

2007-08 Legislative Session IRD Highlights

Passed 2007 Act 114 – Police Pay Legislation

- Eliminates the requirement to pay police officers who have been fired and charged with a crime.
- Eliminated the right to an automatic adjournment of a trial before the FPC
- Changed the timeframe for FPC appeal hearings.
- Expanded the membership of the FPC from 5 to 7 (or 9).

Passed 2007 Act 19 – Newark Legislation

- Repealed a harmful court decision that created a loophole for for-profit recyclers and other industries to claim property tax exemption
- Saved \$67 million in city tax base

Passed 2007 Act 227 - Great Lakes Compact

- Regulates large withdrawals, consumption, and diversions outside the Great Lakes basin.
- Helped clear the way for federal approval of the Compact.

Passed 2007 Act 86 – Board of Review Legislation

- Allows municipalities to adopt an ordinance that allows for a 60-day extension on appeals to the Board of Review, in order to create a full and accurate record.
- Upon extension, eliminates the right to a costly de novo hearing for property tax assessment appeals.

Passed 2007 Act 193 – Harm to City Inspectors Legislation

- Strengthens penalties for threatening or committing battery against city inspectors.

Amended 2007 Act 42 – Video Franchising Legislation

- Secured at least 10 amendments serving local government interests were added to the legislation.
- Included an amendment to preserve the city's 5% gross franchise fee.

2007-09 State Budget

City of Milwaukee Priorities for Conference Committee (achievements in bold)

- Shared Revenue - maintain 1.75% increase in Shared Revenue Payment per Doyle and JCF provisions. (Final Budget restored \$28 million cut proposed by the Assembly.)
- **Provide School Choice Property Tax Relief.** (Final Budget included \$17 million Poverty Initiative.)
- Summer Youth Jobs Program - provide \$500,000 per year support per Doyle, JCF and Senate.
- Community Policing Grants - provide at least \$250,000 per year to support targeted neighborhood policing per JCF, Senate.
- Tipping Fees – if the fee is increased, redirect the revenue into the local recycling grant program to offset local government recycling program costs.
- Levy Limits – maintain Doyle/Senate proposal to allow 4% plus net new construction growth. Redefine the valuation factor to include the value of any property that was tax exempt in the previous year (utility property, ATM's etc...), in addition to the value of net new construction. Also, provide a one-time exclusion from the limit for the value of TID's that are closing out. (Final Budget included 2007 limit of 3.866% and future limit of 2%. The debt exclusion was maintained but other changes were not included.)
- General Transportation Aid - increase program funding by 3% as proposed by the Senate.
- Lift Bridge Aids – provide additional funding to offset 100% of operating and maintaining lift bridges as proposed by the Senate.
- Mass Transit Aid – support increase to MCTS and other systems as proposed by the Senate
- KRM Commuter Rail – provide a dedicated source of funding for mass transit before approving a rental car fee.
- Library Aids - maintain the increased Library System Aid and Library Service Contract funding.
- School of Public Health – provide \$200,000 to study the UWM School of Public Health.
- MPS Math Initiative – maintain \$15 million program to address educational disparities as proposed by Doyle. (Final Budget included \$10 million.)
- School Safety – maintain the school safety revenue limit waiver as proposed by the Senate.
- Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program – restore funding as proposed by Doyle.

- Civil Legal Services for the Indigent – maintain the \$1,000,000 as proposed by Doyle.
- Support funding for other Milwaukee Initiatives, including funding for Milwaukee County and Milwaukee Public Schools. (Final budget included at least partial funding for many MPS/County initiatives.)

Property Tax Exemptions:

- Newark Waste Treatment Exemption Loophole – maintain the fix as proposed by Senate and Assembly (same as SB 122).
- Low Income Housing Tax Exemption – JCF provision was removed by Senate and Assembly and should not be in the budget.
- Restaurant Kitchen Equipment Exemption – delete Assembly provision to exempt restaurant equipment from the personal property tax.

Fiscal Policy Initiatives:

- Police Officer Pay after Discharge – maintain Senate proposal to end the requirement to pay Police officers after their discharge.
- Wireless 911 Cell Phone Surcharge – extend the sunset on this provision by 2 years as proposed by the Senate.
- Housing Trust Fund – restore the TIF funding proposal from Doyle's budget (was removed by JCF as policy).
- Income Assignment – maintain the Assembly provision that allows a municipal court to issue an order assigning income for payment of municipal debts.
- Car Booting – maintain the Assembly provision that would allow cities to adopt an ordinance that provides for the immobilization and impoundment of vehicles owned by habitual parking violators.
- Ballot Printing – delete the Assembly restriction on the number of ballots printed for Milwaukee.
- SE WI Freeway Reconstruction – maintain the Senate provisions that prohibit new lanes through the Wood National Cemetery and remove the enumeration of additional lanes in the Zoo Interchange project.