



2010 Recommended Budget – Wage & Benefit Reform
October 12, 2009

The Public Policy Forum's review of my 2010 recommended budget just came out (<http://www.publicpolicyforum.org/pdfs/2010CountyBudgetBrief.pdf>). In it, the authors note that the county must reform wages and benefits to remain financially sustainable into the future.

We started saying this several years ago in my Reality Tour that talked about the need to correct the legacy costs of the county. We warned that these costs are similar to the challenges faced by the automobile manufacturers.

Over 48% of the county budget goes to cover wages and benefits. My 2010 budget proposal makes major reforms in wages and benefits that not only balance the upcoming year's budget, but also prepare the county to avoid major structural deficits in future years.

As mentioned in the story yesterday on this topic, I am open to alternative ways to pursue reform. We can negotiate the specifics, but the overall objective of long-term reform must remain intact and the 2010 budget must be balanced without a tax increase.

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive