2010 Budget
Budget Vetoes
November 17, 2009

On Monday, I sent 35 line-item vetoes to the County Board to get our 2010 budget back to a no tax levy increase. In fact, the vetoes create a slight drop in the levy.

The vetoes cut the tax levy by allowing the county to contract out for services (in areas like housekeeping) that will save taxpayers millions. These are things done by many companies and even by other governments.

Other areas - like changes in mental health services - not only save money but also actually provide better care. They come from recommendations by clinical professionals.

They do not cut existing pools, bus routes or indigent burials. They do keep in place vital services in public safety, transportation and quality of life.

Finally, we remove federal stimulus funds from the operating budget. The Pew Center just listed the State of Wisconsin as one of the Ten Worst States for finances. This is partially because they balanced the current budget with $2.2 billion in federal stimulus funds. The county should not make the same mistake.

The final vote on the budget was 10 to 9. Not all of those nine will be open to supporting my vetoes but we just need seven votes to win.

Please take time today to call your Supervisor at 278-4222. Be courteous. Be polite. But be firm.

Ask them who they report to - the AFSCME union bosses or the taxpayers. YOU can make a difference!

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive