



Department of Administration
Intergovernmental Relations Division

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Date: January 6, 2010

To: Members of Committee on Judiciary and Legislation

From: Jennifer Gonda, Sr. Legislative Fiscal Manager

RE: WI Department of Revenue Proposal to Implement Countywide Assessment

Last month, the Department of Revenue (DOR) rolled out a proposal to shift to a system of countywide assessment rather than the system of municipal assessment currently performed by 1,851 jurisdictions across the state.

City Assessor Mary Reavey, Pete Weissenfluh and I attended the southeastern Wisconsin town hall meeting on this matter. There are many varying opinions amongst assessors, town, village, city and county staff regarding the proposal. The DOR appears to be making a genuine effort to incorporate these comments into their proposal, without sacrificing their goals to vastly reduce the number of assessment districts and to implement statewide annual revaluations.

Although there is a preliminary bill draft, the proposal is conceptual at this point. We anticipate a revised version of the proposal based on the town hall comments. It is our understanding that the DOR is now looking at a model that would create consortiums of municipalities, rather than shifting the responsibility to county government. Under this revision, it is likely that the City of Milwaukee would be able to continue to be able to undertake its own assessments.

Please feel free to contact me at Ext. 3492 with any questions or concerns about this or other legislative efforts the Intergovernmental Relations Division is pursuing on your behalf.