

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Lee Holloway

5th District Newsletter

WINTER 2009



**Milwaukee County
Board of Supervisors**

**Lee Holloway
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Chairman of the Board**

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Happy Holidays!

During the holiday season, it's important to take a moment to reflect on the past year and spend quality time with our families and other loved ones. I want to wish you and your family all the blessings the holiday season has to offer.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Milwaukee County Supervisor for another term. It has been a pleasure to represent you for the past 16 years. In April, my colleagues again elected me to serve as Chairman of the Board. Having said that, I remain, first and foremost, your 5th District County Supervisor. We have seen some success and challenges over the last year, and 2009 will be no different.

In this newsletter, I share with you some exciting news regarding employee health care costs, the Milwaukee Public Museum and the approval of November's advisory referendum, which was a major step forward in lowering your property taxes. At the same time, we hope to increase funding for parks, paramedics and mass transit, which so many people rely on to get from place to place in Milwaukee County.

It is my hope that 2009 will bring joy to your family and all of Milwaukee County. I look forward to serving as your County Supervisor, and Chairman of the Board, in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Lee" followed by a simple line drawing of a smiling face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.



Milwaukee County voters approve advisory referendum on property taxes

On November 4th, Milwaukee County voters approved an advisory referendum on whether Milwaukee County should provide property tax relief of at least \$67 million by levying a one percent sales tax to remove mass transit, parks, recreation, culture and paramedics from the property tax rolls. In the 5th District, approximately 65% voted in favor of this referendum.

Many of you already know that the transit system is in a death spiral and will not survive after 2010 without a dedicated funding source. Parks are suffering due to \$300 million in deferred maintenance costs. And we need to maintain our top-notch emergency medical services paramedic program, which is essential to County residents in life and death situations.

Approving this referendum was an important step forward because Milwaukee County is a property tax

island when compared to other places in the Midwest. Chicago and Minneapolis both have higher sales taxes (10.25% and 7.4%), but also have lower property taxes than we do. A 1% sales tax will reduce your property taxes, while still enjoying a lower sales tax than those communities. Remember that a significant portion of sales tax dollars come from people who do not live in Milwaukee County. A recent study presented to the City of Milwaukee found non-residents pay 42% of Milwaukee sales taxes.

The property tax relief plan proposed in the referendum question, if enacted in 2009, would lower the levy from approximately \$258 million to \$191 million and would reduce taxes on the average Milwaukee home by \$170. We want residents to stay here. That's why we will continue to explore ways to reduce the property tax burden on County residents.

Community	Property Tax <i>(as percentage of income)</i>	Sales Tax
Milwaukee, WI	5.9%	5.6%
Chicago, IL	4.9%	10.25%
Detroit, MI	4.4%	6.0%
Cleveland, OH	4.3%	7.75%
Pittsburgh, PA	4.2%	7.0%
Minneapolis, MN	3.5%	7.4%
Cincinnati, OH	3.2%	7.0%
St. Louis, MO	3.0%	9.241%
Kansas City, MO	2.7%	7.55%
Indianapolis, IN	2.4%	7.0%
Denver, CO	2.0%	7.72%

(Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, The Tax Foundation, and State Departments of Revenue/Taxation)

Historic Sister Cities Agreement Signing with Executive Mayor of Buffalo City, South Africa

Chairman Lee Holloway, County Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., and County Executive Scott Walker welcomed Buffalo City, South Africa, Executive Mayor Ntombentle Peter to Milwaukee County during a ceremonial signing of a Sister Cities agreement with Buffalo City, which promotes friendship and greater understanding between the two communities.

The agreement signed in the Courthouse rotunda further encourages joint efforts to promote a bridge between the people of both nations through mutually beneficial business, health, and culture exchanges, and supports development of a program of activities to strengthen the relationship. Mark Anderson, President/CEO of the Center for International Health which was founded by Milwaukee County, hosted the Buffalo City dignitaries during their stay in Milwaukee. One of the most important aspects of this Sister Cities relationship is developing an international health initiative. The goal is to build off of our history as a founding member of the Center for International Health.

Chairman Holloway approved \$7,500 in funds from County Board accounts to move the partnership forward. He also signed a contract with the Center for International Health to bring these dignitaries to Milwaukee. Milwaukee County is a full participating member of Sister Cities International, inaugurated in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower. The membership is entirely funded within the County Board's budget. In 1997, the County established a Sister Cities agreement with King Williams Town. But it was necessary to re-establish the agreement after King Williams Town merged with two other townships, East London and Bisho, and was renamed Buffalo City. Ntombentle Peter was elected as the City's first female Executive Mayor in 2006.



Milwaukee Public Museum reaches fundraising goal and makes final debt payment



The Milwaukee Public Museum has made the final payment of a \$6 million loan that was guaranteed by Milwaukee County. In 2005, after the discovery of poor fiscal management, Board Chairman Lee Holloway and County Executive Scott Walker jointly appointed a Financial Oversight Committee, to oversee the taxpayers' investment in the museum, and a Museum Recovery Committee to develop a recovery plan. In 2007, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and an anonymous donor pledged a gift of \$5 million, conditional upon the Museum raising a matching \$5 million in donations.

Early in 2008, Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) officials achieved an aggressive \$10 million fundraising goal and officially repaid the final \$480,000 of the \$6 million in loans that were arranged through Chase and M&I banks, and guaranteed by

Milwaukee County. The County helped the Museum obtain these loans and pay them off ahead of schedule. This retirement of debt shows the Museum is back on a stable path. Chairman Holloway publicly acknowledged the efforts of Museum President Dan Finley, Museum staff, and the members of the Financial Oversight Committee and Museum Recovery Committee.

With so many wonderful permanent exhibits and special events like the current Titanic exhibit and last summer's Body Worlds exhibit, the Milwaukee Public Museum has a bright future. The County Board was able to play a major role in preserving this jewel for future generations. Milwaukee County owns the Milwaukee Public Museum building and artifacts. Currently, the County provides more than \$3.5 million in direct operating funds annually to the Museum.

County to save more than \$50 million in health care costs by 2011

Milwaukee County will save \$13.5 million annually in employee medical and prescription drug costs, a savings of \$40.5 million from 2009 to 2011, through the newly-created Division of Employee Benefits. This savings is on top of the \$10 million savings achieved in 2007 by the Division, for a total savings of over \$50 million. Chairman Holloway authored the 2007 Budget Amendment that created the Division, including the creation of a Director of Employee Benefits.

The model was developed to focus specifically on controlling the County's spiraling health care costs. Chairman Holloway credits the efforts of Mr. David Arena, the County's Director of Employee Benefits, and his staff for bringing our health costs down and improving the County's financial picture in the process.

The savings were realized by issuing a request for proposals for both medical and prescription drug services for the period from 2009 through 2011. The Employee Benefits Division analyzed several providers in both areas and negotiated 3-year contracts with United Health Care for medical plans, with projected annual savings of \$11.3 million, and Medco Health Solutions for prescription drug services, saving \$2.2 million annually.

Chairman Holloway is pleased that this new division is achieving the goals the County Board had in mind when approving the Budget Amendment creating this division. These changes should go a long way toward bringing employee and retiree health costs under control.

Our Students & Seniors

Earlier this year, the County Board hosted Student Government Day as well as the Senior Statesman Program. High school students and senior citizens from around Milwaukee County met with County Supervisors and received a behind-the-scenes tour of Milwaukee County Government, including the Courts, the jail and sitting in on a County Board meeting.



Kelsey Reistad, a student at St. Joan Antida High School, met with Chairman Holloway during the County Board's 2008 Student Government Day. Marv Brozynski and Peter Goosens from the American Legion sponsored the event.



Chairman Holloway meets with Senior Statesmen to discuss the County Board's role in Milwaukee County government.

County Residents saved more than \$207,000 on prescription drugs through the first half of 2008

Savings up to 50% available to all Milwaukee County residents with no prescription drug coverage

A record number of Milwaukee County residents are taking advantage of a discount drug card offered by Milwaukee County and the National Association of Counties (NACo). The free prescription drug discount cards offer an average savings of 20% off common retail prescription prices. As of June, residents saved \$207,316 on prescription drugs since the program was launched in 2006. Milwaukee County residents are on pace to save more than \$200,000 in 2008 alone. Those savings greatly exceed what Milwaukee County pays in dues to NACo on an annual basis.

Special thanks go to former County Supervisor Richard D. Nyklewicz, Jr., who took the initiative to offer this program to Milwaukee County residents in 2006. While residents can save 20% at the pharmacy, even bigger savings can be realized through a mail order service. This program will deliver three month supplies of certain medications to you for 50% off the retail price.

No enrollment forms or membership fees are required. Regardless of age or income, any Milwaukee County resident without prescription drug coverage can receive the discount by simply showing the card at any participating pharmacy or by calling a toll-free number. To obtain a card, Milwaukee County residents can contact their County Supervisor at 278-4222. For more information about NACo's free prescription drug discount card, call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <http://naco.advancerx.com>.



Cards can also be obtained from one of the following locations:

- ▶ **Milwaukee County Board Offices**
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201
- ▶ **Department of Health & Human Services**
1220 W. Vliet Street & 1673 S. 9th Street
- ▶ **Department on Aging**
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue
- ▶ **Southside Health Clinic**
1639 S. 23rd Street
- ▶ **MLK Heritage Clinic**
2555 N. King Drive
- ▶ **16th Street Health Center**
1032 S. 16th Street
- ▶ **Clinica Latina**
1238 S. 16th Street
- ▶ **Lubsey Clinic**
5300 W. Villard Avenue
- ▶ **Milwaukee County Parks Administration**
9480 Watertown Plank Road

BadgerCare Expansion

In October, Governor Jim Doyle, Senator Lena Taylor and the Federal government reached an agreement to provide insurance coverage for Wisconsin adults that have no children. This is great news for the many people who don't have children and were left without any health care coverage. In light of the economic challenges facing Milwaukee County and the nation, helping those in need is the right thing to do.

The County Board looks forward to working with both State and Federal lawmakers to further enhance BadgerCare. Milwaukee County has led the way in providing funding to cover enrollment fees for new clients in the County's General Assistance Medical Program. Chairman Holloway hopes to enroll as many new clients as possible before January 1st, in order to transfer them to BadgerCare when it becomes available in April.

County Board Remembers Jeannetta Robinson

The members of the County Board of Supervisors were deeply saddened by the passing of community leader Jeannetta Robinson, the Founder and CEO of Career Youth Development. Our hearts and prayers go out to her many family and friends. We will miss the warm spirit and caring attitude with which she lived her life each and every day. The Milwaukee County community will never forget the helping hand she lent to one and all. The vision shared by Jeannetta and her mother, Claretta Simpson, led to the building of an organization that is vital to giving hope to those who have nowhere else to turn. She was a great soldier and had the ability to take care of those who need the help most. This vision is a true inspiration to all of us. While we will never fully replace this loss to the community, Jeannetta's legacy will live on through the thousands of lives impacted during her stay with us. May God bless her soul.

Enjoy this Coupon!

\$2 off



DANIEL M SOREF
PLANETARIUM

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

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Washington Park Family Pool Party

Chairman Holloway hosted the first annual Washington Park Family Pool Party in August. The event featured free food, family contest picnic games, 1-on-1 basketball, bounce houses, face painting, bingo and an inflatable kids obstacle course. There were also prizes and other giveaways including school supplies and gift cards for clothing and shoes. The pool party was a great event that the whole family could enjoy. Considering the high gas prices we saw this past summer, it was a plus to have a nice event right in our own backyard.

The event was sponsored in part by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Milwaukee County Parks, Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee Bucks, Green Bay Packers, MillerCoors, We Energies, Pick'n Save, Boys & Girls Clubs, V 100.7, Martin Schreiber & Associates, Mueller Communications, America's Second Harvest, The Salvation Army, Children's Hospital, Froedtert/Medical College of Wisconsin, Lowe's, Gilbane, Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition, and K&G Fashion Superstore.



Milwaukee County Board Chairman
 Lee Holloway, 5th District Supervisor
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 901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
 Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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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

Cut along here and mail your response to Chairman Holloway



MAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO:

Milwaukee County
Lee Holloway
 Chairman of the Board
 901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
 Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

You may also e-mail your response to:
lee.holloway@milwcnty.com

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Please check the following Milwaukee County items you would like to receive

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Course Discount Card Application/Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County at a Glance | <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee by Bike, On-Street Bike Routes & Off-Street Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County Transit Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee Urban Water Trail, A Canoe & Kayak Guide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks Recreational Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks Room & Building Rentals Brochure | <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee Public Museum Brochure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs in the Parks Brochure | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Leaf Trail Map | |

COMMENTS: _____

