



**Department of Administration  
Intergovernmental Relations Division**

**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor

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November 17, 2014

**TO:** Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Chairman  
Judiciary and Legislation Committee  
  
Members, Judiciary and Legislation Committee

**FROM:** Jennifer Gonda, Director  
Intergovernmental Relations Division

**RE:** City of Milwaukee's 2015-16 State Legislative Package

Attached for your consideration is the proposed 2015-16 State Legislative Package for the City of Milwaukee. The proposals have been generated by city departments, Common Council members and Mayor Barrett. Together they reflect issues of importance to the City that can be addressed by the State Legislature.

This session's legislative package focuses on creating a more self-sustaining relationship between the City and the State. City priorities are organized according to the following strategic goals:

- Stabilize the City's fiscal capacity and enhance operational efficiency.
- Enhance our neighborhoods and economic well-being.
- Promote racial, social and economic equity.
- Invest in and support public safety and public health.
- Strengthen our environment, our mobility and our infrastructure.
- Maintain local control and flexibility.

Two documents are attached to this letter. The first provides the broad framework of priorities for this session's legislative effort. It also provides our staff with some broad concepts upon which we are authorized to fight for or against non-city initiated legislative proposals. As with past practice, we will continue to bring forward other legislative proposals to this committee for the authority to lobby in support or opposition.

The second document lists 156 proactive legislative and budget proposals on which our staff will work to initiate and gain passage. Please note this is an increase of 34 items, or 28%, from last session. We've included columns noting items that will be pursued in the state budget and items that are new to this session's package.

Once the Legislature convenes in January 2015, the first several months of the session will primarily be devoted to passage of the Wisconsin State Budget. We anticipate it will be introduced by the Governor in early to mid-February. The remainder of the session will run through the spring of 2016.

The legislative package that is approved by the Common Council on November 25<sup>th</sup> is intended to include all of the legislative initiatives that the Council authorizes the Intergovernmental Relations Division to pursue as of that date. Additional items that arise prior to the close of the session can be added to the package via separate resolution.

Our staff looks forward to providing you with a more complete overview of the attached package at the Judiciary and Legislation Committee meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. We welcome any questions or suggestions that may arise prior to that date.

**CC:** Mayor Tom Barrett  
City Department Heads