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Supervisor Joseph Rice
Milwaukee County 6th Supervisory District
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
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Your Opinion Matters

Comments: _____

Mail your response to:

Supervisor Joseph Rice
Milwaukee County
Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

*You may also e-mail
your response to:*

JRice@milwcnty.com



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Rice's Record 2006-2007

Committee Attendance
and Voting Record

100%

County Board Meeting
Attendance

100%

Committee Assignments

Judiciary, Safety &
General Services, Vice Chair
Health and Human Needs
Economic and Community
Development

Member

Milwaukee County
Research Board, Director
Milwaukee County Ethics
Code Study Committee, Chair

How to Reach Me

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www.Milwaukee.gov/Rice

Joseph A. Rice Milwaukee County Supervisor

November, 2007

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to update you on Milwaukee County developments and my activities as your County Supervisor. This time of year marks one of our most important responsibilities – passage of a County Budget. This newsletter contains information on several budget items affecting 6th District taxpayers.

This month also contains two important holidays. Each year on November 11, our nation pauses to remember those who have honorably served in our nation's military. From the American Revolution to the current war in Iraq, generations of young men and women have fought so that we might be free. It is fitting, then, to pause and remember their tremendous sacrifices on our behalf.

Later in the month, we come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday that encourages us to reflect on our good fortune – whether in our families or as a nation.

For the first settlers, Thanksgiving was a celebration of personal and religious freedom. Today we can give thanks for those who helped create this land of limitless opportunity and hope.

Joseph A. Rice

Milwaukee County Supervisor – District 6

Join My E-mail Friends List:

Would you like to receive updates on issues and events concerning Milwaukee County? If so, I invite you to enroll in my E-mail Friends List. You can join by indicating so on the provided talk back cut-out section or by sending me an e-mail message at: JRice@milwcnty.com indicating that you would like your name to be added to the list of E-mail Friends List. Please be sure to include your name and address.

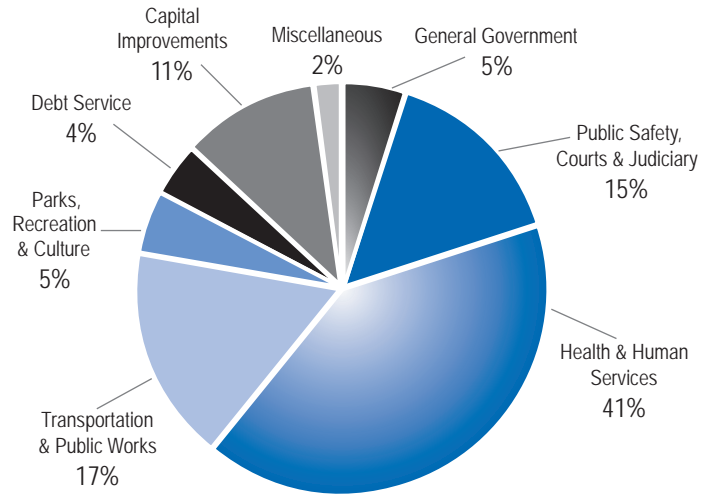
Who's Paying Milwaukee County Tax Bills?

2008 Budget Deliberations

County Executive Scott Walker presented his 2008 Recommended Budget to the County Board on September 27. Despite the increases in the amounts requested by various Milwaukee County Departments, the County Executive's budget did not raise the tax levy.

As of this writing, the County Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed budget and making changes. Recognizing that residents of the Sixth District municipalities already carry a very high tax burden (see chart below), I applaud the County Executive's efforts to refrain from additional spending and will work to make Milwaukee County an affordable place to work and reside.

2008 Budget Request by Function



County Tax Burdens By Municipality

Municipality	Net County 2006 Levy	% of Tax Levy	Population	% of Population	Tax Levy per Capita	Per Capita Rank
Bayside	\$2,435,022	1.01%	4,253	0.46%	\$572.54	3
Brown Deer	\$4,123,247	1.71%	11,586	1.27%	\$355.88	11
Fox Point	\$4,227,740	1.77%	6,705	0.73%	\$637.99	2
Greendale	\$5,346,622	2.22%	13,791	1.51%	\$387.69	8
Hales Corners	\$2,518,916	1.04%	7,566	0.83%	\$332.93	12
River Hills	\$1,891,118	0.78%	1,616	0.18%	\$1,170.25	1
Shorewood	\$5,449,950	2.26%	13,254	1.45%	\$411.19	7
West Milwaukee	\$1,212,053	0.50%	4,004	0.44%	\$302.71	14
Whitefish Bay	\$7,393,717	3.07%	13,535	1.48%	\$546.27	5
Cudahy	\$3,967,005	1.65%	18,051	1.97%	\$219.77	18
Franklin	\$13,044,922	5.41%	33,812	3.69%	\$385.81	9
Glendale	\$7,060,598	2.93%	12,811	1.40%	\$551.14	4
Greenfield	\$11,608,291	4.82%	35,444	3.87%	\$327.51	13
Milwaukee	\$114,687,012	47.58%	573,358	62.65%	\$200.03	19
Oak Creek	\$11,818,588	4.90%	32,341	3.53%	\$365.44	10
St. Francis	\$2,417,390	1.00%	8,871	0.97%	\$272.50	16
South Milwaukee	\$4,747,645	1.97%	20,716	2.26%	\$229.18	17
Wauwatosa	\$20,753,314	8.61%	44,798	4.89%	\$463.26	6
West Allis	\$16,294,697	6.76%	58,710	6.41%	\$277.55	15
Totals	\$241,047,846		915,222			

Sales Tax Increase Opposed

This Fall, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors debated the issue of increasing the sales tax in Milwaukee County by one percent. Advocates of the \$120 million tax increase suggested the matter be placed on a countywide referendum.

I opposed the idea and voted to sustain the County Executive's veto of the resolution. A sales tax increase would create a tax island in Milwaukee County and hurt retail businesses. Further, the language of the referendum failed to state the cost of the sales tax increase (\$120 million) and promised property tax relief that was speculative at best.

Voters deserve to know the price tag of a major tax increase before they are asked to intelligently express support or opposition. And when it comes to a \$120 million tax increase, great care should be taken to ensure that referendum questions are fair and complete.

Notes: Tax levy based on tax bills sent out in December of 2006 for 2007 Adopted Budget. Population from July Census data.

Rice Report

Milwaukee County Residents Have Saved More Than \$83,000 On Prescription Drugs

Discount available to all Milwaukee County residents with no strings attached

Milwaukee County residents have saved more than \$83,000 on prescription drugs since 2006, thanks to a discount drug card offered by Milwaukee County and the National Association of Counties (NACo). The program allows counties to distribute free prescription drug discount cards offering an average savings of 20% off common retail prescription prices. Those savings greatly exceed what Milwaukee County pays in dues to NACo on an annual basis.

We all know that health care costs are escalating while the number of insured people is decreasing. This benefit provides immediate, substantial relief from the high prices of prescription drugs. No enrollment forms or membership fees are required. Regardless of age or income, any Milwaukee County resident can simply show the card at any participating pharmacy.

*For more information about NACo's free prescription drug discount card, call toll free **1-877-321-2652** or visit <http://naco.advancerx.com>. Please contact my office at **278-4243** to obtain yours.*



The image shows a sample of a Milwaukee County Prescription Discount Card. At the top right is the NACo logo (National Association of Counties). The card features the Milwaukee County seal, which includes a central 'M' with a building and the text 'MILWAUKEE COUNTY INCORPORATED 1836'. To the left of the seal, the card details are listed: RXBIN: 004336, RXPCN: RXMILWI, RXGRP: RXMILWI, ISSUER: (80840), and ID: (blank). A large, diagonal watermark reading 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the card. Below the card details, it states 'This plan is not insurance.' A black banner at the bottom of the card area contains the text 'Tear off this card and start saving today!' in white. Below this banner, three key features are highlighted: 'Easy' (Simply present your card...), 'No Limits' (You and your family may use your prescription discount card any time...), and 'Extra Savings' (As part of this program you will also be eligible for higher discounts...).

Milwaukee County
Prescription Discount Card

RXBIN: 004336
RXPCN: RXMILWI
RXGRP: RXMILWI
ISSUER: (80840)
ID:

NACo National Association of Counties

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
INCORPORATED 1836

This plan is not insurance.

Tear off this card and start saving today!

Easy Simply present your card, provided to you in a joint effort of your local county government and the National Association of Counties (NACo), at a retail participating pharmacy and save an average of 20% on your prescription drugs. Finding a pharmacy is easy; 8 out of 10 pharmacies nationwide accept your discount card. No enrollment form, no membership fee, one card. Immediate use.

No Limits You and your family may use your prescription discount card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you may use your card.

Extra Savings As part of this program you will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications, as well as high-tech and injectable drugs. For details of these programs and our mail service program, which offers an average savings of 50% on a 3-month supply of select medications, call toll free **1-877-321-2652** or visit <https://naco.advancerx.com>.

Información en Español en la parte atrás del folleto

Rice Report

Reforming County Ethics

Rice-led Ethics Study Committee Issues Recommendations

After nearly a year of deliberations, the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics Study Committee has submitted a report detailing changes in the County's ethics rules.

The Committee was established on my initiative in an effort to address Ethics Code deficiencies and restore public confidence in the integrity of County government. The Committee's recommendations include the following:

- Adopt a new appointment process for the Milwaukee County Ethics Board to remove political considerations.
- Establish new rules banning political activity while engaged in official business.
- Create a "culture of compliance" by redefining ethical behavior.
- Establish a new protocol, in cooperation with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office, to identify suspected criminal violations.
- Encourage settlements in the investigation and hearing process to avoid long and expensive adversarial proceedings.
- Establish a robust ethics education and training component for all county officials.



The Committee held a public hearing on code recommendations at Marquette University Law School hosted by Mike Gousha.

- Provide sufficient budgetary resources to the Ethics Board and staff to administer and enforce the law.

Other members of the Committee included Mr. Robert Andrews, Mr. Rick Ceschin, Ms. Hannah Dugan, Mr. Charles Mulcahy, and Dr. Joan Prince. The Committee's recommendations are now in the hands of the County Board for consideration and action on recommended reforms.



Milwaukee County FREE Days!

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



2008 FREE Days

January 5, February 2, March 1,
April 5, November 1, & December 6,
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
& New Year's Day



FREE Every Monday!
\$1 off admission adult prices
on Tuesday - Sunday



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

FREE Every Wednesday!
(excludes special exhibits)



FREE Every Monday!
from 9:00AM - 11:30AM
(except major holidays)

No Milwaukee County property tax dollars are used to fund the promotion listed above.

Maintaining Needed Bus Routes

The County Executive's 2008 Recommended Budget presented a number of tough challenges to the County Board of Supervisors. One such issue was the elimination of several Milwaukee County Transit System bus routes. The route segment eliminations had the potential to be devastating for those who need or choose to take the bus to get to their workplace, school, or other destinations.

The particular routes affected in the Sixth District were Route 12 and Route 49. Route 12 was to be discontinued at Florist Avenue. The Route 49 reduction included eliminating the segment going to the Brown Deer park and ride lot.

I have worked with my colleagues to restore these bus lines since they are heavily used by workers to get to and from work. Route eliminations should not create obstacles between people and their jobs.

Oak Leaf Trail Expansion



The Milwaukee County Parks Department is currently in the planning stage of extending the Oak Leaf Trail, a bike path that will connect the trails in Brown Deer Park and Kohl Park. This 108 mile recreational trail is easily accessible by virtually all County residents. I was pleased to approve this plan to expand the trail network from Brown Deer to the Ozaukee County line.

By using federal transportation funds, we have been able to cost-effectively expand access to many of Milwaukee County's natural resource treasures. The trails are designed to support a variety of recreational activities including bicycling, jogging, skating and walking.

The Parks Department plans to hold a public hearing on the trail extension. The date and time of that hearing is still being determined.

Putting an End to Milwaukee County Pension Scandals

Recent media attention has highlighted yet another example of questionable pension benefits in Milwaukee County. In order to fully determine the legality of such actions, I co-sponsored a resolution calling for a review and investigation into all pension benefits within Milwaukee County.

The resolution passed the County Board in September and also directs the Corporation Counsel and the Director of Employee Benefits to work with the Pension Board in its review. They must report back to the County Board with their findings.

The taxpayers of Milwaukee County deserve proper administration of all benefits provided to County employees and retirees.



Supervisor Rice honored Janice Hazelwood-Zamora, currently a senior at Nicolet High School in Glendale, at the County Board's Student Government Day. Also present were Mr. Marv Brozynski and Mr. Chuck Cooney of the American Legion.



Father Jerry Herda, pastor of St. Monica Parish, delivered the invocation at a recent County Board meeting.