
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 10, 2006

Ald. Terry Witkowski
414 286-2221

Consolidation of County-City Services On Tap For Public Meeting

Ald. Terry Witkowski to Present His Case for Advisory Referendum, Will Take Comments From Residents Monday Night

County government operations in several large metropolitan areas in the U.S. have been taken over by cities, and Ald. Terry Witkowski thinks Milwaukee is ready to weigh in on whether such a change should be studied here. Ald. Witkowski has drafted a Common Council resolution seeking an advisory referendum on the November ballot that would allow voters to indicate whether they think dissolving most or all of Milwaukee County government services is worth a closer look.

The alderman will discuss his proposal and take comments from residents during a **town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 14, 2006 at the Robert A. Anderson Municipal Building, 4001 S. 6th St., third floor. Media coverage is invited.**

Ald. Witkowski said he's heard from a "wide array" of residents and constituents who are genuinely concerned "about Milwaukee County's declining ability to provide public services in such key areas as parks, transit and law enforcement." He said a referendum would allow voters to decide whether there should be a study to determine if duplication of services exists, and if there is duplication whether it could be eliminated at a savings to taxpayers.

The proposed referendum question for the November 7, 2006 ballot states:

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Public Meeting Re: Consolidation Ballot Question/ADD ONE

“Shall the City of Milwaukee, with assistance from other units of government and other interested organizations, study the feasibility and potential cost savings of the city assuming responsibility for government functions currently performed by Milwaukee County and, if such a consolidation of functions is feasible and financially beneficial, work with the State of Wisconsin and other municipalities in Milwaukee County to dissolve the county and create a consolidated city/county form of government?”

The consolidation of city and county services and functions has been successfully implemented in major U.S. cities, including Indianapolis, Louisville and Nashville, and Ald. Witkowski said the costs savings that could result from dissolution of Milwaukee County and consolidation of services under the City of Milwaukee could go a long way in addressing metropolitan Milwaukee’s image as a high-tax area, an image which hurts the city’s ability to retain and attract businesses and residents.

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