



Responsible balance between public and private sector
wage and benefit packages
October 5, 2009

As several local TV stations reported, more than 700 people showed up at Serb Hall yesterday afternoon to rally in support of a responsible county budget for 2010. I was glad to speak to the crowd about my proposed budget that holds the line on the property tax levy and does NOT rely on a new sales tax or wheel tax.

Many of the people in attendance spoke of concerns over paying bills and the overall troubles with the economy. They wondered why any elected official would be interested in raising taxes when people throughout the county are hurting.

And they really responded when we talked about the imbalance between public and private sector wage and benefit packages. People all over the county are working at companies where they are freezing or cutting wages and where they are asking employees to pay more for benefits just to avoid more layoffs. The folks at the rally want a better balance.

I told the crowd that the best way to let their voices be heard is not to shout or push back - but to act. We encouraged each of them – just as I encourage you now – to contact your County Board Supervisors about the 2010 budget.

Scott

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive