

Budget Provides Positive Vision for Future of Glendale and Milwaukee County

People in Glendale and all across Milwaukee County want similar things from local government. They want to be safe. They want to be able to afford to live here or do business here. And they want to be proud of our county and our assets. Our 2008 county budget addresses each of these issues.

Safety: We gave the Sheriff the resources he needs to protect our parks and buses and to address violent crime throughout the county. This was built off of the success of enhanced patrols on the lakefront this summer. We also add new Parks Patrols that can go through areas like Kletzsch Park.

In addition, we put more into programs to keep our young kids out of a cycle of crime, increase supervision of offenders in the community with new GPS tracking and improve one of the best paramedic programs in the country. Public Safety is a priority in my budget.

Affordability: If taxes continued to grow at the same rate as before I got here, we'd be paying **\$43.9 million more** in taxes this year. Instead, for the 6th budget in a row, there is a 0% increase in the tax levy from the previous year. Sure, the members of the county board keep adding more levy, but I use my veto pen to get it back to zero and keep pushing for them to hold the line on taxes.

This budget was built to protect the retired couple living on Social Security, the new homeowners with a baby and the entrepreneur just branching out to start a new business. These people need to be able to afford to live, work, grow and retire in and around Glendale and within Milwaukee County.

Pride: Our budget includes a significant investment in our roads, highways, parkways and airport. We restore the transit routes that were to be eliminated and keep ParaTransit service. We push new construction and housing opportunities. We continue our health care for low-income individuals, increase long-term care for our seniors, expand FamilyCare to people with disabilities and improve care for those suffering from mental illness.

We continue our investments in the zoo, our cultural institutions and the parks. We add more than \$1.1 million in new equipment and \$12.9 million in new capital improvements to the parks – including a new aquatic center in Lincoln Park; which we hope will attract families from Glendale and surrounding neighborhoods.

In addition, our plan actually **INCREASES** the number of hours of work in the parks. We replace year-round, full-time employees with seasonal employees actually increases the total work hours in the parks by nearly 20,000.

Do you pay the kid who mows your lawn to work in December? No. Our plan just makes common sense as we allow the parks system to hire and use staff at the times when they need it most. Our plan protects the parks while protecting the taxpayer.

Business owners in Glendale have to make choices every day on how to meet a budget. Our county budget shows that one can balance the need to control taxes with the need to provide core services. We will continue to look out for the interests of the residents and businesses of Milwaukee County – and not just the special interests – in our 2008 budget.

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive