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Government Operations and State Licensing (AC-GOSL) (Repealed 10-17-13)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

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing

Assembly Bill 85

Relating to: changing the compensation structure by which a Milwaukee County supervisor may be paid, changing the term length of a Milwaukee County supervisor, affecting the right of an annuitant under the Milwaukee County Employee's Retirement System to be rehired by Milwaukee County, limiting the authority of Milwaukee County to enter into certain intergovernmental agreements, removing and clarifying some authority of the Milwaukee County board, increasing and clarifying the authority of the Milwaukee County executive, deleting obsolete statutory references, and requiring a referendum.

By Representatives Sanfelippo, Kooyenga, Hutton, Craig, Kuglitsch, Knodl, Stone, J. Ott, Honadel, Pridemore, Weatherston, Stroebel, Brooks, LeMahieu, Bernier and Tittl; cosponsored by Senators Darling, L. Taylor, Vukmir, Lazich and Farrow.

March 18, 02013
Licensing

Referred to Committee on Government Operations and State

April 10, 2013

Public Hearing Held

Present: (9) Representative August; Representatives Craig, Knodl, Kooyenga, Hutton, Nass, Hulsey, Sinicki and Ringhand.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Joe Sanfelippo - Representative - 15th Assembly District
- Bob Delaporte - Senator Alberta Darling
- Chris Abele - County Executive - Milwaukee County
- Rich Muessen - Badger Meter
- Chas Mulcahy
- Julia Taylor - Greater Milwaukee Committee
- Paul Tittl - Representative - 25th District
- Joseph Rice
- Lena Taylor - Senator - 4th Senate District
- Jason Fields - Global Ex, LLC
- Tia Torhorst
- Michael Neitzke - Mayor - City of Greenfield
- Steve Scaffidi - Mayor - City of Oak Creek
- Brian Schopper - Greater Milwaukee Committee

- Orville Seymer - CRG Network
- Deanna Alexander - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- Alonzo Kelly

Appearances Against

- Marina Dimitrijevic - Chairwoman - Milwaukee County Board
- Evan Goyke - Representative - 18th District
- Denise Lowe
- Lennise Vickers
- Elliott Magers - Voces de la Frontera
- Linea Sundstrom
- Peter Rickman - We Are Milwaukee
- Willie Brisco
- Nicole Collazo-Santiago
- Jamie Lewis - WFNMP
- Todd Sprewer, Sr - Milwaukee
- John Pokrandt
- Martin Farrell
- John Weishan - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- Tim Carpenter - Senator - 3rd Senate District
- Nikiya Harris - Senator - 6th Senate District
- Peggy Romo West - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- David Cullen - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- Mandela Barnes - Representative - 11th Assembly District
- LaTonya Johnson - Representative - 17th Assembly District
- Chris Rockwood
- Charlie Kamps - Preserve Our Parks
- Russell Stamper, II - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- Dayvin Hallmon - Supervisor - Kenosha County
- Angela Walker - ATU Local 998
- Liz Stephens - WI Counties Association
- David Bowen - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- Theodore Lipscomb - Supervisor - Milwaukee County Board
- Khalif Rainey - Congresswoman Moore

Appearances for Information Only

- Tom Taylor - Mayor - City of Franklin
- Willie Johnson, Jr - Supervisor - Milwaukee County

Registrations For

- Leah Vukmir - Senator - 5th Senate District
- George Mitchell

Registrations Against

- Mike Sheridan - AFL-CIO
- Frederick Kessler - Representative - 12th Assembly District
- Josh Zepnick - Representative - 9th Assembly District
- Mark Wadium - Outagamie County Board of Supervisors
- Susan McMurray - AFSCME
- JoCasta Zamarripa - Representative - 8th Assembly District
- Rhonda Willette
- Jon Richards - Representative - 19th Assembly District
- Nichole Yunk Todd
- Douglas Cvetkovich
- Daniel Riemer - Representative - 7th Assembly District
- Carol Gruba
- Kathleen Hart
- Carrie Manson
- Craig Wentzel - Grassroots Tosa
- Chris Larson - Senator - 7th Senate District
- Steve Rasmussen - Chairman - Dunn County
- Genie Ogden
- Leon Young - Representative - 16th Assembly District
- Sandy Pasch - Representative - 10th Assembly District
- Andy Andre
- Regina Harmon
- Tiaira Turner
- Kathleen Lidwin
- Thomas Mueller - Father - MICAH
- Peter Mischke
- Martha Pincus
- Jason Haas
- Don Wescher
- Mike Wilder

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 11, 2013

Executive Session Held

Present: (9) Representative August; Representatives Craig, Knodl, Kooyenga, Hutton, Nass, Hulsey, Sinicki and Ringhand.
Absent: (0) None.
Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Knodl, seconded by Representative Nass that **Assembly Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (9) Representative August; Representatives Craig, Knodl, Kooyenga, Hutton, Nass, Hulsey, Sinicki and Ringhand.

Noes: (0) None.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 9, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Craig, seconded by Representative Hutton that **Assembly Amendment 2** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (9) Representative August; Representatives Craig, Knodl, Kooyenga, Hutton, Nass, Hulsey, Sinicki and Ringhand.

Noes: (0) None.

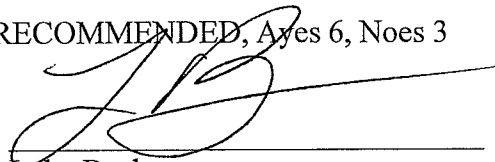
ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 9, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Craig, seconded by Representative Nass that **Assembly Bill 85** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (6) Representative August; Representatives Craig, Knodl, Kooyenga, Hutton and Nass.

Noes: (3) Representatives Hulsey, Sinicki and Ringhand.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 3



Luke Bacher
Committee Clerk

Vote Record

Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing

Date: 04/11/13

Moved by: Crews

Seconded by: Nass

AB 85

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR _____

SJR _____

Appointment _____

AR _____

SR _____

Other _____

A/S Amdt [scribble]

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
 Adoption
 Confirmation
 Concurrence
 Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction
 Rejection
 Tabling
 Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Tyler August, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative David Craig, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Stephen Nass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Daniel Knodl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Dale Kooyenga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Rob Hutton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Christine Sinicki	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Janis Ringhand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing

Date: 4/11/13

Moved by: Knodl

Seconded by: Nass

AB 85

SB

Clearinghouse Rule

AJR

SJR

Appointment

AR

SR

Other

(A/S) Amdt 1

A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt

A/S Sub Amdt

A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt

A/S Amdt

A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt

Be recommended for:

- Passage, Adoption, Confirmation, Concurrence, Indefinite Postponement, Introduction, Rejection, Tabling, Nonconcurrence

Table with columns: Committee Member, Aye, No, Absent, Not Voting. Rows include Representative Tyler August, David Craig, Stephen Nass, Daniel Knodl, Dale Kooyenga, Rob Hutton, Brett Hulsey, Christine Sinicki, and Janis Ringhand. Totals: 9.

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing

Date: 4/11/13

Moved by: Craig

Seconded by: Hutton

AB 85

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR _____

SJR _____

Appointment _____

AR _____

SR _____

Other _____

A/S Amdt 2

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

Representative Tyler August, Chair

Aye No Absent Not Voting

Representative David Craig, Vice Chair

Representative Stephen Nass

Representative Daniel Knodl

Representative Dale Kooyenga

Representative Rob Hutton

Representative Brett Hulsey

Representative Christine Sinicki

Representative Janis Ringhand

Totals:

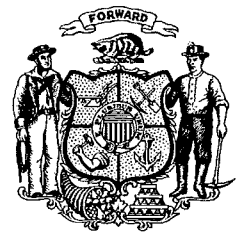
9 _____ _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



April 4, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Governance Reform Legislation

Dear Representative August and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing:

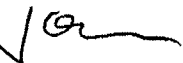
I am writing to urge you to support legislation that would align Milwaukee County with other Wisconsin counties by making Supervisors part time, pending voter input through a binding referendum, and clarifying the legislative and executive roles.

By restoring a part-time board, supervisors will be more responsive to their community. This change will increase the ability of a wide range of citizens to participate in the legislative process. As citizen-legislators, Supervisors will be able to be active members of the community, accessible and sensitive to the needs and interests of neighbors and colleagues. With a county board and staff no longer focused on micromanaging and otherwise trying to assume the administrative functions of the executive, they will have substantial resources to focus on constituent services.

We need smarter, more effective and more cost-efficient government if we are to protect and enhance the key services that make our community a great place to live, work and play. The time is right to empower citizen-legislators, by instituting a part-time county board just like every other county in the state. Making the Milwaukee County Board part-time, and bringing overall staffing in line with state and national norms, will quickly and effectively foster good governance and effectively meet the needs of taxpayers. As a result, the state's most important economic engine will be better equipped to create jobs, rather than being held back by the actions of the board.

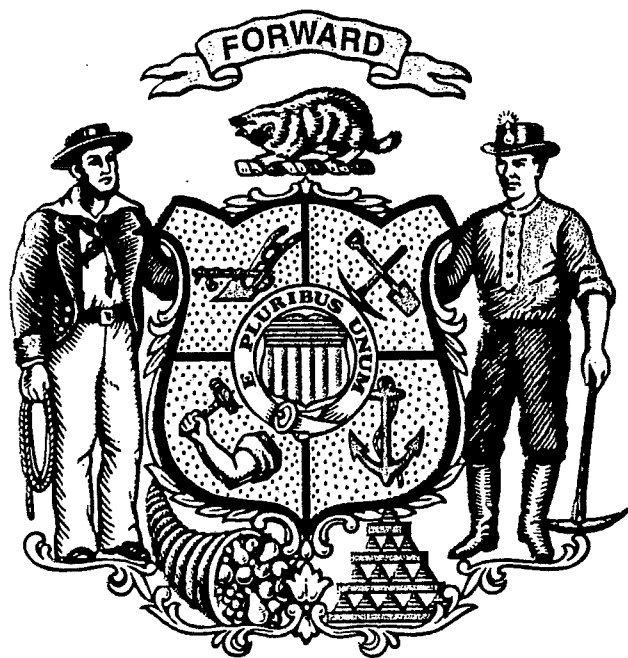
We have a unique window of opportunity to achieve true change for Milwaukee County, but we need your support. Please vote to support this legislation and the benefits it will afford current and future Milwaukee County residents, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Tom Long
6836 North Barnett Lane
Milwaukee, WI 53217

cc: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Elections & Urban Affairs



MAHLER ENTERPRISES, INC.

April 4, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Governance Reform Legislation

Dear Representative August and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing:

When Milwaukee County took on its current model of government in 1960, the board was part time. Between 1960 and the mid-1970s, that part-time board, working with County Executive John Doyne, gained national recognition for ambitious, successful projects including a new zoo, Mitchell Park Domes, the Performing Arts Center and the Regional Medical Complex. Many of the County's problems began after county supervisors, under the leadership of Tom Ament, made themselves "full time" with extensive benefits including lifetime health insurance, pensions and in 2001 the infamous pension backdrop.

No other County has the fiscal and governance challenges that Milwaukee has. The cost of Milwaukee County governance goes well beyond the dollars expended in the departmental budget. The history of dysfunction has been incredibly costly, leading to increased taxes, decreased services and an inability and unwillingness to make substantive changes that would save taxpayers money and restore county services to an excellent level. Milwaukee County has had numerous opportunities to reform itself, but has refused to do so time and time again.

This legislation is the change that is needed for Milwaukee County. It will free up additional financial resources to support the vital services provided by Milwaukee County government, including parks, transit and mental health services. I ask that you and your colleagues support this legislation and the positive changes it will bring to Milwaukee County.

Sincerely,

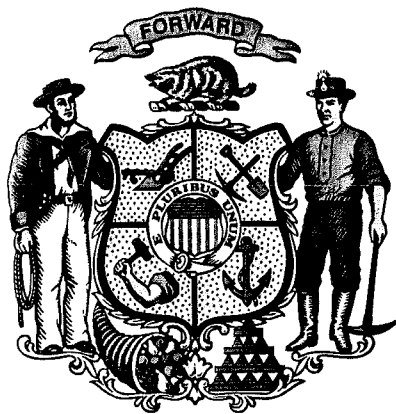


Peter Mahler
President

CC: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Elections & Urban Affairs

600 N. Broadway, Suite 200 • Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 347-1350 or (800) 943-7373 • Fax: (414) 347-1825 • www.mahlerent.com

MILWAUKEE | CHICAGO | NEW YORK | SAN FRANCISCO



Badger Meter, Inc.

4545 W. Brown Deer Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223
P.O. Box 245036
Milwaukee, WI 53224-9536 (414) 355-0400

Richard A. Meeusen
Chairman, President and CEO



April 4, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly, Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Governance Reform Legislation

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We need smarter, more effective and more cost-efficient government if we are to protect and enhance the key services that make our community a great place to live, work and play. The time is right to empower citizen-legislators, by instituting a part-time county board just like every other county in the state. Making the Milwaukee County Board part-time, and bringing overall staffing in line with state and national norms, will quickly and effectively foster good governance and effectively meet the needs of taxpayers. As a result, the state's most important economic engine will be better equipped to create jobs, rather than being held back by the actions of the board.

We have a unique window of opportunity to achieve true change for Milwaukee County, but we need your support. Please vote to support this legislation and the benefits it will afford current and future Milwaukee County residents and taxpayers.

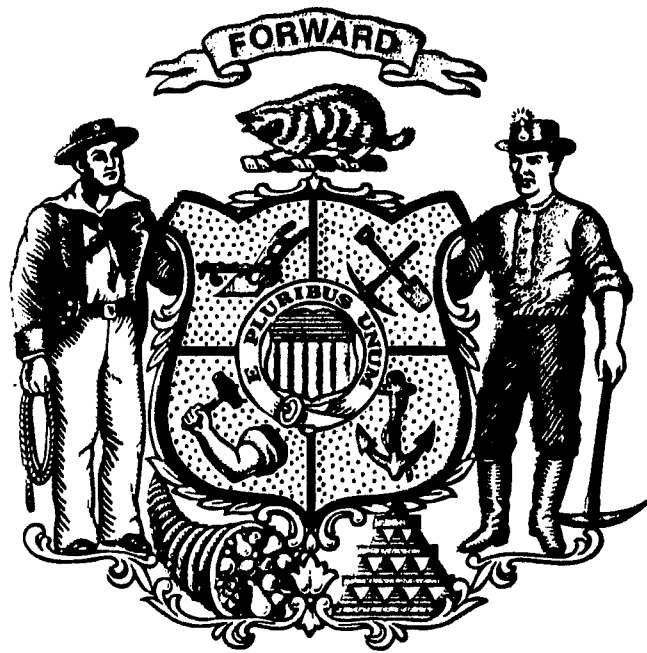
Sincerely,

BADGER METER, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Meeusen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard A. Meeusen
Chairman, President and CEO

cc: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs



HUSCO INTERNATIONAL

AUSTIN M. RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT AND CEO

April 4, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Governance Reform Legislation

Dear Representative August and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing:

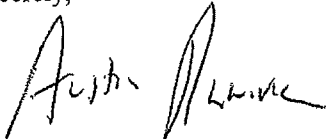
I am writing to urge you to support legislation that would align Milwaukee County with other Wisconsin counties by making Supervisors part time, pending voter input through a binding referendum, and clarifying the legislative and executive roles.

By restoring a part-time board, supervisors will be more responsive to their community. This change will increase the ability of a wide range of citizens to participate in the legislative process. As citizen-legislators, Supervisors will be able to be active members of the community, accessible and sensitive to the needs and interests of neighbors and colleagues. With a county board and staff no longer focused on micromanaging and otherwise trying to assume the administrative functions of the executive, they will have substantial resources to focus on constituent services.

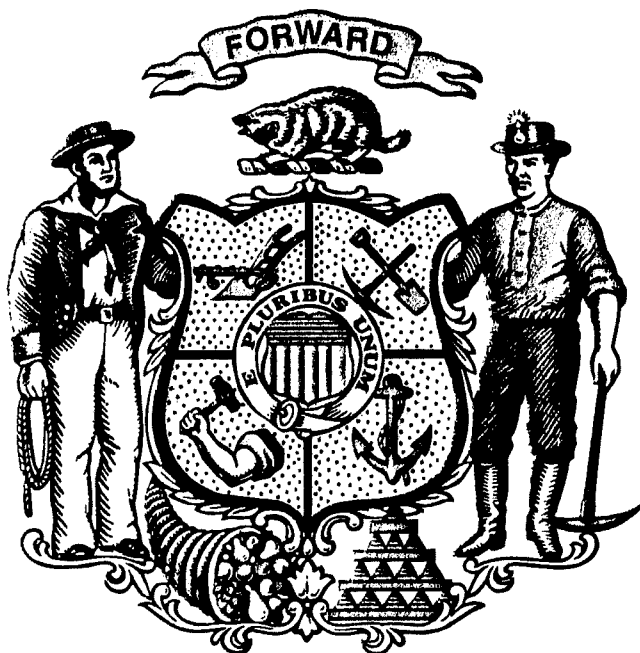
We need smarter, more effective and more cost-efficient government if we are to protect and enhance the key services that make our community a great place to live, work and play. The time is right to empower citizen-legislators, by instituting a part-time county board just like every other county in the state. Making the Milwaukee County Board part-time, and bringing overall staffing in line with state and national norms, will quickly and effectively foster good governance and effectively meet the needs of taxpayers. As a result, the state's most important economic engine will be better equipped to create jobs, rather than being held back by the actions of the board.

We have a unique window of opportunity to achieve true change for Milwaukee County, but we need your support. Please vote to support this legislation and the benefits it will afford current and future Milwaukee County residents, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,



CC: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Elections & Urban Affairs



April 5, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Governance Reform Legislation

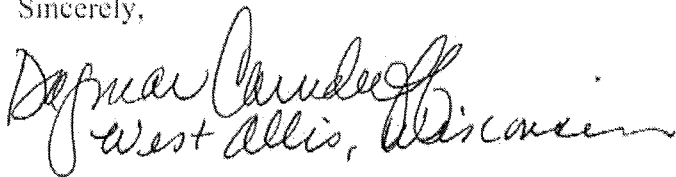
Dear Representative August and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing:

When Milwaukee County took on its current model of government in 1960, the board was part time. Between 1960 and the mid-1970s, that part-time board, working with County Executive John Doyne, gained national recognition for ambitious, successful projects including a new zoo, Mitchell Park Domes, the Performing Arts Center and the Regional Medical Complex. Many of the County's problems began after county supervisors, under the leadership of Tom Ament, made themselves "full time" with extensive benefits including lifetime health insurance, pensions and in 2001 the infamous pension backdrop.

No other County has the fiscal and governance challenges that Milwaukee has. The cost of Milwaukee County governance goes well beyond the dollars expended in the departmental budget. The history of dysfunction has been incredibly costly, leading to increased taxes, decreased services and an inability and unwillingness to make substantive changes that would save taxpayers money and restore county services to an excellent level. Milwaukee County has had numerous opportunities to reform itself, but has refused to do so time and time again.

This legislation is the change that is needed for Milwaukee County. It will free up additional financial resources to support the vital services provided by Milwaukee County government, including parks, transit and mental health services. I ask that you and your colleagues support this legislation and the positive changes it will bring to Milwaukee County.

Sincerely,

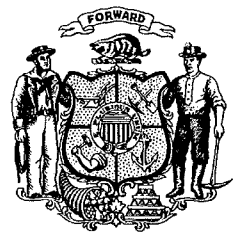


Daphne Cardeff
West Allis, Wisconsin

CC: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Elections & Urban Affairs



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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José Olivieri
Michael Best & Friedrich

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Mary Alice Tierney
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Thomas R. Ellis

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Chris Goller

PNC Bank

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First Bank Financial Centre

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Jill Winters, Ph.D., RN

Columbia College of Nursing

Deputy Director

Juan A. Ruiz

Executive Director

Ricardo Díaz

**DISTINGUISHED
BOARD MEMBER**

Rev. Jaime Davila



**CENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD UNIDA
UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER**

1028 S. 9th Street Milwaukee, WI 53204
Phone: (414) 384-3100 Fax: (414) 649-4411
Website: www.unitedcc.org

April 8, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Governance Reform Legislation

Dear Representative August and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing:

At the United Community Center (UCC), we are celebrating more than 40 years of providing quality programs and making a difference in the lives of Milwaukee youth, seniors and families. Through my time serving as Executive Director I have learned a lot. Most importantly, I have learned that actions speak louder than words and that results speak for themselves.

Unfortunately, in Milwaukee County recent results have been somewhat disheartening. For decades, we have seen the County's fiscal crisis impact the services that our community most depends on, including parks, transit and behavioral health services.

It was not always this way. There was a time that Milwaukee County achieved national recognition and completed ambitious, successful projects under a part-time board. Projects that now define Milwaukee, like the zoo, Mitchell Park Domes, the Performing Arts Center and the Regional Medical Complex were accomplished under part-time board leadership.

It is also not a coincidence that many of the County's problems began after county supervisors, under the leadership of Tom Ament, made themselves "full time" with extensive benefits including lifetime health insurance, pensions and, in 2001, the infamous pension backdrop.

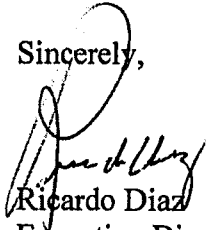
This history of dysfunction has been incredibly costly, leading to an inability to make the substantive changes that would enable us to restore and enhance critical services. Milwaukee County has had numerous opportunities to reform itself, but has refused to do so time and time again. The bottom line is that actions speak louder than words and it is time to do more than simply talk about the changes that are needed to reform Milwaukee County government. Now is the time for action.



The reforms outlined in legislation authored by former County Supervisor Joe Sanfelippo will help us get Milwaukee back on track, back to a time of prosperous, ambitious results. The individuals that we serve through the UCC deserve the best services that can be offered and leadership that is willing to do what is best for their constituents.

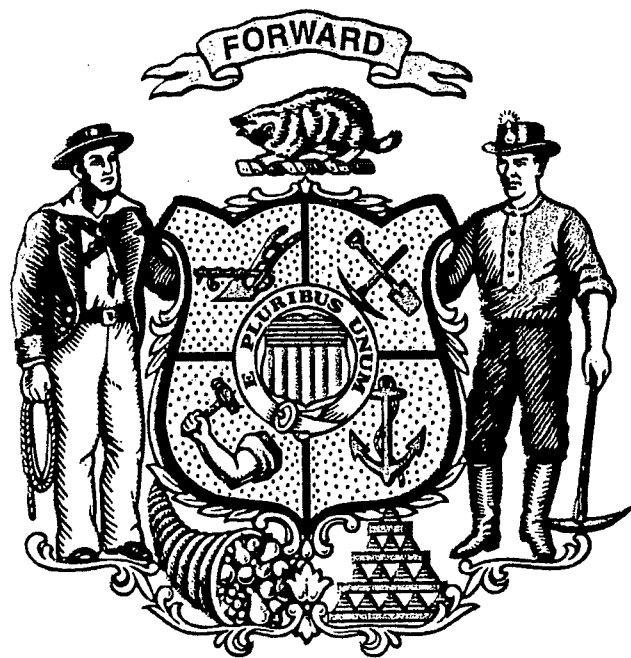
I support legislation that would reform Milwaukee County governance and the positive impacts it will have on the community. I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Diaz
Executive Director
United Community Center

CC: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Government Operations and
State Licensing
Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Elections & Urban Affairs



April 9, 2013

Representative Tyler August
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 119 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Milwaukee County Reform Legislation

Dear Representative August:

I am writing to ask you to support legislation that would help Milwaukee County by rightsizing the Supervisors' budget and by fixing the governance issues that exist in Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee's parks and transit are critical to our quality of life and economic development. Both are underfunded, in large part because of the bad managing of the county's finances. Unfortunately, citizens don't pay enough attention to Milwaukee County. As a result, Supervisors put their own needs and the needs of county employees ahead of the needs of the citizens of Milwaukee County, and then cynically claim that a referendum on their salary is not necessary because they win elections that are often uncontested and always have low turnout. It's politics at its worst.

It is obvious that Milwaukee County is not going to reform itself. Even with our economic challenges, the county could be performing much better if its elected officials consistently put the interests of the people first. This legislation helps that happen by paying Supervisors a salary commensurate with their workload and by fixing a governance structure that all but guarantees dysfunction.

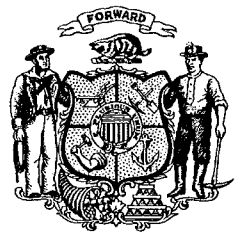
This legislation, or something like it, is a long time coming. It is rare to have the opportunity to fix a system that puts politicians ahead of the people. This legislation does that. I ask that you support it.

Thank you,

Jessica Holton
2924 N Pierce St
Milwaukee, WI 53212



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Testimony on AB 85 to the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing

Remarks as prepared for delivery

Chris Abele, County Executive

Milwaukee County

April 10, 2013

Good morning Representative August, Representative Craig and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak and thank you for holding a hearing on this important issue.

I want to start by assuring you that this change is not personal. It is not about me or anyone else currently in office. The goal is an improved system of governance that, long after we are all gone, consistently produces better results for the people of Milwaukee County.

The current lack of role clarity, through no fault of anyone currently in office, catalyzes an unproductive environment. This bill attempts to clarify the legislatures' intent, and ultimately to foster better decision-making and long-term thinking.

As you consider this important legislation, the historical context is informative. In 1970, Milwaukee County government was much bigger than it is today, with 11,000 employees and many services no longer the County's responsibility, including a county hospital, a power plant, and even our own bakery. At that time, Milwaukee County government was respected and hadn't run into the problems of a pension backdrop scandal or had the state take over troubled programs like W-2 and foster care. Also in 1970, the Milwaukee County Board was part-time and had a staff of five people.

Fast forward to 2013 and things are much different. Milwaukee County government is much smaller, with around 4,400 employees. We still provide critical services, but less of them, and we certainly do not have a shining reputation. The Board's focus on policy and oversight has also been diluted by attempts to micromanage – adding back positions managers themselves say are unneeded, refusing to let Department Heads into meetings *with that Department Head's own staff*, and even attempting to direct private businesses how to conduct their own business.

While most Supervisors are, in good faith, trying to fulfill their role as they understand it, the result of the lack of role clarity is dysfunction and unproductive friction that harms the County's ability to be effective and nimble.

Concurrent with the change in County outcomes over the past decades has been a ballooning of the Board's staff and budget. The Milwaukee County Board has a staff of 38 people and a \$6.6 million dollar budget, that significantly higher than any other county in the state. To put that into context, the Dane County Board has 3 staff members and a budget under \$900,000. Put

differently, the Milwaukee County Board's budget is 700% higher than the Dane County Board despite Milwaukee County having 19 fewer Supervisors.

This ballooning of the Board budget, as well as the reputation of the County, predates many of the members of the current Board. Nonetheless, the public's desire for significant change has not spurred local action.

The author of this bill, Representative Joe Sanfelippo, learned first-hand during his time on the Milwaukee County Board that the Board was not interested in reforming itself. He tried to get the Board to change itself locally, but was blocked at every turn. He tried to get the Board to put an advisory referendum to the voters; even that move -to hear directly from the people- was rejected. The Board's only move towards "systemic" change was to eliminate the seat of one of the only supervisors fighting for real change.

Joe didn't give up, he was able to get a question on the ballot last April in 12 municipalities. Out of the 30,000 ballots, 84% said they wanted to see the County Board change. I'm not a pollster or an elections expert, but I do know that when more than 80% of a cross section of people calls for change, something should be done.

That brings us to today.

Some opponents of this reform have tried to say that the legislature shouldn't be acting on a County issue, or that this will somehow affect the checks and balances of government. These contentions misconstrue the role of County government. As an administrative arm of the state, our role is largely to provide state and federally-mandated services.

Moreover, as someone who has fought tirelessly for decades for human rights and civil rights, I would not support something if it compromised: meaningful checks on my role; the Board's proper oversight; or the voters' power to hold their representatives, including me, accountable.

The bill before you today would make three significant changes.

- It would clarify the role of the County Board as policymakers, letting them focus on policy and oversight while allowing the County Executive and Department Heads to focus on management.
- It would right-size the County Board's staff to support their oversight mission, while saving taxpayers millions of dollars a year.
- It would let the voters decide on the salary of Supervisors, the ultimate form of local control.

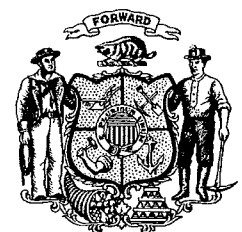
What the County needs is clarity so that we can become a high-performing organization that makes our community and our State proud.

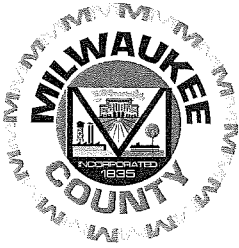
I urge the committee to pass this bill and help us put Milwaukee County on a better path.

Thank you,
Chris Abele
Milwaukee County Executive



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

David Bowen

10th District Supervisor

Testimony on Assembly Bill 85

Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing

Rep. August, Chair

April 10, 2013

Good morning, Chairman August and committee members. My name is David Bowen, and I serve as a Milwaukee County Supervisor representing the 10th District, which is on the north side of Milwaukee. I am one of 5 new Supervisors elected to the 18 member Board in 2012. This month, we will be swearing-in 2 new Supervisors. The legislative branch of Milwaukee County has turned over more than 1/3 since last term. We are the new face of the new Board.

Today, I'm here to testify against AB 85, which mandates changes to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the powers of the Board and County Executive. Many people have said that Milwaukee County is in crisis, and this legislation is needed so we can address the problems the county faces. I have even heard that Madison needs to come in and fix Milwaukee because it is broken and cannot fix itself. Let me take a moment to assure you that Milwaukee County has been taking significant steps to address its fiscal challenges over the past decade – well before the current County Executive and I were elected. We are continuing to adopt balanced budgets given the tight fiscal constraints that we, and all governments, are facing.

Milwaukee County may be best known to you as the one with the pension scandal crisis in 2001 that led to the County Executive stepping down, seven Supervisors being recalled and one department head convicted of a felony. Since that time, Milwaukee County has eliminated all of the pension enhancements to the extent that is legally possible, including rolling back the annual pension multiplier, raising the normal retirement age, eliminating early retirement eligibility and, more recently, phasing out the backdrop benefit that provided lump sum payments to employees upon retirement. With the implementation of Act 10, Milwaukee County also is able to collect one-half of the actuarially required pension contributions from employees. In January 2010, the Public Policy Forum did a report on Milwaukee County that

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included a chart projecting Milwaukee County's annual pension payments through 2015. At that time, it projected Milwaukee County would be paying \$98 million toward its pension fund in 2013. I'm happy to report that, due to the changes I've mentioned, Milwaukee County's pension obligations for 2013 are \$59 million, or 40 percent less than was projected just three years ago. Some of the credit is due to the pension obligation bonds that were issued in 2009 that, according to our Comptroller, our doing quite well. We just refinanced a portion of the original amount and due to the lower interest rates will pay more than \$103 million less in debt service over the life of these new bonds.

But the larger post-retirement obligations are related to health care expenditures. Twenty years ago Milwaukee County cut off eligibility for any post-retirement health care coverage for any employee hired after 1993. While we still have many more years to pay those obligations, we are at the point where it is expected that fewer retirees will be covered each year. Milwaukee County is one of the most aggressive local governments in the state when it comes to asking its employees and retirees to share the cost of their health care expenses. Employees and retirees in Milwaukee County are paying, in aggregate, approximately 25 percent of the total County's health care costs in 2013. That's more than twice the 12 percent goal set by the state.

But let me give you an objective fiscal rating of Milwaukee County government finances. Our bond ratings are AA, Aa2 and AA+ for Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch's, respectively. These ratings are the same or higher than the City of Milwaukee and, in the case of Fitch's, *higher* than the State of Wisconsin's bond ratings. Yes, Milwaukee County has its challenges, but please don't let people tell you that we aren't taking steps to keep our finances in order. Our tax levy has grown near the rate of inflation since 1999, and we are living within the strict tax levy limits imposed by the State.

Some people say that this legislation is needed to save money to help keep County parks and cultural assets operating. It is unclear where the savings are in this bill, as the levy is not cut, and compared to other opportunities, such as lowering the number of inmates sentenced to costly state and county detention facilities, or trying to be more efficient with the over 900 structures and facilities the county owns and operates.

Locally, we already have approved money-saving consolidations and will do more. However, this bill could block the ability of the County to achieve some future efficiencies because of a provision that requires the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC), a group of mayors representing each of the municipalities, to review and approve all intergovernmental agreements prior to implementation. For example, under this bill, the County Board's approval of a plan this year to have the City of Milwaukee answer all wireless 911 calls in the County would have been contingent to approval ICC before implementation. Undoubtedly, this provision will create more bureaucracy and opportunities to derail future cost saving measures if it is approved.

To hear others claim that the County Board is standing in the way of needed fiscal reforms is simply not true. It is a fabrication by those that simply wish to empower the County Executive and weaken the Milwaukee County Board's ability to carry out its legislative functions. Ask yourself, after a previous County Executive and his staff engineered the infamous pension scandal do we really need a more powerful County Executive and less legislative oversight?

We ask that you not support this bill, and allow Milwaukee County to make governance structure decisions on a local level. Thank you.