

Move Forward MKE



IS MILWAUKEE COUNTY FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE?

Over the past decade, Milwaukee County has demonstrated its fiscal responsibility and utilized every tool available to make substantial changes to address the County's budget crisis. Despite these major cuts and efficiencies, there is a critical need to increase funding for Milwaukee County and its municipalities. Without a new source of revenue, the County will not be able to maintain its facilities, preserve community assets and provide the services residents have come to expect.

WHAT HAS MILWAUKEE COUNTY DONE TO BALANCE ITS BUDGET?

Balancing the last nine County budgets has required a cumulative cut of **\$280 MILLION**, utilizing tremendous efficiencies, streamlined services, and making government leaner, including:



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MANAGING OVERHEAD:

Reducing office space by 1.6M sq. ft., increasing energy efficiency and streamlining operations

SAVING
\$9.1M

REDUCING STAFF:

Reducing size of government, from around 5,500 employees to approximately 4,500

SAVING
\$116.5M

DEFERRING MAINTENANCE:

Deferring building and road repair or replacement projects

SAVING
\$34.7M

RESTRUCTURING OPEB:

Restructuring Other Post Employment Benefits

SAVING
\$40.4M

SALARY STEP FREEZES:

Freezing salaries

SAVING
\$55.4M

RESTRUCTURING WORKER'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS:

SAVING
\$3M

REQUIRING EMPLOYEE HEALTH & PENSION CONTRIBUTION:

Requiring contribution of about 6% of salary

SAVING
\$20.9M

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WHAT ABOUT MILWAUKEE COUNTY'S PENSION OBLIGATIONS?

Since 2012, Milwaukee County has considered all possible options to preserve the County's finances and address pension costs.

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CHANGES MADE FOR POST-2012 EMPLOYEES

	PRE-2001 EMPLOYEE EXAMPLE	POST-2012 EMPLOYEE EXAMPLE
County Paid Healthcare Premiums	Yes*	No
Pension Multiplier	2% (i.e. years of service* 2%* highest average annual salary)	1.6%
Employee Contribution	0%	Approximately 6% of salary
Buy-in-Buy-Back	Allowed purchase of service credits for part-time and seasonal work.	None
Backdrop	Allowed pension balance to accumulate while still working	None
25% Bonus to Final Average Salary	Yes**	None

* For employees starting before 1994
** For employees starting before 1982

THE COUNTY'S OBLIGATION TO COVER THE PENSION SYSTEM'S ANNUAL UNFUNDED LIABILITIES **HAS INCREASED BY 360 PERCENT**

DESPITE REFORMS, THE PROBLEM REMAINS

Despite years' worth of improvements, like those above, the County's pension obligations remain a critical contributor to the budget shortfall.

The unfunded liability, related to retiree benefits promised to employees in the past, is beyond current leadership's control and is backed by the State Constitution. The County's obligation to cover the pension system's annual unfunded liabilities has increased by 360 percent, from \$10.1 million in 2011 to an expected \$46.8 million in 2017. The number would have been much higher had reforms not been implemented.

