

## Economic Success

County Executive Scott Walker understands that government doesn't create jobs, people do. But he does know that government can create an environment that is better for doing business. County Executive Walker has worked to create an environment that is better for job creators.

During County Executive Walker's tenure, Milwaukee County worked with the City of Wauwatosa to attract some 2,000 jobs to the Milwaukee County Research Park as part of the expansion of GE Healthcare. Overall, the research park has added **XXX** value since he took office in 2002.

The Milwaukee County Grounds are home to numerous medical institutions. With the support of County Executive Walker, **\$XXX** million worth of new construction has been completed by the Medical College of Wisconsin, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, **Froedtert** Lutheran Hospital and the Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Milwaukee County operates General Mitchell International Airport. County Executive Walker recognizes that our airport is the front door to business leaders from around the globe. With that in mind, he and the County Board have presided over **\$200** million worth of improvements since 2002 (all without tax levy). During the past several years, the new parking structure opened, all of the concourses were remodeled and the center concession mall was redone.

During the same time, the passenger count at General Mitchell International Airport went from 5.6 million in 2002 to record-breaking levels of nearly 8 million in 2008 and 2009. Passenger counts went up by 43% in January 2010 and Mitchell is now the 28<sup>th</sup> largest airport in the country.

Under County Executive Walker's leadership, the airport has grown into a major economic engine and he has expansion plans for the future with new airlines, runways and concourses.

In turn, nearly 1,000 new jobs have been added through the airlines. The lower costs for the airlines – along with a deal made on hangars – was a key part of the reason that Republic Airlines choose to add 800 jobs in the area. Costs are much lower than Denver (where Frontier was based) and lower than the national average.

Improvements in the airport and the lower costs for airlines were major reasons for Southwest Airlines coming to Mitchell International and for the expansions done by Air Tran and by Republic.

## **Fiscal Situation**

Getting the county's finances under control is another important factor in creating an environment that is positive for business in the community. Under County Executive Scott Walker's leadership, the outstanding debt in 2012 will be 28% lower than in 2002, and the workforce has been reduced by more than 20%. Early in 2002, the bond rating for the county was given a negative outlook and that has since been lifted after enactment of several reforms (rating agencies listed the "strong fiscal management of Milwaukee County).

Walker introduced 8 straight budgets without an increase in the property tax levy from the previous year. In 2008, the county finished the year with a \$3.6 million surplus.

## **Preserving Public Safety**

Public safety is a priority for County Executive Walker. During his tenure, he worked with Sheriff David Clarke to create a Targeted Enforcement Unit that works to fight crime on buses and in parks. His budgets put total control of corrections under the Sheriff and he funded the development of a new Parks Patrol.

He also worked with District Attorney John Chisholm to create a witness protection program to insure that criminals do not intimidate those asked to testify in a case.

He also worked with the Chief Judge and other law enforcement, criminal justice and community leaders to form the Community Justice Council. This group works to consolidate resources within the system to increase public safety.

## **Transit Innovations**

Scott Walker vision for advanced transit options is coming to life with a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. His leadership provided the basis for a new East/West line from the county grounds, through downtown Milwaukee to the UWM campus. This new system with designated lanes, off-site ticketing and hybrid buses will decrease travel times and lower operating costs.

He also negotiated a plan with city and county leaders in Waukesha to improve regional transit options for riders in both counties.

## **Quality of Life**

### Building a World-Class Zoo

During his tenure, the county and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee have combined to open more than \$30 million worth of new projects at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Now, the zoo is one of the best in the country and fully accredited through the AZA.

### One of the Best Parks Systems in the US

Recently, the Milwaukee County Parks System received word they are one of four finalists for the best parks system in the county. Since starting with the county, Scott Walker hired the former state parks director to manage the system and create new partnerships.

Over the past few years, the system opened a new aquatic center, replaced playground equipment, remodeled the Washington Park band shell, reopened Bradford Beach to the public, developed new dog parks, created a off-road bike trail, expanded the Oak Leaf Trail, remodeled and illuminated the Domes, reopened the ice skating rink at Red Arrow Park, put up a new open-air pavilion at the site of the old Coast Guard station and developed hundreds of new public/private partnerships to support the parks.

## **Infrastructure Improvements**

Under Scott Walker's leadership, the county has made \$xxx million worth of capitol improvements to our assets like parks, bridges, roads, parkways, buildings and attractions.

## **Supportive Housing**

Through a partnership with the City of Milwaukee – as well as state, federal and community resources, Milwaukee County lead the efforts to create 163 more units of supportive housing for people with special needs. This was a direct result of the leadership of the County Executive and Mayor.

## **Tax-saving Vetoes**

The line-item vetoes made by County Executive Scott Walker would save local taxpayers \$XXX million.

### **Supporting our Seniors**

During Scott Walker's tenure, Milwaukee County (with the support of the state) was able to eliminate the waiting list for services needed by older adults in our community through Family Care. His director of Aging has been able to attract private funds to create major innovations in programs for older adults (like Connecting Caring Communities and Let's Take Care).

### **Finding Ways to Keep Kids Out of the System**

Since 2002, Milwaukee County has formed a number of partnerships with community-based organizations that have helped reduce the number of young people sent into the state system by XX%.

### **Honoring Our Veterans**

Every year, Scott Walker hosts (along with the American Legion this year) Operation Freedom at the zoo. The annual program provides free admission, food and beverage to military personnel, their families and veterans. All of the costs are covered by private support.

During County Executive Scott Walker's tenure, the county veterans service office moved from the basement of the courthouse to a more accessible site on the VA grounds - which increased visits to the office by XX%. He also worked with the state DVA to form a partnership to help process benefits for veterans from the area.

### **Promoting Tourism**

Scott Walker rides his Harley-Davidson Road King around Wisconsin and four other states each June to promote tourism. The tour travels close to 2,000 miles and Walker conducts over 100 interviews to highlight attractions like Summerfest, Miller Park, Lake Michigan, zoo and parks system. Visit Milwaukee (the convention and visitors bureau) estimates the media value of the trip at \$XXX,XXX).

### **Regional Cooperation**

In addition to agreements involving transit, Milwaukee County has entered into agreements with Racine County for child support services,

surrounding counties for medical examiner services, and other cities for public works projects.