million - MCTS Clean Diesel and Faster Bus Project.



Outcomes – State Funding

There has also been tremendous success at the state level. Milwaukee County has secured additional funding opportunities through legislative and executive actions, supported by coalitions for each request.

- \$71 million from opioid legislation.
- \$5.7 million to build the Mental Health Emergency Center.
- \$19 million for Mass Transit Aid.
- \$20 million for the Center for Forensic Science and Protective Medicine.
- \$13 million for capital funding to address increased costs for renovating the Vel Phillips facility.
- \$16 million to address Milwaukee County's court backlog and public safety



Milwaukee County Planning Process

- Departments identify state budget priorities.
- SBP policy liaison submits all state budget requests in conjunction with departments.
- SBP Director, Government Affairs Director, and County Executive approve requests to advance.
- Departments advocate for their budget priorities to state agencies.
- SBP-PMO and departments draft state budget request briefing papers.



State Budget Request Strategy

- Milwaukee County's approach is to focus on efforts that strengthen the partnership between the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County to ensure that Milwaukee remains an economic asset to the state.
- Our 2023-25 state budget requests focused on building and maintaining partnerships with the state to address key issue areas that are supported by broad coalitions and benefit counties across the state.



State Budget Request Criteria

Departments are asked to identify issues, consider the degree of operational impact, and evaluate the following as a guide:

- Does it have a direct and significant fiscal impact on Milwaukee County?
- Does it have compelling data to demonstrate the need?
- Is it mission-aligned?
- Does it address an unfunded state mandate or core discretionary programs and services?
- Does it have broad coalition support? In Milwaukee, region, or statewide?
- Does the request have an impact on counties across the state?



State Budget Requests- 2023-25 Examples

- **Mass Transit Aids-** Increase mass transit operating assistance by 10 percent from 2020-21 over the 2023-25 biennium.
- **General Transportation Aids-** A 10 percent increase in General Transportation Aids over the course of the 2023-25 biennium.
- **Youth Aids Allocation-** A 20 percent increase in the 2023-25 biennium budget in Youth Aids to address significant cost increases for youth placements and support preventative, community-based youth justice programming.
- **Birth to 3 Program-** Provide a \$4 million statewide increase to Birth to 3 Program.
- **Community Support Program Costs-** Provide \$14 million funding for the non-federal share of Community Support Program costs.
- **Patrol Services-** Provide \$9,497,772 to Milwaukee County for patrol services on our federal and state highways.



Closing

- Government Affairs conducts the lobbying on behalf of Milwaukee County.
- Efforts can be significant and impactful for Milwaukee County's bottom line.
- Appreciate the partnership between the County Executive, County Board, SBP, and all departments to achieve significant successes.

