



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE KALAN HAYWOOD

June 26, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Perez, Vice Chair Dimitrijevic, and committee members. Thank you for holding this hearing today relating to the proposed increase to the city sales and use tax. I appreciate the due diligence that is being done on this topic and you all ensuring the public is a part of this process.

Thank you to the city of Milwaukee staff, both from the administration and the council, for their tremendous amount of dedication and time spent trying to prevent the looming fiscal cliff to come.

As the fiscal stewards of the city of Milwaukee, the current economic situation of the city is no secret to you all. For several budgets, you all have had to make tough decisions on how to provide the best quality of life for our constituents while still ensuring the fiscal longevity of the city. As we all know, budgetary action isn't just about the numbers on a page but more about how those numbers will impact the lives of those we represent and care about.

You may not hear it enough but thank you all for doing everything within your power to balance community needs and fiscal restraints.



I am here today in support of common council members voting in favor of approving the additional local sales and use tax authorized by the state legislature. As a Milwaukee native and lifelong resident, I have lived and seen the many challenges that arise and largely have seen the city meet those challenges under your leadership. As the main economic driver of the state and a city with only one source of tax revenue, circumstances over the past couple of decades have left difficult choices to be made year after year, and assistance was needed from the state.

While it wasn't without its pain points, I supported 2023 Act 12 and fought to get Milwaukee the fiscal tools it needed. Levying this tax will give the city the ability to raise local revenues to be reinvested into our community to address pension costs and to sustain investments needed to allow for our city workers to stay employed, our libraries to stay open, our efforts to uplift residents to stay the course, and our desire to address public safety challenges.

As a State Representative, I understand the difficulty in asking people to give more. We are elected to make choices for the good of the people, even when those choices are hard and unpopular. I strongly believe in local control so that people can be involved and make decisions directly affecting them. This is an opportunity to set our financial future on a better course.

I implore the council to make the tough but right decision to change our economic course and prevent the city from falling off the fiscal cliff. I also ask that those opposed consider the alternative. Without this increase, our path forward is unsustainable. Growth and prosperity will be stunted, inequities will grow deeper, and already existing problems facing the city will be exacerbated.

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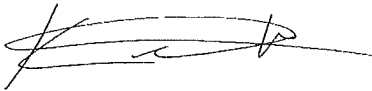
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We must do all we can at each level, whether the State, County, or City, to ensure sustained financial viability for the great city of Milwaukee. I humbly ask the council to do what is often required from us as elected officials and make the tough but right decision that will prevent our city's insolvency.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kalan Haywood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rep. Kalan Haywood

Assembly Assistant Minority Leader

Wisconsin's Sensational 16<sup>th</sup> District