



ASSEMBLY PUBLIC HEARING OVERVIEW

On Thursday, March 5, the Wisconsin State Assembly's Ways and Means Committee will host a [public hearing](#) on [Assembly Bill 521](#). Assembly Bill 521 would give Milwaukee County voters the power to decide whether Milwaukee County and its 19 municipalities should provide property tax relief, while adequately funding public services, maintaining facilities, and investing in the future through a binding referendum process.

PROVIDING TESTIMONY

If you are interested in speaking in support of the legislation, sign up with the committee clerk when you arrive. You will be called up to the microphone when it is your turn to speak. In your testimony, consider including:

- Where you live / work and / or what organization you are representing, if applicable
- What you believe is important about the legislation (for example, reducing property taxes, addressing the funding challenges facing Milwaukee County).

Here are some key messages to consider:

- **There is a great need to provide property tax relief to Milwaukee County taxpayers.**
 - Milwaukee County's budget relies heavily on property taxes, however its sales tax is one of the lowest in the country.
 - Now is the time to rebalance our public funding mechanisms.
- **There is also a critical need to increase funding for Milwaukee County and its municipalities.**
 - Milwaukee County annually generates \$2.5 billion in tax revenue that is transferred to the State of Wisconsin, but Milwaukee County and its municipalities have received flat or declining revenue in return.
 - In 2018, Milwaukee County sent \$569M *more* to the State than it did in 2009. In the same period of time, State aid returned to Milwaukee County and its 19 municipalities *decreased* by nearly \$144M.
 - As a result, despite significant cuts and efficiencies, the County and its municipalities will no longer be able to maintain facilities, preserve community assets and provide the high-quality services residents have come to expect.
- **The best way to increase revenue, while providing much-needed property tax relief to Milwaukee County taxpayers, is to increase the Milwaukee County sales tax.**
 - We are not asking the State for more funding, we are asking for the authority to ask our voters, through a binding referendum, if Milwaukee County should increase its sales tax by 1% and provide property tax relief.
 - An increase in sales tax would generate *local* funding for *local* priorities.
- **We are asking the Wisconsin State Legislature to pass legislation that would allow us the opportunity to hold a binding referendum through which we can ask Milwaukee County voters to decide if Milwaukee County should increase its sales tax by 1% and provide property tax relief.**
 - If authorized by Milwaukee County voters, an additional 1% sales tax would generate around \$160 million annually, capturing revenue from visitors and non-county residents and bringing property tax relief to residents.
- **This is not about politics, it's about real solutions for real challenges our County is facing, and the real impact on our residents and our region as a whole.**
 - The Milwaukee community is coming together in support of this solution and we are hard at work to show our state legislators that building a better Milwaukee County means a stronger Wisconsin.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional resources and information, visit www.moveforwardmke.com