



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# *Milwaukee County*

DATE: July 8, 2019

TO: The Hon. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman  
The Hon. Sequanna Taylor, Chairwoman of Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
All Supervisors

FROM: Nicole W. Stickler, Legislative Liaison to the Board

RE: Informational Report on 2019 – 2021 State Budget Enactment

The State of Wisconsin has enacted its 2019-2021 biennium budget – concluding months of executive and legislative budget hearings, amendments and vetoes. The Legislature adopted the budget on Thursday, June 27, 2019 and Governor Evers concluded budget action on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 when he signed the legislation after issuing seventy-eight line item vetoes. The budget is enrolled as 2019 Wisconsin Act 9.

The biennial state budget is generally the single most important legislative document relating to county budgets and operations. Nearly every state legislative decision related to the budget has an impact on the way in which counties provide services. The 2019-2021 State Biennial Budget enacts several provisions with impacts to Milwaukee County. Those enacted impacts most notably include:

- 10% increase in General Transportation Aids
- 2% increase in Mass Transit Operating Assistance
- One-time supplemental appropriation for local transportation projects (\$75 million statewide)
- Additional grant opportunity availability for Volkswagen Settlement funds
- Additional bonding authority for counties to construct Secure Residential Correctional Centers for Children and Youth
- Additional funding for step-based salary increases for assistant district attorneys

Governor Evers' veto action on the budget also held significant impact for Milwaukee County. Most urgently, you will recall that the Legislature's enacted budget unexpectedly raised Milwaukee County's maintenance of effort payment to the State for its child welfare program by an additional \$6.8 million in 2020 and \$7.6 million in 2021 through a further reduction of its State Shared Revenue allotment. Governor Evers vetoed that provision of the budget, maintaining our current contribution level of \$58.9 million and leaving our allotment of State Shared Revenue unchanged.

Wisconsin Constitution Article V, Section 10 (2) (b) provides the Legislature with the power to override any partial veto exercised by the Governor. This subsection requires the Governor to return the rejected part of an appropriation bill, together with the Governor's objections in writing, to the house of origin. If 2/3 of the members present agree to approve the vetoed part, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor, the veto is considered by the other house and, if approved by 2/3 of the present members of the other house, the rejected part then becomes law. Though the Legislature is authorized to override the Governor's partial veto, it has done so rarely, with the last such occurrence in 1985. Additionally, an override attempt is unlikely as the Senate did not approve the budget with a 2/3 majority required for an override.

In the days to come, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau will release a report comparing the enrolled budget to the Executive's request, the Joint Finance Committee adopted and Legislative enacted budgets. I will share that document with the members of the Board of Supervisors when it becomes available. In the meantime, I am happy to answer any questions that you may have about the budget or research specific impacts it contains.