

At a time when so many people are struggling to pay bills and so many businesses are struggling to keep employees, we need to make it easier to keep people and jobs here in Milwaukee County. My vetoes eliminate any increase in the property tax levy for the 2010 budget.

As an alternative to cutting core services, my vetoes achieve savings through contracting out for services like housekeeping (just as they do in the city government in Milwaukee) and in security (just as they do in the federal buildings in Milwaukee). These vetoes will save the taxpayers millions.

In addition to saving money, many of our vetoes actually provide an improvement in services. For example, clinical staff in the Behavioral Health Division made recommendations on how to improve the quality of care. My vetoes restore those proposals made by mental health professionals.

My vetoes will also eliminate \$X,XXX,XXX included in the operating budget that came from federal stimulus funds. In my opinion, those funds should only be used for capital purchases that do not require a local match, do not create an ongoing concern and are not for operating expenditures. My vetoes keep these funds for capital purchases that meet these criteria. Using these funds in the 2010 budget for ongoing operational costs will only create a hole in 2011.

My vetoes do not alter the adjustments made by the County Board to restore the operations of the pools in the parks system and to restore all current bus lines to their existing routes. I also keep in the budget support for dog parks, Estabrook Dam funds, a confirmation requirement for the Economic Development Director and other items that are important to the members of the County Board.

Overall, you can see that my vetoes are surgical and reflect a sincere attempt to balance the budget without an increase in the property tax levy – without touching many of the important changes made to the budget by various members of the County Board.

I hope that each of you will give serious consideration to my line-item vetoes and will carefully consider a vote to uphold each veto. Thank you.