



GEORGE L. CHRISTENSON
MILWAUKEE COUNTY CLERK

DATE: October 6, 2017

TO: County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.

FROM: Office of George L. Christenson, County Clerk

SUBJECT: Requested Analysis of Potential 2018 Proposed Budget Savings Involving the County Clerk's Office and the Election Commission

I am in receipt of your October 5, 2017 email requesting a written informational report from all County departments and divisions, regarding the 2018 Annual County Budget, which includes recommendations for expenditure reductions that yield net savings totaling 2% and 5% of tax levy, sales tax, or other flexible revenue sources.

As you know the County Clerk is an elected office with state mandated services. It is my mission to provide the highest quality services to county government and the public at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. Therefore, my original 2018 budget requests for the Office of the County Clerk and the Election Commission were very tight to begin with.

A 2% expenditure reduction for the Office of the County Clerk and the Election Commission amounts to \$16,620 while a 5% reduction amounts to \$41,575. Due to the mandatory level of services my office is charged with providing, I am only able to make reductions from certain lines within the 6000 category of the budget. This includes membership dues, postage, printing, stationary, banking services, sundry services, waste disposal, etc. By targeting these line items, I was able to reduce my budget by 2%.

With respect to the 5% expenditure reduction request, I am unable to make additional budgetary cuts without affecting critical services. For example, a very large line item expenditure within the Election Commission is for printing of election ballots. I cannot print fewer ballots without putting the voters at risk.

It is also important to note that the County Clerk's Property Tax Levy allocation for the 2018 Budget decreased by \$43,206. This is partially due to removal of crosscharges but mainly due to an increase in revenue in the amount of \$39,776. The Election Commission's Property Tax Levy allocation for the 2018 recommended budget decreased by \$126,860 due to the removal of crosscharges and a slight revenue increase of \$6,500. These both reflect reductions of well over 5% from the previous budget year.