

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



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**WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAN VRAKAS
PRESENTS 2010 EXECUTIVE BUDGET TO COUNTY BOARD**

WAUKESHA, Wis. – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas introduced his 2010 Executive Budget to the Waukesha County Board at its meeting this evening, September 29th at 7 p.m. Vrakas’ budget restrains tax levy spending and limits overall expenditures to 1.5%, which is below the rate of inflation.

“This budget keeps the promise I made to Waukesha County residents when I took office four years ago,” Vrakas said. “I promised to keep taxes low and provide high quality services through efficiency. I am proud that this budget keeps that promise.”

Like past years, the Executive’s proposed budget makes public safety the top priority and effectively serves at-risk individuals and families. Over sixty percent of the County tax levy is dedicated to Justice, Public Safety and Human Services in the proposed budget. Additionally, the budget continues County investment and commitment to sustainability.

“I am pleased to announce that my budget includes a federal Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant,” Vrakas said. “This grant will enable the County to continue and accelerate the implementation of our County Sustainability Plan. This funding will also allow us to create a revolving loan program to assist small businesses in Waukesha County and help them become more profitable by reducing energy costs.”

The budget effectively limits the increase in personnel costs, the largest cost to government, to 1.1%. This limit was made possible due to the elimination of funding for 15 County positions and work by County departments to identify better and more efficient ways of providing essential services.

“Vrakas Presents 2010 Budget to the County Board,” continued . . .

The 5-Year Capital Plan portion of the budget includes a number of strategic investments in County roads and buildings to maintain their safety and functionality while anticipating and planning for future growth. These projects include the Waukesha West Bypass Project, the reconstruction and widening of CTH M (North Avenue) and the widening and reconstruction of Janesville Road, which is the largest County highway project to date.

Also included are the construction of an energy efficient and sustainable Retzer Nature Center facility and the building of a secure corridor that will protect the public by separating them from inmates as they are transported from the jail to the courthouse. In addition, the 5-Year Capital Plan calls for the construction of a new Health and Human Services Center that will serve Waukesha County residents for generations to come.

A number of strategic partnerships are also included in the 2010 Executive Budget. These partnerships include the implementation of a merger between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and Veterans Services Office. This merger will help leverage resources, facilitate even more cooperative teamwork, take advantage of back office efficiencies and save County taxpayers money.

The Departments of Public Works and Parks and Land Use are working together to share expertise and utilize workforces in complementary services to increase efficiency. The Criminal Justice Collaborating Council will create a task force to examine the future of the Huber facility and its programming. Additionally, a committee will study a strategic alliance between the Airport and the Department of Public Works to identify ways to provide better service and support to airport users.

“The bottom line to all of this is how the taxpayer will be impacted,” Vrakas said. “What Waukesha County residents want to know is ‘what is happening to my tax bill?’ They want to know that we are continuing to provide high quality services while keeping taxes low.”

Vrakas said that Waukesha County residents impacted by the current recession were on his mind during the creation of the budget.

“I am pleased to say that this budget greatly limits the impact on the homeowner,” he said. “In the four years that I have had the honor and privilege to serve as your County Executive, I have kept my promise to Waukesha County taxpayers by working with you to provide low County taxes and high quality services. In fact, taxes on a typical home will have gone up by less than \$1 per year in the last four years.”

The County Board will review Vrakas’ 2010 Proposed Budget in committee with final passage expected in November.

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