



2017-18 MILWAUKEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

- Support the adoption of a sustainable, long-term funding source for the state Transportation Fund.
- Support additional flexibility to assess a municipal vehicle registration fee authorized under Wis. Stat. § 341.35 based on the value or age of the vehicle rather than as a flat fee, which is currently mandated by statute.
- Support authorization of a local funding mechanism to support transit, cultural assets, parks and emergency medical services.
- Support increases in state aid to the Transit Operating Assistance Program to restore cuts and purchasing power losses attributable to inflation.
- Support full funding of expressway patrols by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department as mandated by the state.
- Support adequate funding for the Megaprojects appropriation - including additional bonding authorization - to avoid additional costs and assure on-time completion of currently enumerated projects.
- Support an increase in General Transportation Aids to support critical maintenance activities related to the existing local infrastructure system as a means to complement local improvement programs.
- Support increased funding for Routine Maintenance Agreements on the State Trunk Highway System.

AGING & DISABILITY

- Support inflationary and base level funding increases to Elderly and Disabled Transportation Aids.
- Support the expansion of programs and services for persons with dementia and their caregivers, including leveraging support for such services through local Aging and Disability Resource Centers ("ADRC") and aging units.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH & HUMAN NEEDS

- Support the reallocation of resources available through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program ("SDWLP") and other state and federal programs for lead drinking water pipe replacement. Make funding available to eligible municipal entities proportionate to each municipality's statewide share of lead pipes in need of replacement.
- Support changes to financial eligibility determinations for public benefit programs that eliminates the 'fiscal cliff'. Instead, establish a sliding scale that eases participants out of such programs as income increases and that does not abruptly shut benefits off once participants reach a certain income threshold.
- Oppose drug testing requirements and other policies which could add costs to and impede the delivery of social services to county residents.
- Support the reform of public hospital insurance payments by establishing a one-year sunset on the timeframe during which insurance companies and third party payers seeking recoupment of previously paid claims may notify the service provider of such intent.
- Support continued funding at current levels for the Milwaukee County Family Support and birth-to-three programs, which are designed to improve the socio-economic outcomes of low-income youth and children with severe disabilities.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- Support a dedicated funding source for the placement of Milwaukee County's juvenile offenders locally rather than at the troubled Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake juvenile facilities.
- Support returning non-violent 17 year-old offenders to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court system rather than that of the adult correctional system and provide counties with adequate funding to support associated costs.

- Support increases to Youth Aids to adequately fund county-led rehabilitation efforts for troubled youth, including out-of-home placements and non-residential, community based services.

JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support the expansion of the current law requirement for an independent investigation following a death that involves a law enforcement officer to include correctional officers.
- Increase funding to counties for substance abuse services to address the increasing impact of opiate and other addiction-related illnesses.
- Support restoration of funding to the Circuit Court Support Payment Program (CCSP) and the guardian ad litem (GAL) program imposed as a result of cuts and lapse requirements made in prior budgets.
- Support additional aid to counties to expand evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders charged with drug and alcohol offenses.
- Support establishment of a funding mechanism that adequately supports the equipment and training costs associated with operating and upgrading county public safety answering points (PSAP).
- Support statutory prioritization of payments by offenders to their obligations associated with victim restitution rather than to state imposed supervision fees.

LEVY LIMITS, SHARED REVENUE, PROPERTY TAXES & LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Support an increase in county Shared Revenue as well as full funding of Shared Revenue with general purpose revenue (GPR) to support inflationary increases associated with the cost of providing existing, state mandated services. Oppose additional cuts to Shared Revenue, which, over the last ten years have been imposed at a rate nearly 40% greater on counties than on municipalities.
- Support discontinuation of the diversion of the 911 landline fee into the shared revenue program and away from critical, life-saving investments in equipment and training at public safety answering points (PSAP).
- Support a modification to the annual levy limit adjustment to reflect changes in new construction, rather than net new construction.
- Support an exemption from levy limits for activities deemed to serve an "economic development" purpose.
- Support additional flexibility to develop local taxing alternatives to ease the burden on local property taxpayers.

COUNTY OPERATIONS & LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Support the adoption of biennial budgeting for counties statewide, provided that utilizing the option is voluntary and that initiation of the option requires, by resolution, authorization by the county board.
- Oppose the mandatory transfer of county debt collection functions to the state. Such a transfer would unnecessarily grow the size of government by requiring the state to administer a program that is currently operated by the private sector with great success.
- Support the inclusion of an amendment to Wis. Stat. § 66.0438 to add an additional exemption for counties to issue identification cards to its residents for the purposes of gaining access to county services.
- Oppose efforts to reduce or eliminate local autonomy and budget and decision-making authority.