



Remarks by National President Darryl Morin, Steering & Rules Committee, June 26, 2023

Dear Distinguished Members of the Milwaukee Steering and Rules Committee, my name is Darryl Morin, President of Forward Latino and I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Arizona

California

I come to share remarks on behalf of our members that live throughout the city of Milwaukee.

Colorado

Florida

Hawaii

Like many of you, our members are more than frustrated, they are angry by the overreaching provisions that accompanied the state revenue agreement. They believe they are biased, unjust and unlawful. That being said, these provisions are not part of today's sales tax discussion as they have already become law.

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

While our members have concerns that range from timely garbage collection, to fixing potholes and more, by far, their greatest concerns are crime and economic opportunity. They are concerned that if the 2% sales tax provision is not exercised, crime will increase, 911 response times will grow even longer and that businesses that were once looking to invest in Milwaukee will look elsewhere.

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

It was for their concern over crime and gun violence that we recently organized an Emergency Gun Violence Summit here in Milwaukee. We did it because our members said that something had to be done and even if they could hold a vigil every day for every shooting, each day they would be falling further and further behind.

Minnesota

Mississippi

Montana

So, in six short weeks, with no budget, we managed to bring in nationally recognized experts to Milwaukee to share facts and solutions. I want to thank the Office of Violence Prevention, the Mayor, Common Council President Perez and others from the city for participating.

Nevada

New Mexico

New Jersey

New York

There were those who said no one would come as it was during the middle of the work week. But so concerned are the residents of Milwaukee with crime and gun violence, many used a vacation day or gave up a day of pay to attend. In fact, we accidentally oversold the luncheon as tickets went so quickly and every breakout session throughout the day was standing room only. Those of you who attended can confirm this. They came to the summit because they are tired of the crime, tired of the shootings and are concerned for the lives of their children.

North Carolina

Ohio

I hate to consider what would happen should this measure not be approved, and the city is forced to lay off 700 police officers, 250 firefighters, and more than 400 employees from across the various city departments.

Oklahoma

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Texas

Let me conclude by saying I get it. No one likes the position the city is being placed in and I am certain that almost everyone would like to vote no in protest of the shared revenue provisions that are now state law. I understand. But today we are asking you to think of the families that live in Milwaukee, families that deserve to live in a city where there is a functional police department, a functional fire department and where they can access other urgently needed city services.

Virginia

Washington

West Virginia

We agree that any discussion of taxes is a serious issue. But in this case, the need could not be clearer and that is why we strongly urge you to vote yes and enact the 2% sales tax provision.

Wisconsin

Thank you all for your commitment and service to the City of Milwaukee and God bless.