



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I wish you and your family all the best in 2009.

Even though the weather is cold and snowy this time of year, I encourage you to use my guide to Milwaukee County attractions that are open year-round. Save money by visiting on the county resident free or reduced admission days noted inside. I've also enclosed information on ways to lower your prescription, health, and energy costs.

It is an honor to represent you on the County Board. Because your opinions count, I've enclosed a new survey asking your views on county funding priorities, plus a 2009 budget update. Your answers will help guide my votes and priorities in 2009.

A special thank-you to all who are serving in our military, to your families, and to the many volunteers who make our community a better place to live.

Your Supervisor, Lynne De Bruin, 15th District



Supervisor Lynne De Bruin
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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Lynne De Bruin

your COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425
Phone: (414) 278-4263 • Fax: (414) 223-1380 • E-mail: lynne.debruin@milwcnty.com


Supervisor De Bruin invites you to Enjoy Your Milwaukee County Attractions

CHASE presents

TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

real Objects | real stories



Now on Exhibit through May 25, 2009
Call 414-223-4676 for tickets.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

800 W. Wells St. • Milwaukee, WI 53233-1498 • www.mpm.edu

Have Some Winter Fun with Milwaukee County FREE Days!

Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents **only** with valid photo ID on the following days!

- Milwaukee Public Museum: FREE Every Monday!**
(Additional charges apply for Humphrey IMAX Dome, Daniel M. Soref Planetarium & special exhibitions)
- Mitchell Park DOMES: FREE Every Monday!**
from 9:00AM - Noon (Except major holidays)
- Milwaukee Art Museum: FREE Every Wednesday!**
(Excludes special exhibits)
- Milwaukee County Zoo: 2009 FREE Days**
January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, November 7, December 5, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day



DANIEL M SOREF
PLANETARIUM

\$2 off

Enjoy \$2.00 off admission to Daniel M. Soref Planetarium

For show times, call 414-319-4629 or visit www.mpm.edu

Redeem at Box Office only.
No cash value. Not valid for Museum or IMAX admission.
Not valid with matinee pricing, other discounts or promotions.

Expires September 30, 2009

2009 Milwaukee County Funding Priorities Survey

Your Opinion Matters!

To Mail in:
Supervisor Lynne De Bruin
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

Call in: (414) 278-4263
Fax in: (414) 223-1380

E-mail in:
lynne.debruin@milwcnty.com

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- Check the county property tax statements you agree with:
 - I do not support a county property tax levy increase for any reason.
 - I support a county property tax levy increase if it's less than, or equal to, the inflation rate.
 - I support a county property tax levy increase to preserve key programs.
- Check which Sales Tax statements you agree with:
 - I support enacting a 1% sales tax increase for parks and transit operations.
 - I do not support enacting a sales tax increase of any amount for any purpose.
 - Any sales tax increase must include mandated property tax relief.
 - I support other uses for a higher sales tax, such as city public safety costs.
- Do you support Sup. De Bruin's idea to freeze upper management salaries for 2009?
 - Yes No If other staff get increases, management should too.
- Check which statement (s) you believe should be a priority for County government during a recession.
 - The County should not raise taxes so government doesn't add to taxpayers' economic burdens.
 - The County should maintain or expand services to meet increasing community needs.
 - The County should keep family supporting jobs so the area's economy isn't hurt by more lay-offs.
 - The County should take into consideration all of the priorities above when making decisions on budget issues.
- Would you support raising taxes to prevent transit fare increases or & route cuts? Yes No
- Do you support additional privatization of county services?
 - Yes No Depends upon the service.

1% County Sales Tax Advisory Referendum Results



15th District Voters:

49.7% Approve

50.3% Oppose

Milwaukee County Voters:

52% Approve

48% Oppose

What's Next?

The State will now decide whether to grant Milwaukee County the authority to raise the county sales tax, by what amount, and if property tax relief or other restrictions will be required. If the state enacts authorizing legislation, county government will then vote on whether to actually raise the sales tax.

Others have asked that any increase be used to pay in part for other needs, such as municipal police service, multi-county transit etc. The state could decide to include some of these provisions in their authorizing legislation as well.

De Bruin Voted For:

- ✓ Reducing district tax bills (see update)
- ✓ Lowering health benefit costs
- ✓ Full parks funding
- ✓ Bringing back district bus Rte. 11
- ✓ Privatizing public assistance call center
- ✓ Building new mental health facility

De Bruin Voted Against:

- ✗ 3.12% tax increase
- ✗ Raising upper management salaries
- ✗ Raising some bus fares
- ✗ Reducing county green space
- ✗ Ending area bus Rte. 17 (Canal St.)
- ✗ 1% Sales Tax increase referendum

Supervisor De Bruin's 2009 Milwaukee County Budget Update

De Bruin votes to keep vital services without increasing your 2009 county property tax bill



The impact of the recession on district families was my top concern during the county's 2009 budget deliberations. Higher tax increases already approved by other area taxing authorities was also a key concern. My goal was to provide sufficient resources for key county services and to prevent further harm to the county parks system without raising your 2009 county tax bills. My votes met that goal.

On county budget adoption day, I voted to maintain key services without voting to raise the county's tax levy. The full county board raised the 2009 tax levy by 3.12%. About 1/3 of the County Board, myself included, voted against this increase.

After the veto session, the final Milwaukee County 2009 property tax increase became 3.1%. While I did not vote for this increase, please note that despite the increase, the 2009 county tax bills of many Wauwatosa residents will actually decrease. For a Wauwatosa home valued at \$245,000, residents on average will see a reduction in their

county tax bill of approx. \$23. By comparison, my veto session votes would have doubled this to \$46 in savings for 15th District Wauwatosa families.

City of Milwaukee residents, on average, will see their 2009 county tax bill rise slightly. County property taxes on a \$150,000 Milwaukee home, taking into account the city's average increase in assessments, will increase about \$12. My votes would have actually decreased the 2009 taxes by about \$3.

For 2009, County Executive Walker proposed widespread additional privatization to meet his zero tax levy increase pledge and to reduce the county's high costs to continue providing services in 2010 and beyond. Privatization and other cuts that made sense fiscally or programmatically earned my support as did his desire to address long term fiscal concerns.

I voted against proposals when they didn't make fiscal sense or if the Board identified ways to keep a needed service without increasing the tax levy. It makes no sense to privatize if doing so actually costs more taxpayer dollars or doesn't improve service.

In 2008 and 2007, the County Board and County Executive worked together to save hundreds of millions of dollars. I am committed to having Milwaukee County leaders do this again in 2009 and beyond.

Reducing Costs This Winter

1. Save on Your Prescriptions

To help county residents save about 20% on prescription drugs, Milwaukee County joined the National Assoc. of County's prescription drug discount card program. County residents saved over \$200,000 in 2008 by using their card at area pharmacies. There is no fee or eligibility test. Call 1-877-321-2652; or go to www.milwaukee.gov, Milwaukee County link to sign up.

2. Need health insurance?

The BadgerCare Plus program provides comprehensive & affordable health insurance to children under 19 & families who do not have other health insurance. Apply: <http://www.access.wi.gov>.

3. Lower Your Energy costs

For 13 tips on lowering your energy costs, call 1-800-762-7077. If you meet income guidelines & need help paying energy bills, WE Energies may pay for a part of your costs this winter. Call: 1-800-242-9137.

2009 Survey continued

7. Check which of the following services you believe should be privatized in 2009 beyond, if doing so saves tax dollars:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fleet maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Food service | <input type="checkbox"/> IT services (computer help) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Skilled trades (carpenters, electricians & etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway maintenance staffs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health care | <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting department functions | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic support Call Center |

8. If you support privatization, would you continue to support it if privatization actually cost more tax dollars in the short or long run? Yes No

9. If you oppose privatization, would you continue to oppose it if service levels had to be significantly cut to pay for the cost of county employees providing the service? Yes No

10. Check the following statements about parks system staffing and funding that you agree with:

- I support eliminating most full time positions and spending some of the savings on additional seasonal staff.
- I support keeping most of the full time positions and oppose turning most park operations over to seasonal staff.
- Parks maintenance funding has been cut too much; please restore some maintenance funds.
- It is okay to cut parks maintenance funding to prevent a tax increase.

11. Prioritize these services for county tax dollars. Please mark your highest priority as number one.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| ___ County law enforcement | ___ Parks system, zoo, cultural facilities | ___ Economic assistance services |
| ___ Services for at risk children | ___ Inmate job training & education | ___ Mental health care |
| ___ The county transit system | ___ County road repairs/maintenance | ___ Elderly & disabled services |

Dear Sup. De Bruin,
I want to thank you for your consistent support for us (staff serving those with mental illness) and the needs of the mentally ill. With people like you on their side, they have a voice when they can't speak up for themselves.

S. J.,
15th Dist. Resident,
Fall 2008



Need a second survey? Go to Supervisor De Bruin's web site: www.milwaukee.gov/DeBruin and follow the links to this newsletter or call 278-4263.