



MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC
ALDERWOMAN, 14TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Finance and Personnel Committee

VICE-CHAIR

- Steering and Rules Committee

MEMBER

- Public Safety and Health Committee

Dear Neighbors,

It has been my great honor to represent the neighborhood in which I grew up. It is the neighborhood in which I have chosen to raise my own family for nearly 20 years. I truly thank you for your continued support in representing the city we all love and call home.

Having dedicated much of my time in local government working to improve our collective quality of life, I know firsthand how broken the funding system has been for us from the State of Wisconsin. This is true both at the county and city levels. We have consistently been seen as takers rather than givers and this failure to invest in the State's most diverse and populated region has starved us almost into extinction. In fact, we have been forced to cut essential services we all enjoy like parks, culture, transportation, and libraries. This as our sales tax dollars have contributed significantly to the billions of dollars in surplus money the State now holds.

The Republicans in Madison have micromanaged us at every opportunity and pre-empt much of the progressive policy we wish to see in our city, like higher wages and bold initiatives to help us all grow. The local government funding bill recently adopted and signed into law contains provisions that, regrettably, continue this attack on Milwaukee. This Act contains bad laws that attack our most vulnerable populations and target racial minorities. It establishes policies that are wrong and we will fight to overturn them until we win.

We cannot, however, fight this good fight if we are insolvent. After years of asking, the State has finally given us the authority to implement a 2% sales tax, a revenue generating tool that cities similar in size to Milwaukee all have access too. This tax, which would be paid by those who visit as well as live in the City, is expected to bring nearly \$193 million in new revenue annually. On a day-to-day basis, this sales tax might manifest itself as an extra ten cents on your coffee order, or seven cents per gallon of gas for your car.

These new funds will not only help us avoid devastating service cuts, they give us a chance to build a city where we can all thrive, not just survive. We can have a city where instead of filling potholes, we are repaving streets. Instead of cutting library hours, we are adding them. We can have a city where you don't have to wait for fire service if your life is threatened.

To fight that which is wrong in this legislation, we have to live to fight another day. Our children are depending on us to do the right thing today so we can fight for them tomorrow.

Next week the Common Council will begin its deliberation on approving the 2% sales tax in the city. This will be the only matter before our body for a vote in regards to the recently signed State bill. I plan to vote yes for this generational opportunity of a new investment of funds into our city and seek your feedback. Please call our office at 414-286-3769 or email us at Marina@milwaukee.gov to let us know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Marina Dimitrijevic
14th District Alderwoman