

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

June 26, 2023

City of Milwaukee Steering and Rules Committee
Milwaukee City Hall
200 E. Wells St. Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing in support of Item 230357, the 2% sales tax provision to generate an estimated \$190 million that is so needed to support vital city services in Milwaukee.

The deal struck in Madison provides a lifeline to pay for pensions, to pay for fire and police, and to free up other money to maintain and/or improve services that all other city departments provide. A *yes* vote means city services are maintained & pension obligations are funded; *no* means cuts, layoffs, scarce city services, unfunded pensions, and ultimately insolvency & bankruptcy.

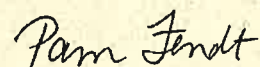
The Labor Council was in support of the previous plan to enact a sales tax in Milwaukee that was forestalled by state action years ago and the Fair Deal for Milwaukee County that was crafted in 2019.

We know we need this this local source of revenue is vitally necessary to avoid devastating cuts in City Departments and to general City employee positions. The fiscal cliff faced by both the City and Milwaukee County would put many needed services on the chopping block. We cannot move Milwaukee into a better community for all if local units of government become insolvent and face bankruptcy. Too much is at stake locally to say no.

We strongly decry the policy provisions included in the funding bill and we support City plans to challenge these in Court under Home Rule provisions. This deal has many unpalatable and egregious attachments to the shared revenue funding and the sales tax permission. The authors of those provisions show disdain for Wisconsin's biggest city with these actions.

We believe in a strong and united Milwaukee, and we urge Common Council action to make the best decision to move the City and the community forward.

Sincerely,



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