



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

October 25, 2018

To The Honorable, Common Council
Of the City of Milwaukee

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

I am vetoing Common Council File Number 180849. The file directs the Intergovernmental Relations Division to lobby for changes in State law that would allow the City to re-establish a Board of Estimates. I am always interested in improving the way City government works. I do not believe this proposal would improve our budget process.

I agree with the concerns expressed by Alderwoman Coggs, Alderman Kovac and Alderman Murphy. I believe the staff in the Budget and Management Division, the Comptroller's Office, and the Council's Legislative Reference Bureau are competent and capable of delivering good budgets.

The Comptroller provides a valuable third-party validation on City spending and is charged with executing key fiscal functions outside of my Administration. The Council's Finance and Personnel Committee spends a great amount of time hearing fiscal matters and communications on the City budget during the year. I appreciate the Council's attention to how the City is carrying out the services funded in the budget throughout the year.

The current division of functions creates accountable and transparent financial management. Our residents and taxpayers are well served by having key decisions on fiscal issues informed by non-appointed staff in City departments.

Our strong and stable credit ratings, well-funded pension fund and strong fiscal reserves are the evidence that the current financial planning process works well. I ask that you sustain my veto.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Mayor