
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Common Council Reduces 2006 City Tax Rate By 43 Cents

After weeks of budget hearings and deliberations, the Common Council this afternoon adopted a 2006 City of Milwaukee budget with a tax rate that is 43 cents below last year's final rate.

In its final action today, the council came in \$67,000 under the \$700,000 spending ceiling laid out in the Mayor's proposed executive budget, and it means the council has adopted city budgets with flat or reduced tax rates 16 of the last 17 years.

The 2006 tax rate approved by the Common Council today is \$8.76 per \$1,000 of assessed value – a 5% reduction from the final \$9.19 tax rate for 2005. The tax levy rose 5% – going from \$203 million in 2005 to just more than \$213 million for 2006. The new tax levy means that the owner of a \$100,000 home will see a \$43 decrease in the city portion of the tax bill, from \$919 to \$876.

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. said the council worked diligently and spent many hours listening to residents' views on budgetary priorities. "Given the fact that the council was given very little room to maneuver with this budget, I believe we performed our due diligence, carried out our role with thoughtful and careful deliberation and approved a balanced budget that is fair to our taxpayers," said Ald. Hines.

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2006 Budget Adopted/ADD ONE

Ald. Michael Murphy, the council's senior member and chair of the budget-writing Finance & Personnel Committee, said the council worked through difficult fiscal circumstances and delivered a budget that is fair and responsible. "We've met the state imposed property tax 'freeze' and we're providing quality essential services to our constituents," Ald. Murphy said.

The budget now goes to Mayor Tom Barrett, who has 10 working days to issue possible vetoes.

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