

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: January 17, 2022

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

From: Alec Knutson, Director, Office of Government Affairs
Emily Petersen, Government Affairs Liaison, Office of Government Affairs

Subject: Informational Report on matters responsive to the 2022 Adopted Budget

Background

Pursuant to File No. 22-49, this update is being provided in response to the request that the Office of Government Affairs provide an informational report regarding legislative and executive-related matters responsive to or within the 2022 Adopted Budget.

Included in the 2022 Adopted Budget was the request that the Office of Government Affairs begin conversations with other urban counties in Wisconsin regarding the potential of forming an Urban Counties Association of Wisconsin so that an organization exists which represents the interests of urban counties. Government Affairs staff was requested to provide a status report no later than the April 2022 meeting cycle. This report is a status update as to progress made on those conversations since the Adopted Budget has been in place since January 1, 2022.

Status Update

The Office of Government Affairs was informed that the Dane County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (see attached exhibit) supporting the formation of an Association of Large Wisconsin Counties and requesting that their legislative lobbyist work with Milwaukee County staff, and other large counties, on steps necessary to form such an Association. We've communicated the contents of our 2022 Adopted Budget to the Dane County legislative lobbyist so that we may begin discussions relative to our respective requests.

As Milwaukee County maintains its membership in the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and because members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors serve on its Board of Directors and standing committees, the Office of Government Affairs also communicated the contents of the 2022 Adopted Budget to WCA staff in the spirit of partnership.

Finally, we've begun preliminary research into how other county associations account for the interests of large or urban counties and what forum exists for those counties to collaborate and share ideas. The National Counties Association (NACO) contains within its organization a Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC), of which Milwaukee County is a member (see attached exhibit). LUCC holds frequent virtual forums to disperse information uniquely relevant to its member counties and to allow discussion between representatives across the country. LUCC members also

meet in conjunction with the NACO Legislative Conference, NACO Annual Conference, and at an annual symposium to engage with federal policymakers and other stakeholders. While LUCC members focus on all topics relevant to counties, they explore those with a significant impact on large and urban counties including transportation, healthcare, housing, workforce, and criminal justice reform.

Next Steps

The Office of Government Affairs will continue to work with our counterparts, specifically in Dane County, to continue conversations in pursuit of this policy goal.

At this time, we are seeking further guidance on what other counties we should engage through this process, besides Dane County, and how we should be defining “urban” for the purposes of a potential Association.

We will provide another status report for the March 2022 meeting cycle.

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

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Wisconsin Counties with large populations and urban centers often have different needs and priorities than smaller rural counties. Dane County would benefit from participating in an association with other counties with a population of over 100,000 that have common interests and shared values.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the creation of an Association of Large Wisconsin Counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any costs associated with the formation of an association and formal participation in the association would be subject to the approval of the County Board.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent by the County Clerk to all counties in Wisconsin with a population greater than 100,000 people.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

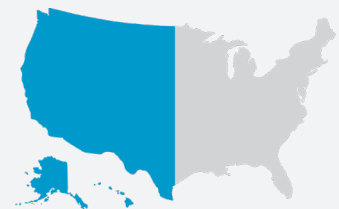
Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC)

America's urban counties play a prominent role in **160 MILLION**

RESIDENTS' LIVES every day. We foster conditions for economic strength, build and maintain transportation systems and critical infrastructure, promote community health and well-being, champion justice and public safety and implement a broad portfolio of federal, state and local programs.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Large Urban County Caucus or “**LUCC**,” is the premier forum for urban county leaders and is the **voice for America's metropolitan counties** before Congress and the Administration.

Comprised of county executives, governing board members and other senior elected officials, LUCC members focus on urban challenges and solutions, engage in peer-to-peer information exchanges and inform national policy discussions.



Nearly **HALF** of all Americans call 133 urban counties home.

Urban counties employ **1.9 MILLION**

full time employees, half of the nation's county workforce.

Large counties invest **\$395 BILLION** in annual operations.

Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC)



A **BIPARTISAN CAUCUS**, LUCC meets in conjunction with the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. each winter and at the NACo Annual Conference in July. Its annual Symposium, held in the fall, is emerging as the must-attend event for LUCC members to engage with federal policymakers, influencers and innovators from world-class philanthropic organizations, think tanks, academic institutions and businesses to foster creative and new public/private collaborations and partnerships.

LUCC advocates for NACo policies with significant impact on urban counties, including **transportation, health care, housing, workforce and criminal justice reform**.

Officials from **NACo MEMBER COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OVER 500,000** are eligible to participate in LUCC. LUCC is led by a steering committee with a chair and vice chair, all appointed by the NACo president on an annual basis.

For more information about the Large Urban County Caucus, visit www.naco.org/lucc or contact NACo Chief Strategy Officer Danny Melgoza at dmelgoza@naco.org or 202.942.4205.

Source: NACo's County Explorer, 2020



Large counties own

19,713

bridges and

163,240

road miles.

Large counties support

\$65.4 BILLION

on justice and public safety services annually.

