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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

**2013-14**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on...**

**Government Operations and State Licensing  
(AC-GOSL) (Repealed 10-17-13)**

### **INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2014)

## Bacher, Luke

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**From:** Henning, Anna  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2013 1:51 PM  
**To:** Bacher, Luke  
**Subject:** RE:

Hi Luke,

I've pasted in my (very informal!) notes below. Let me know if you'd like something more formal on the amendments.

Anna

### Assembly Amendment 1:

- Replaces all instances of "500,000" in the bill with references to "750,000."
- Changes "500,000" to "750,000" in two provisions of current law that relate to the Milwaukee County Executive's responsibilities.

### Assembly Amendment 2:

- Removes term "exclusively" from a provision under the bill that specifies that the Milwaukee County Executive, exclusively, shall administer, supervise, and direct all county departments, and from a provision authorizing the Milwaukee County Executive, exclusively, to contract with the Department of Children and Families to implement certain programs under the Social Security Act.
- Under the bill, the Milwaukee County Executive is authorized to create departments and subunits, provided that the creation of such departments is approved by the Board. Under the amendment, the creation *and funding* of such departments and subunits must be approved by the Board.
- Under the bill, expenses of the Milwaukee County Board generally may not exceed .4% of the county tax levy. However, the bill provides some exceptions. The amendment adds expenditures for health and pension benefits for terms beginning before April 2016 to the expenditures that are exempted from the .4% budget cap.
- The bill requires that the provision capping board supervisors' salaries be submitted to the voters in the county for a referendum. The amendment adds language to the referendum to specify the dollar limit that would currently apply to compensation under the bill.

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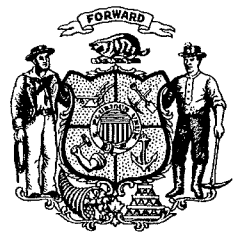
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**From:** Bacher, Luke  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2013 1:28 PM  
**To:** Henning, Anna  
**Subject:**

Can you send me your notes on what the two amendments do for AB 85?



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



*Servant leadership teaches us  
that you have to lay your cards  
on the table; here's mine ~*

The nine most terrifying words  
in the English language are: "I'm  
from the government and I'm  
here to help." Ronald Reagan

What the people want is very  
simple. They want an America as  
good as its promise. Barbara Jordan

Always stand on principle, even  
if you stand alone. John Adams



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Deanna Alexander  
Supervisor - 18<sup>th</sup> District



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  #CntySupDeanna

## Suggestions for Amending Assembly Bill 85 From Milwaukee County Supervisor Deanna Alexander

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One of my favorite quotes is from Ronald Reagan:

*The nine most terrifying words in the English language are:  
"I'm from the government and I'm here to help."*

It is with this in mind that **I give my support to passing Assembly Bill 85**. I believe that the bill has many positive provisions that will help me do my job as a Supervisor better, and help Milwaukee County become more efficient.

However, I also agree with what Barbara Jordan once said:

*What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise.*

It is with that in mind that I respectfully urge you to consider making the following amendments to Assembly Bill 85, to ensure that we are doing our best to craft good policy. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Deanna Alexander  
Milwaukee County Supervisor – 18<sup>th</sup> District  
(414) 278-4259 Office  
(414) 939-9339 Personal Cell

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### Local Control

It is a great idea to have a referendum to allow the people of Milwaukee County determine what kind of government they will have. However, the citizens have a valid concern that the referendum results might not matter if the legislation will make cuts to the departmental budget anyway that will be so extreme as to force the same results. Perhaps the right answer is to modify the proposed budget cap so that the people can still have full-time representation if that is what they choose on the referendum? Otherwise, the referendum would be only a showpiece, a waste of money, and not truly respecting the desires of the citizenry. **I have no doubt that the referendum will pass, but without any legitimacy in decision-making at the local level, I fear Milwaukee residents will feel duped.**

### Terms

Milwaukee County Supervisors currently serve 4-year terms. The bill proposes that those terms are changed to 2-year terms beginning in 2016. **Please amend the bill to strike or modify this provision.** As you know, 2-year terms entail constant campaigning, and thus, political distractions and fundraising. **I support new 3-year or continued 4-year terms for County Supervisors**, as well as extending those term lengths to the other 71 Counties' board members, and even State Representatives. I am also very supportive of **term limits** that cap a Supervisor's service at 3 or 4 consecutive terms and would consider it a fair trade to amend the bill to include such limits, if the term lengths were not reduced to two-year

terms. ~~As you can see, wondering why someone might want a 2-year term for supervisors, my guess is that it is a reasonable and orderly change to our Board members to challenge what many officials for these positions and on the other hand positions on the County Board to really your interest to open the door?~~

**Supervisor Compensation**

<u>Current Compensation</u>	<u>Bill 85 Compensation</u>	<u>Alternate Recommendation</u>
\$50,670 salary	\$24,000 salary	\$43,397 salary or \$34,717 salary
Pension Benefits	No Pension Benefits	No Pension Benefits
Health Insurance	No Health Insurance	Health Insurance for self only; (can purchase for family at full cost.)

\$24,000 per year is being suggested as compensation because it is the “per capita income” for Milwaukee County. **This statistic might be misleading** because it represents, not the average income of County residents, but the income averaged over all persons – even children. To demonstrate a comparison: the per capita income for Beverly Hills, California (an extremely wealthy area) is only \$62,250. Is there a different figure that might be better suited for creating a salary cap?

Perhaps “**median household income**” would be a more meaningful benchmark. In Milwaukee County that amounts to **\$43,397**, which would be a better level for setting a salary cap for a job with no benefits, that the public debates may or may not need to be “full time,” and which may even vary as full time or part time by district. It would certainly be a cut from what some consider lavish now, without being lavish on its own. **Or even a variation of this, such as “80% of Median Household income” (\$34,717) might be a more practical and reasonable calculation.**

Designating the **Chairperson Salary** at 150% of Supervisor Salary is appropriate. However, that job is **certainly a full time position**. Even Waukesha County has a full-time Board Chair. Perhaps this position should be granted the same benefits as other full-time department heads?

Have you considered “employee benefits” that are of high meaning but little cost? These are not specifically mentioned in the bill, but I am concerned that they will be excluded. For example, Supervisors are allowed to park in a county-owned lot without charge. Supervisors, just like all other employees, are also allowed to purchase bus passes at a reduced rate and may be members of the Sheriff’s gym—a benefit only available to County employees. **Will this bill unintentionally cancel County Board eligibility from these programs?** Even Rep. Sanfelippo, the author of the bill, has agreed that this is not his intention.

**Departmental Budget**

The current departmental budget of the County Board is \$6.6 Million per year. The County’s tax levy is about \$279 Million per year, and total budget is about \$1.3 Billion per year. Assembly Bill 85 proposes a departmental budget cap of .4% of the County’s tax levy, or approximately \$1.1 Million. **This is a reduction of 83%.**

The media has criticized the department for having too many employees, and **I agree that the department can make some cuts – likely 25-40% of our support staff.** However, it would be a huge mistake to cut all staff and I am very concerned that this bill's proposed cuts may make a large mistake that we all have to work to later correct. Is it not better to perform surgery with the right instruments, rather than with an axe?

Further, this decrease of 83% is too extreme, too quickly for meaningful reform because it would not only change the way the board operates, but likely leave us without the resources to function properly. I am concerned about even having enough money for a district-wide mailer once a year if these cuts are enacted! While I do not support a departmental budget cap, if state insists on one, it should not directly correlate to the property tax levy, and should be no more than 30% to start.

It would also be a mistake for the state to impose a budget cap whose only result is the county playing fancy accounting tricks such as moving staff around and cross-billing charges. I can verify that such schemes have already been discussed by members of the County Board and staff and will likely be implemented.

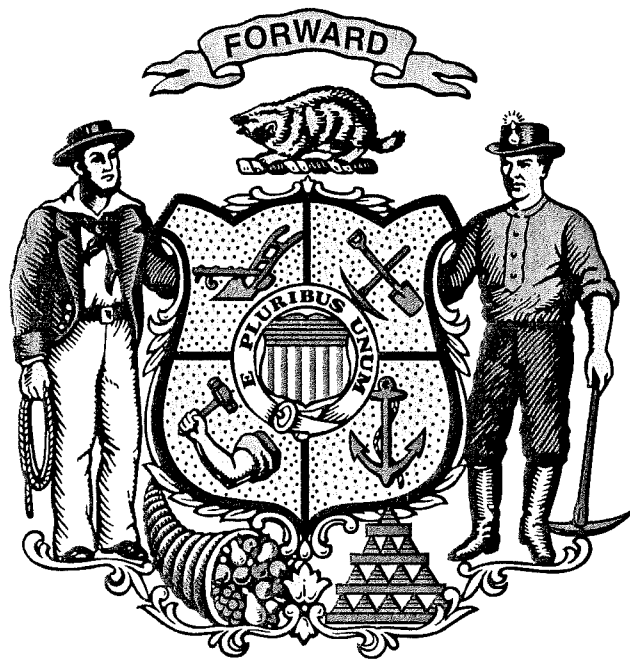
As an accountant, I also find it highly improper to tie the departmental budget of the tax setting authority directly to tax levy. Doing so **creates an incentive for County Supervisors – who control tax levy – to raise taxes!** At a minimum, such a tie would ensure that tax levy will never go down, because allowing a decrease would require a sacrifice of the board's own budget. Believe me – the people of Milwaukee County really want to see taxes go down!

**Please consider either not setting a departmental cap from the state level, or setting the cap at .35% of the total County Budget. Another option might be building in an incentive for lowering expenditures, by allowing .4% of the total County Budget as long as the tax levy is not raised in that budget year.**

### **Double Dipping**

Several of my constituents who are also county employees are concerned about the “double dipping” provisions in the bill. There are some employees who should not be penalized for working for the County during retirement.

**For example, please consider those employees who are retired and return to work part-time in order to help on a temporary, emergency, or on call basis.** These employees represent cases where even most fiscal conservatives can agree that it is prudent to allow a retired employee to continue to work with the County, while still allowing them to collect a pension. Please ensure that this bill will still allow the County the versatility of working with such retirees without penalizing them. In other cases, I do not oppose limiting “double dipping.”







BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC**  
COUNTY BOARD CHAIRWOMAN

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**TESTIMONY BY MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD CHAIRWOMAN MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC  
BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND STATE LICENSING**

Thank you Chairman August and members of the Committee.

My name is Marina Dimitrijevic, and I am the Chairwoman of the Milwaukee County Board.

I appreciate the chance to speak with all of you on this bill, which will affect Milwaukee County governance for generations to come.

I am here to testify on behalf of the County Board in opposition to Assembly Bill 85.

It is a new day on the Milwaukee County Board. A new day represented by seven new supervisors – including two elected just last week – and a Board chair who has been in the position for only about a year. A new day represented by a new attitude toward openness and transparency in Milwaukee County government. This new board presents a perfect opportunity to reform ourselves.

We face many issues in Milwaukee County. Poverty. Infant mortality. Joblessness. A crumbling infrastructure. A mental health system in almost constant turmoil. But rather than being allowed to address those issues, the County Board is faced with a fight to maintain the proper representation needed to afford a voice to those we serve.

AB 85 would make drastic changes to the Board without listening to the voices of Milwaukee County residents. It is clear the Assembly is interested in moving this through the Legislature with alarming speed, and all Milwaukee County residents, in fact all statewide residents should be concerned as Wisconsin takes pride in their local representation at the level closest to them.

If enacted, the bill would not only weaken the legislative branch, it would consolidate power into the County Executive's office. This dangerous piece of legislation is an unprecedented threat to the very idea of local control and yes, democracy. As you can understand we are deeply concerned about this bill. It's about Madison imposing its will on a local community without the input of the community itself.

I've heard that we on the Board will never change. But make no mistake. This Board wants to work with Milwaukee County residents to look for ways to reform county government. We ARE working with *local* residents to create realistic reform in County governance, and we would like to work with you, the Legislature. As the Chairwoman of this Board, I am letting you know we *will* enact major changes. But trying to circumvent any of our efforts by passing legislation that forces so-called reform without that local community is no way to run government or implement policies that actually create reform. A bill that mandates changes without local buy-in will never be successful. The opposition to this legislation is driven by a desire among our constituents to be part of this new era in County governance. I had hoped

that a hearing on AB 85 would be held in Milwaukee County, but I see a large contingent of people from the area have come to testify in spite of the time and distance involved. That shows the appetite for change on the local level.

But we have to accomplish reform together. Rep. Sanfelippo and I have had some meaningful discussions lately about how to govern. We just may not agree on it. But I do challenge the Committee to think about how the items in his bill, if they were to apply to the Legislature, would hinder your ability to represent your constituents.

As part of our reform efforts, we've initiated "OUR" Milwaukee County listening sessions to determine what residents want from County government. The overwhelming response of hundreds of people at our sessions is that if there is to be any change, it should be made locally.

This initiative creates a dialogue for everyone who wants to be represented in the discussion on how to reform county government. Because the answers for county-wide government reform will not come from a single person or a small group. They won't come from a single branch of government. They certainly won't come from Madison. They will come from the people whose lives are affected by county government each and every day, the people of Milwaukee County.

The word "OUR" of Our Milwaukee stands for "Outreach for Unified Reform." The word outreach means we're reaching out to everyone with a stake in county government, the word unified means we're all working toward a common goal, and the word reform means that our common ground is the most efficient delivery of services and the most effective use of our shared county resources.

The fact is, the County Board matters, and our constituents care deeply about it. The number of people in this room testifies to the passion Milwaukee County residents feel about County governance. During several "OUR Milwaukee County" sessions in which hundreds have testified, the vast majority do not want to see this bill passed. They do not want to see change imposed on a local government by the state. And they want to be part of the reform process that is taking place on County governance, **LOCALLY.**

The County touches their lives every day. Whether they're travelling county highways, flying out of Mitchell International or Timmerman, visiting the Milwaukee County Zoo, our parks, or even getting a marriage license, Milwaukee County is part of the lives of thousands of people on a daily basis.

Let me list just a few of the operations the Board provides policy direction to. There is our Transit system, which is key to getting people to their jobs and the many recreational activities offered in Milwaukee County. There is our world-class Parks system, which includes hundreds of acres of green space and professional caliber golf courses.

There is the mental health system, which provides care to chronically mentally ill patients and is especially critical to their families who need assistance.

We agree the Board should not manage the day-to-day operations of these departments. But the Board does provide the public access and accountability to these services. This bill weakens the Legislative branch, stifles the people's voice in county government, and consolidates power in the County Executive's office.

For example, the legislation includes what has been called a protective clause for the County Executive's office. While the Legislative branch's budget is being slashed, the County Executive's

budget is protected and may not be reduced. In addition, as addressed by a Legislative Council memo, the bill strips away management and supervisory responsibilities from the department heads. I don't know what administrators in the private sector would want to work under conditions where they have no authority over those who work for them. It also creates an authoritarian central power that could make county employees less productive and fear the chain of command.

The bill gives the County Executive a role in calling a meeting of the Board. Which other executive in state or local government has that ability?

Meanwhile, the bill will eliminate about 70 percent of Board staff, ensuring the Board has no staff to provide as counsel and allowing the county executive to be the bearer of all information including but not limited to drafting legislation.

The claim by supporters of this bill is that the measure will help cut costs brings up two issues: First, if the measure is designed to cut costs, why cut from only one department that makes up only .5 percent of the County budget?

Second, the bill singles out Milwaukee County by tying supervisors' salaries to the median household income of the County, or about \$24,000. No other municipality or county in the state has its legislative branch salary tied to median county income. Does this mean that elected officials in more wealthy communities should be compensated more?

Additionally, it imposes a spending cap of .4 percent of the County tax levy on Board expenses. Again, in which other county or municipality in Wisconsin has the Legislature imposed a cap on spending by the legislative branch? If this were applied to Waukesha County the board would have to cut their budget by 60 percent.

Proponents of this bill say it puts Milwaukee County in line with the other 71 counties in the state. But in fact, it takes Milwaukee County out of line with the rest of the state.

This isn't about personalities or those currently occupying the respective offices. This isn't a partisan issue. This is about the future of Milwaukee County residents and their ability to govern themselves regardless of who the players are. Local reform is possible – we are in the process of making it on the local level – but it needs to be thoughtful, not arbitrary, and not imposed by the state.

A recent poll by Marquette University's Charles Franklin indicates a 48-48 split between those who want a full-time and those who want a part-time County Board. That is not a call for state imposition of a state mandate. That is a call for more local decision-making.

How can the state impose its own "reform" work when the community is not asking for it and all stakeholders are not working on it together? This indicates there should be open and honest dialogue on a local level.

Supporters of this bill, specifically Rep. Sanfelippo, say this bill is aimed at fixing what they view as "dysfunction" on the Board. What exactly is meant by dysfunction? The democratic process is always a bit messy, as you know. Disagreements between elected officials and debate on issues is a part of the legislative process. It is incumbent on those in office to try and find a way to work together. If the people don't like it, they have elections to work it out.

The County is working well. Our parks are in great shape. The County has an AA+ bond rating. We have a surplus. Our transit system, which has suffered substantial funding cuts by the state, is still doing its best to get people to their jobs. And through Board action an agreement was made between the War Memorial and the Milwaukee Art Museum to commit \$15 million in repairs and improvements to the facilities and grounds.

That's not dysfunction; that's effective government.

The Board has made progress toward reform. It has downsized itself from 25 to 19 to 18 in recent years, more than 25 percent, bringing the size of the Milwaukee County Board below the state average.

This bill, quite simply, is a move to consolidate power into the County Executive's office.

To those who say the board has had ten years to reform itself, I say this: The reforms we will propose ourselves are real and will continue. They will be generated locally and will be put in place. This means that not only is the bill a dangerous impingement on local government, it is a moot point.

This is, for all intents and purposes, a new board with a new way of doing things. We believe in transparency and open government.

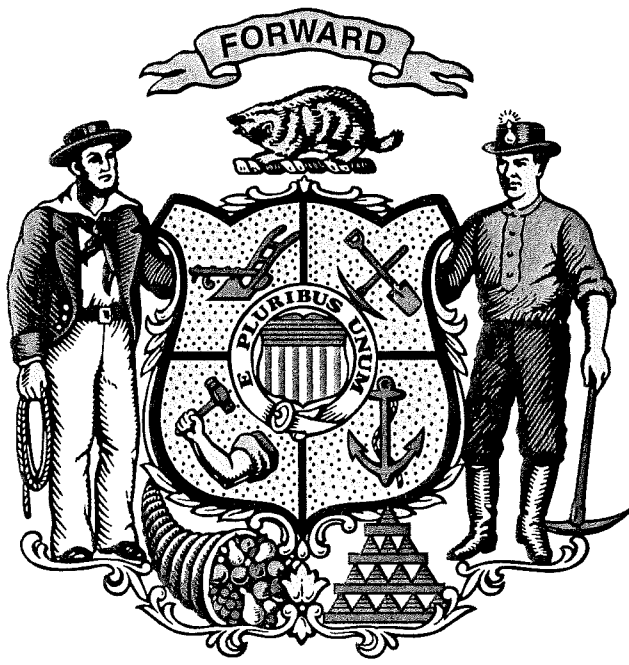
It is a new day at the Milwaukee County board. New leadership. New members. And a new attitude. Our state statutes dictate that the counties shall have home rule in regard to self-governing.

This is about nothing less than self-government. I ask you to vote against AB 85. By doing so you are not opposing reform. A vote against this bill is a vote for *local* reform.

There is no best practice and one way to reform. There is no model. The best practice is to let local governments self-govern.

That's what every other county in the state does.

Thank you.





# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

The time is now for County Board Reform

By: State Reps. Joe Sanfelippo, Dale Kooyenga, Dave Craig, Mike Kuglitsch, Mark Honadel,  
Jim Ott

Fifty-three years ago, John Doyne became Milwaukee's first County Executive. Between 1960 and the mid-1970s, working with a part-time board, the county gained national recognition for ambitious, successful projects including a new zoo, Mitchell Park Domes, the Performing Arts Center and the Regional Medical Complex. Years later, the job of county supervisor became full-time and today, Milwaukee County is better known for pension scandals, debt, dysfunction and a broken governance structure. Now is the time to reevaluate our priorities, to focus on efficiencies and to restore Milwaukee County to a governance model that proved effective and helped move our community forward.

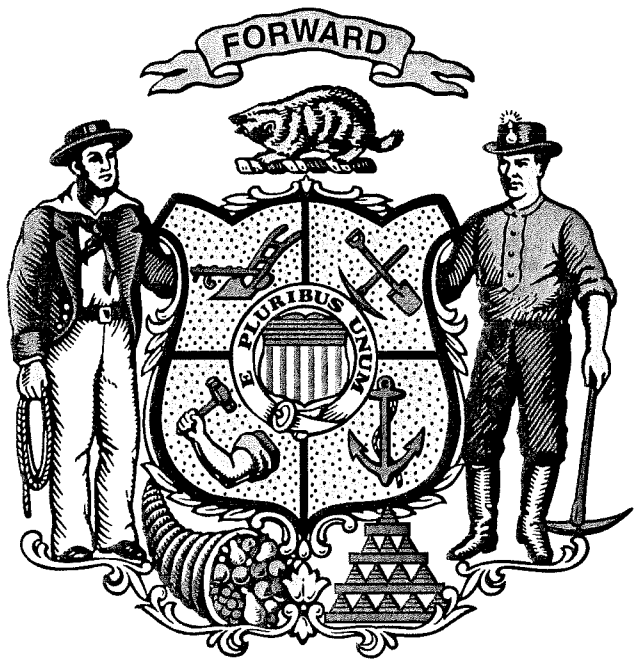
If approved by the voters, this legislation would restore the position of Milwaukee County Supervisor to part-time and cap compensation, a move that would bring it in line with every other board in the state. The change would enable a more diverse group of residents to participate in board governance, allowing individuals from all walks of life and current work-commitments to bring fresh energy to Milwaukee County government. A part-time board would be more focused on the broader policy issues that are at the core of its purpose. We believe that these changes will allow Milwaukee County Supervisors to better serve their constituents, by focusing on the critical services the County provides.

Milwaukee County residents have already signaled their support for these reforms. In spring of 2012, residents of 12 Milwaukee County municipalities indicated their desire for change when more than 80 percent of voters supported a nonbinding referendum calling for a part-time county board. The legislation would once again give voters the opportunity to choose how they would be represented, through a binding referendum on the April 2014 ballot. It will let the voters, not the politicians themselves, decide what is most important – critical quality-of-life services or preserving the full-time jobs of career politicians.

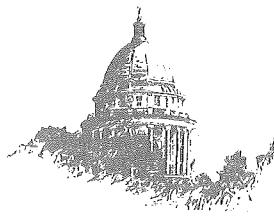
The legislation also includes critical reforms that would quickly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Milwaukee County governance. Currently, the Milwaukee County Board far outspends its peers in the state and around the nation for its own operational budget. For example, Milwaukee County is about twice the size as Dane County, but spends nearly seven times as much on its board operations. This legislation would change that by capping operating costs, saving Milwaukee County millions of dollars annually and freeing up much-needed resources for mental health, transit, parks and other key county services - without additional taxes. It would also bring the cost of board governance in line with its statewide and national peers.

Additionally, the legislation would address a fundamental problem related to Milwaukee County government by clearly outlining the proper authorities of the County Executive and members of the Milwaukee County Board. In 1960, the state created the County Executive model of governance as an option for counties. The state intended for administrative duties to be shifted to the County Executive and for the board to focus on broader policy concerns. At that time, Milwaukee County residents voted to adopt this form of government, but it has not worked as the state intended as the Milwaukee County board has increased its involvement in the day-to-day administration of the county. This bill finishes the job the state started many years ago, by further clarifying a model of governance that voters have already adopted.

If we are to protect and enhance the key services that make our community a great place to live, work and play we need smarter, more effective and more cost-efficient government. The changes outlined in the legislation are not partisan or political as good government benefits all. These reforms are the most important changes we can make to positively impact Milwaukee County and quickly and effectively foster good governance and meet the needs of Milwaukee County taxpayers in an effective manner. This legislation will have a lasting positive impact on the future of our families, our businesses and our community. If you agree, call your state legislators and ask them to support current and future residents of Milwaukee County by supporting this legislation.







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# PAUL TITTL

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 25<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

April 10, 2013

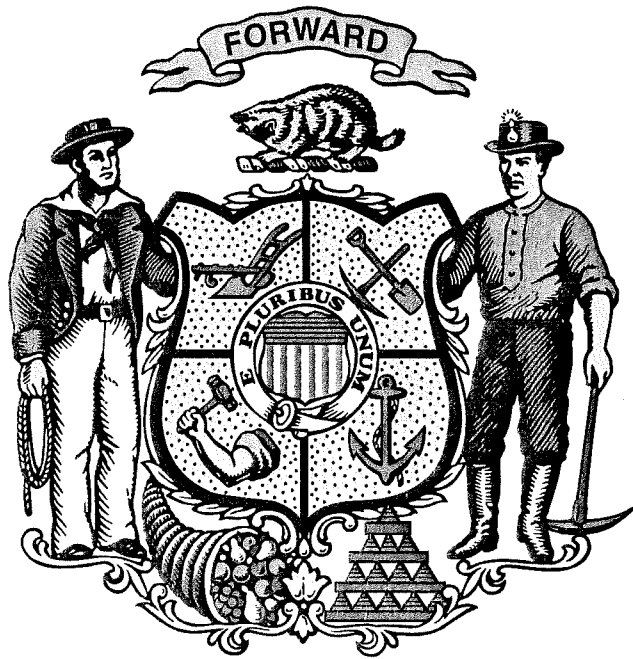
First of all, I would like to thank you, Chairman August, and all of the other committee members for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 85.

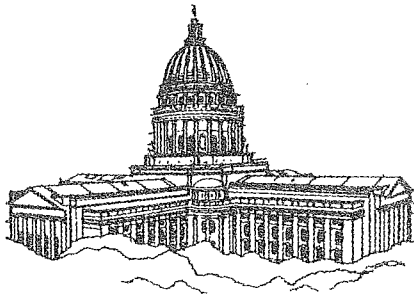
- I am pleased to co-sponsor this bill, because I believe in local control.
- From 2006 to 2013, I served on the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors. From 2010 to 2012 I was chairman of that board.
- AB 85 allows local control by returning it to the people who are paying the bills: the taxpayers.
- Some people have argued this bill violates the principle of local control. They say the matter should be left to the people of the county to decide.
- The problem with that approach is that Milwaukee County does not allow for petition and referendum. In a nutshell, that means the voters are not able to circulate a petition to place a referendum on the ballot.
- Others argue this approach takes power away from the county board and broadens the power of the county executive.
- The role of a county board is not to run the day-to-day operations of the county. That is the role of the county executive.
- In Manitowoc County the board sets policy and works on the budget, and the county executive runs the operations.
- That is how the state statutes intend the county board to function.
- The county executive is not able to do anything he wants but acts within the job description and answers to the board. The board maintains ultimate control through the budget process.
- In that way, county government effectively serves residents of the county.
- I ask you to pass and support this bill to return local control to the people of Milwaukee County where it belongs.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Respectfully,

Paul Tittel





# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Testimony of Senator Lena Taylor**  
**AB 85 – Milwaukee County Government**  
Assembly Committee on Government Operations & State Licensure

Honorable Chairman August and members of the committee:

Thank you for taking testimony today on AB 85 relating to Milwaukee County Government.

This bill is before you because Representative Sanfelippo's passion to address what he experienced as a county board member and his commitment to do what he believes is a solution. Whether a person agrees or disagrees with his position can be argued; however, the reality is that he is in the majority party and has garnered the necessary support.

Moreover, the Chairwoman's statement is true – the board has changed. There are newly elected individuals, who are "learning" what they are elected to do. I hope that the Chairwoman will implement training requirements for the "entire board," and work with the Executive to address both his and county employees training to "confirm" everyone's understanding of their responsibility based on statute not "urban legend".

Based on objective reviews of the facts, everyone would agree there are clearly places where the departments, the board, the executive have all operated outside of their statutory lane in county government. The laws, as they were written in 1959, do not provide the clear direction as to the relationship and balance of power between the county executive and the county board. As a concerned Milwaukee legislator, I was compelled to make my way to the table to advocate for appropriate checks and balances as state legislators sought to recreate those "lanes" for the county board and executive to operate in.

Clearly the largest municipality in the county did not vote in the often mentioned advisory referendum however twelve of nineteen communities in the county did vote in advisory referendums on the questions of downsizing the board or reducing the board to part-time. In my district, the 4th Senate district, Village of Shorewood voters, some of the most active and progressive liberally voters in the county, voted 73% in favor of both questions. In the other 11 communities the support was greater than 80% in favor. Nevertheless, my efforts have afforded citizens of the entire community the ability to vote in a binding referendum on the county board supervisor's salary. I believe that people should also have the opportunity to vote for benefits since the bill proposes a change to benefits which relate to salary.

Since its first introduction, this bill has changed. One of the most notable changes was the salary cap. The original \$15,000 cap was arbitrary and far too low compared to other counties. In this bill, the cap is set at the annual per capita income of Milwaukee County as determined by the US Census Bureau. Most recent determinations indicate the PCI for Milwaukee County is \$24,051. This number was not pulled from the air, but rather was changed to compare relative to other county boards in Wisconsin with executives versus an arbitrary number written firmly in the statutes. The bill also allows for additional compensation to the board chair and the finance committee chair, recognizing their additional duties for the board. Arguably there are other positions that could warrant such adjustments.



Unlike the author's original thoughts, the salary is not determined by enactment of this bill but rather by a binding referendum. Moreover, the bill represents the conversations I had, not only to create a referendum, but to move it to April 2014. If the referendum is adopted the enactment of this change would be effective in 2016 allowing for transition time, versus the original proposal to require immediate implementation. This transition should include shifting and restructuring some of the departments & staff under the control of the county board consistent with the statutory lanes for the board and executive. For example, the board currently allocates for 5 committee clerks under the direction of the board. These clerks could be transferred to the county clerk, as that office already provides clerk duties for the board. This is one example of efficiencies that can be created in the county as a result of the bill, but research, fiscal analysis, and counsel are all equally viable options to create efficient use of resources to consider.

Let's talk county board budget. I reject the assertion that this bill is a 66% cut to the board's budget that would prevent it from performing its elected duty. According to the official budget documents for the county, the board's budget is \$6.6 million, currently allocates just over \$3 million dollars for salaries for supervisors and staff, and another \$2.311 million is allocated to benefits. In addition, another \$758,000 is allocated to county service charges. This bill and the transition, which will be a local decision, allows the board and county executive to preserve staff and duties in other departments that will serve the entire county. This could include the research staff and committee clerk staff, which represent over \$1 million dollars of the budget, as well as other current staff to the board. I have repeated numerous times to the County Executive and the County Board Chair my desire to see just such transfers occur so that we may maintain agencies that serve both the board and executive with information and research in order for each to do what they were elected to do – serve the people. It is impossible for a legislative body to perform its duties without staff, research persons and support roles. The bill will continue to allow the board to support that role.

Throughout the discussion of this bill, there has been repeated concern that the bill eliminates the ability of supervisors to communicate and gather information regarding county issues from department heads and staff. This bill clearly outlines that the supervisors will have every right to make inquiry to department staff and communicate constituent's concerns. It is important for me to state that I do not support any attempt to limit the ability of the legislative body to perform oversight over executive agencies. This provision in the bill allows for that oversight, for the gathering of information, and for the conduct of constituent services. Additionally, the bill was changed to provide extreme clarity that the corporation counsel is always accessible to the members of the board as the county's attorney.

There are numerous places in the bill where some have claimed that the executive has unilateral power. I have found four new powers for the executive that are not transfers of duties. One of these powers is the mandating a special meeting of the board. First of all let me explain that current law allows ten members of the board to petition to call a special meeting, nor does it allow the executive to request or have any official input into the calling of a special meeting. Original drafts did include this provision on the part of the executive, however the bill clearly now only allows the executive to request a special meeting of the board and the board chair would have to agree that such a meeting should be held before the board may convene under this power.

Contracting and the sale and acquisition of property are subjects in this bill. The bill modifies current practice of contract review. Currently, contracts under \$50,000 in value are not reviewed by the board and those over \$50,000 are. Under the bill, all contracts under \$100,000 are not reviewed by the board, those from \$100,000-\$300,000 are reviewed in a passive review manner by the finance committee, and those over \$300,000 require full board approval. Supervisors have raised question about the need for the "parent" committee to also review contracts alongside the finance committee. This suggestion has merit and should be considered. Additionally,

regarding the sale or acquisition of property, language as been added to ensure that county policy is always followed regarding this provision. It is important to note that such procurement and sale needs to have clear policy adopted by the board which will govern the executive's action, just as we have made procurement laws for the state. This provision ensures that Milwaukee County will have procurement policies.

At a time when many suggest that there is less oversight as a result of this bill, I will point out the role of the elected County Comptroller. This is the people's fiscal watchdog that was created in the last session of the Legislature. This office reviews and signs all contracts entered into by the county. Throughout the last year the comptroller's office has worked as it was intended to provide oversight of these matters. This is a lane that we have preserved and will utilize as a protection for the people of Milwaukee County.

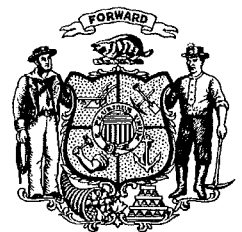
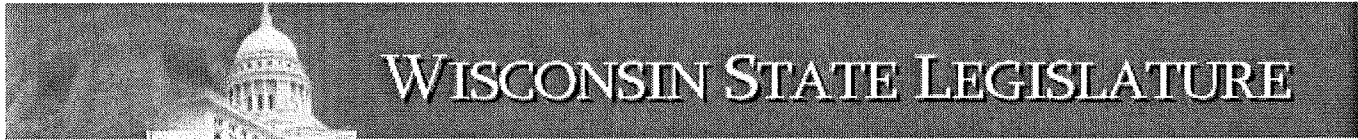
There are numerous other changes to the powers and conduct of county government in Milwaukee County listed in this bill. Many of them are not controversial and are not disputed, and simply represent the changing of the word "board" to "executive" consistent with the intent of the bill.

There are provisions of the bill that need changes and I would like to see resolved. First and foremost is the addition of the binding nature of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council action on any shared consolidation agreements. This bill allows the ICC to act as a legislative body and approve or reject any collaboration the county and a municipality wishes to engage in. The ICC should not have this legislative power, as all communities already have a seat on the county board. As a commissioner on MMSD, I know that the non-binding nature of the ICC providing advice and information greatly affects the commission decision. At MMSD we have actively sought the input of the ICC so that we may be well advised and their input is strong and well received. It is a role that is functioning well. This provision also speaks to trust and the desire to overcompensate to prevent certain actions, often informed by past actions where trust has been violated. We can find ways to honor the critical voices of all bodies in the county and not create binding actions that can hamper efficiency.

Additionally, this bill contains a provision allowing the executive to introduce proposals to the board. In current practice, the board is acting on resolutions and matters submitted by the departments without a supervisor sponsor. However, except for appointments and the budget, none of these items are directly introduced by the executive. This provision highlights the very need for the lanes we are seeking to create in the bill. We cannot reaffirm the legislative power of the board in one place and allow the executive to come in that lane in others. In a short review of Dane County actions, I did not see one item introduced by the executive. Perhaps the Milwaukee County board even needs to reassess whether or not it will continue its local practice of department submitted legislation. In any case, I do not see the wisdom nor the need for this provision to be in the statutes of the state.

In conclusion, thank you for this hearing today. It is my hope that the facts about this bill can be presented and provided to the community throughout the Legislature's consideration. This bill is part of our lane as state legislators to direct and help guide our local entities, in this case Milwaukee County. We have acted often in the past to directly affect Milwaukee County's operation. It would be preferable to have Milwaukee County make these changes themselves. However, it has been 93 days since the introduction of the first draft of this bill and I have yet to see a plan to change the operations of Milwaukee County in the form of legislative action for the board. I encourage the county to continue work in that regard so that we may pursue that option, but we should continue our legislative process in the absence of local action.

Thank you.





# Citizens for Responsible Government

PO Box 371086 Milwaukee, WI 53237 414-788-0032 crgmke@crgnetwork.com www.crgnetwork.com

## Citizens for Responsible Government County Executive Candidate Survey

1. I endorse and will support, with the full force and resources of the county executive, all available means of changing the pay and benefits of the county board of supervisors to part time status. Part time pay is defined as no more than 30% of the current supervisor salary. Part time benefits would require the elimination of current retirement benefits in favor of a system commensurate with what is available in the private sector for part time positions. Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

2. I support and will schedule a countywide referendum calling for term limits for the positions of county executive and county supervisor during the 2002 calendar year. The referendum may include the choices of "no term limits", "strict two-term limits", or "two-term limits with additional terms through election by a two-thirds majority". Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

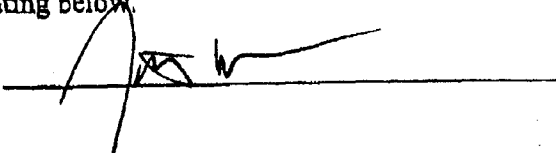
3. I pledge not to propose or support any new or increased taxes, including all levies, assessments, fees, licenses, or other direct and indirect taxing mechanisms above the rate of inflation for the next two years without express approval through a countywide referendum. The sole exemption to this policy would be pay per use fees where 100% of the fee is reserved to fund the associated service. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

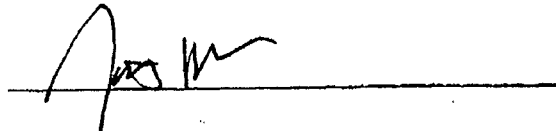
4. I will implement a program to eliminate nepotism and cronyism in county government within the first 60 days of my administration. The program shall include a review of all management and supervisory positions under the administrative control of the county executive. Key elements of the program must include a justification for each position and the person currently holding it, and a set of objective hiring, performance review, and salary criteria for each position. Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

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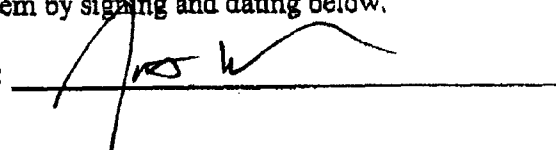
5a. I will not propose or support any new benefit increases/extensions of any kind except those proven to reduce taxpayer cost or to be revenue neutral. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-26-2002

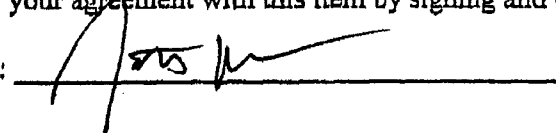
5b. I will not propose or support any new capital construction projects in excess of \$1,000,000 without approval via a countywide referendum for the next two years. This includes any and all expenditures for studies or other peripheral analyses involved in the development of such projects and benefit increases. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

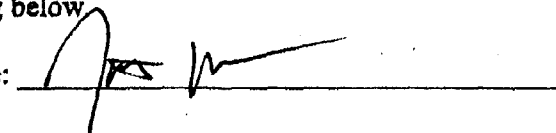
6a. I will immediately sign a waiver of all salary and benefits increases and enhancements available to the county executive that were enacted after January 1, 2000. Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

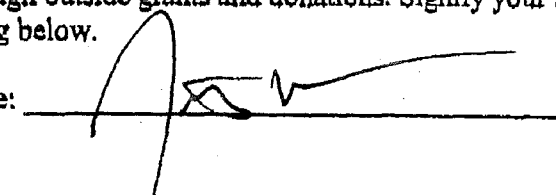
6b. I will also require, to the extent legally possible, that all non-represented county employees under my administrative control sign such a waiver as a condition of their continued employment. Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

6c. I also will not endorse, nor accept endorsements from any county employee that does not sign such a waiver either before or after the election. Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002

7. I will support the creation of a citizens review board with full access to all public information and communications within county government, except those protected by law, within the first 180 days of my administration. The review board will be composed of a volunteer staff of citizens selected for their skills and availability to serve. This group will select two liaisons to county government to streamline interface and requests for information. The county will provide and maintain a small office space at the courthouse of approximately 6'x8', one phone for all in-bound and local/toll free out-bound calls, a single desktop PC with appropriate software for interfacing to county data processing and electronic media, two e-mail addresses, and a dedicated page on the county website to publish items of interest to the public. All other furnishings, support services, and expenses will be paid for through outside grants and donations. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature:  Date: 4-20-2002



8. I support a complete review and revamping of all county employment rules, including civil service, to make county employees accountable for their performance and to strengthen the emphasis on superior performance. A key element of this plan must include salary increases based on individual merit rather than blanket increases for entire classes of employees. In situations where this may be currently illegal, I will actively pursue legislation to mandate individual merit as the basis for salary actions. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4-20-2002

9. I support the creation of a new code of ethics that enumerates acceptable behaviors, actions, and remedies for violations for all county elected and appointed positions. Violations of this new code would be reviewed and addressed on a quarterly basis by three randomly selected members of the county judiciary. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4-20-2002

10. I will support and actively pursue, with the full force and resources of the county executive, a program to convert the current county defined benefit pension plan to a defined contribution benefit plan consistent with typical practice in the private sector. This plan, when passed, would be immediately implemented for non-represented employees and eventually negotiated with represented employees. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4-20-2002



# Citizens for Responsible Government

PO Box 371088 Milwaukee, WI 53237 414-766-0032 crgmike@crgnetwork.com www.crgnetwork.com

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- 5a. I will not propose or support any new benefit increases/extensions of any kind except those proven to reduce taxpayer cost or to be revenue neutral. Signify your agreement to this item by signing and dating below.

Candidates Signature: James N. Ryan Date: 4-19-02

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Candidates Signature: James N. Ryan Date: 4-19-02

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Candidates Signature: James N. Ryan Date: 4-19-02

- 6c. I also will not endorse, nor accept endorsements from any county employee that does not sign such a waiver either before or after the election. Signify your agreement with this item by signing and dating below.

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