

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

November 8, 2010

Representative Josh Zepnick, Chair
Special Committee on Local Service Consolidation
State Capitol, 219 N.
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Zepnick,

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has adopted an amendment to next year's budget that proposes to streamline the delivery of certain Milwaukee County services. This amendment proposes the creation of a one-stop shop for customers at the Milwaukee County Courthouse by consolidating the administrative functions of three Constitutional offices into one. Specifically, this amendment advocates:

"Changes in State law and the Wisconsin Constitution to allow Milwaukee County to consolidate the functions of the County Treasurer and the Register of Deeds, which are administrative in nature, into the County Clerk's Office, and abolish the Treasurer and Register of Deeds positions. This initiative is intended as a step towards streamlining County administrative/customer service functions that currently are performed by separate constitutional offices, and potentially achieving tax levy savings."

I ask you, as Chair, to include this item relating to the consolidation of local services, in your Committee's recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council. Consolidating these offices in the manner recommended would allow Milwaukee County to operate more efficiently while still retaining public accountability for these customer service functions under the office of an elected official.

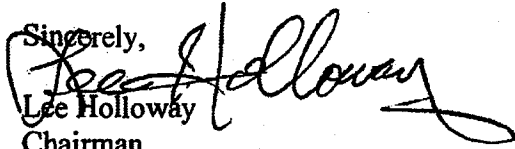
As Chairman of the Board, I am requesting this change only for Milwaukee County. In 2002, a Milwaukee County staff report on administrative services recommended the possible consolidation of these public service functions.¹ Also, in 1993 the current Milwaukee County Treasurer sponsored a resolution to make the position appointed rather than elected.² A precedent for this type of Milwaukee County specific action was set when the positions of coroner and surveyor were abolished for Wisconsin Counties with a population of 500,000 or more.

¹ July 15, 2002, Report on Department of Administrative Services (File No. 02-281)

² Journal, April 8, 1993 (File No. 93-275)

Given the state of the economy, elected officials at all levels need to demonstrate to the citizenry that they are willing to change the status quo in order to try and save taxpayers money. Please consider enacting legislation allowing Milwaukee County to abolish the positions of the Milwaukee County Treasurer and the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds and to consolidate their administrative functions into the Office of the Milwaukee County Clerk. Your support of this initiative is requested. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Holloway", written over the printed name.

Lee Holloway
Chairman,

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker
Special Committee on Local Service Consolidation, members