



Office of the Comptroller

# Milwaukee County

Scott B. Manske • Comptroller

DATE: September 1, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joseph Lamers, Director, DAS - Performance Strategy, and Budget  
Cynthia (CJ) Pahl, Financial Services Manager, Office of the Comptroller

SUBJECT: File 20-203 Requesting a Report on the Practical Implications of 2013 Wisconsin Act 14 on the Number of Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Supervisory Districts

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Per File 20-203, staff from the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Performance Strategy and Budget are providing the following information concerning 2013 Wisconsin Act 14 and its implications on the number of supervisory districts within Milwaukee County.

## **Number of Supervisory Districts Allowed under 2013 Wisconsin Act 14**

2013 Wisconsin Act 14 does not limit the number of supervisory districts allowed within Milwaukee County.

## **Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Salary**

2013 Wisconsin Act 14 limits the maximum amount of salary that a County Board Supervisor in Milwaukee County can earn. There is no defined minimum amount. The current maximum amount allowed is the lesser of either a) the previous salary amount increased by the percentage increase in the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, for the prior period; or b) the Per Capita amount. The current salary amount set by Milwaukee County Ordinance is \$26,144. Without further changes to Milwaukee County Ordinances, the salary for the next term will automatically be set at lesser of either a) the previous salary amount increased by the percentage increase in the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, for the prior period; or b) the Per Capita amount.

## **Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Departmental Budget Limitations**

2013 Wisconsin Act 14 limits the total appropriations for County Board operations, including salaries of employees and salaries of County Board Supervisors, to 0.4 percent of the total County budget.

## **Impact of Increasing Supervisory Districts from 18 to 27**

Based on the current County Board Supervisor salary amount of \$28,144 (\$26,144 for salary and \$2,000 for social security), an additional \$253,296 in salary and social security would need to be appropriated within the County Board departmental budget if increasing supervisory districts from 18 to 27. However, in order to stay within the departmental budget limitations, this amount would need to come by reducing any of the following:

- Reducing County Board Supervisor salaries<sup>1</sup> (2021 requested budget: \$527,700)
- Reducing staff salaries (2021 requested budget: \$558,972)
- Reducing commodities, services and other accounts (2021 requested budget: \$117,765)
- Any combination of reductions in the above categories

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<sup>1</sup> County Board Supervisor salaries are set automatically per Milwaukee General Ordinances 17.99 (1)(b). Ordinances would need to be amended to allow for a decrease in County Board Supervisor salaries.