



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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WALKER ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LOWER TAX LEVY AGAIN
Wilson Park Event Highlights Savings for Two Milwaukee County Taxpayers

MILWAUKEE – Holding up copies of the property tax bills of two Milwaukee residents, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker highlighted the positive impact of his 2004 budget which cut the county property tax levy and announced his plans to reduce the tax levy again with the 2005 budget.

“Senior citizens and working families need a break from rising property taxes,” said Walker, “I will present a county budget for 2005 that – once again – reduces the property tax levy.”

Walker held up the property tax bills of two taxpayers from Milwaukee at a session in the Wilson Park Senior Center. Bob Bitters is a retiree who wrote to Walker last year about his concern that many older adults on his block were being forced out of their homes because of rising property tax bills. Bitters’ county portion of his tax bill went down 5.1%.

Alma Linda Ramirez is a working mother of three kids who grew up in Milwaukee and is the first in her family to own a home. She spoke to Walker at a budget briefing in the United Community Center about her concern that rising property taxes would drive her out of her home. Ramirez’s county portion of her tax bill went down 12.9%.

“Ultimately, I want to grow our tax base through more job creators instead of increasing our tax burden,” said Walker, “We can do this while still maintaining vital services for Milwaukee County residents.”

Walker noted that the 2004 county budget includes funding for senior centers, meal programs, parks operations, assistance for people with disabilities, public safety and other quality of life areas. Bitters and Ramirez were in attendance at Walker’s budget address in September and he mentioned their concerns about rising property taxes.

The 2004 county property tax levy went down 0.03% and the county property tax rate went down 6.08% to \$4.759. Two years ago, the levy went up 5.81% and the rate went down 2.84%.

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