
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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286-3285

Public Can Comment On Study of County-City Consolidation of Services

*Northwest Side Hearing Will Allow Comments On Possible Consolidation
Study, Advisory Referendum*

City residents will have the chance again to provide their views on whether the city should move forward with steps that could lead to a study of the pros and cons of consolidating most or all of Milwaukee County government functions within city government.

The public is invited to offer input on whether such a change should be studied further during a hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at Albright United Methodist Church, 5555 W. Capitol Dr. (parking and entry via the rear of the church property). The hearing is being hosted by Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. Media coverage is invited.

Ald. Davis said he's not taken a position on the issue and is hosting the hearing so residents can comment on it and discuss it.

Ald. Terry L. 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. 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.

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Hearing On Consolidation Ballot Question/ADD ONE

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

“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 has 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 he says hurts the city’s ability to retain and attract businesses and residents.

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