



## 2010 Recommended Budget – Union Contracts

October 15, 2009

The County Board rejected a pay-freeze contract this week with the county's largest union, which represents more than 3,000 of the county's 5,600 employees. They also approved four furlough days for this year to offset the shortfall in the 2009 budget that resulted from reduced sales tax revenues and reductions in state aid.

The votes on the various employee contracts and furlough days are a good sign that the members of the County Board recognize the true budget challenges faced by the county in 2010 and beyond.

We are faced with a shortfall of \$78 million for 2010. It's time to address wage and benefit costs which make up over 48% of the increases in the budget – and they're growing at an alarming rate.

With so many private sector workers seeing their wages and benefits frozen or cut to preserve jobs, it is hard not to expect the same from those in government. Without action on this, Milwaukee County will become insolvent.

I particularly want to thank Chairman Lee Holloway for his leadership and I look forward to working with him and the other members of the County Board as we pursue reforms that will balance the 2010 budget and insure the financial sustainability of Milwaukee County.

Scott Walker  
Milwaukee County Executive