

# Thomas J. Schellinger

Serving Waukesha County Board of Supervisors 20th District

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope all of you are enjoying the wonderful summer weather. On warm days I like to take advantage of the many [bike trails](#) in Waukesha County. I encourage you to visit one before the summer is over or check out one of the many other [recreational activities](#) Waukesha County has to offer.

Starting in September the Waukesha County Board will once again start our annual budget review process. This is arguably my most important duty as a County Board Supervisor. I am proud to say Waukesha County still has the lowest tax rate in the state in counties that haven't implemented a county sales tax. I am committed to keeping your taxes low while also providing high quality services. Check out some interesting facts about county government and our budget below.

Please feel free to contact me with any of your thoughts or questions. I am elected to be your voice in county government and I look forward to hearing from the taxpayers I represent.

Sincerely,

## Thomas J. Schellinger

Waukesha County Board Supervisor—District 20  
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### Follow



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### Stay Informed

The County Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month (except for November and December) at 7 p.m. in Room 350 of the Waukesha County Courthouse. You can listen to live streaming audio of the meetings by [clicking here](#).

### County Website

Check out the newly designed [Waukesha County website](#). Let me know what you think!

## What Does County Government Do?

### Public Safety



- [Sheriff Department](#)
- [Circuit Courts](#)
- [District Attorney](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Medical Examiner](#)

### Human Services



- [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#)
- [Economic Support](#)
- [Foster Care](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Public Health](#)
- [Veteran's Services](#)

### Public Works



- [Airport](#)
- [Construction](#)
- [Paving](#)

Check out this [video](#) to learn more about what counties

### Parks and Land Use



- [Parks](#)
- [Library System](#)
- [Environmental Health](#)
- [Planning and Zoning](#)
- [Recycling](#)
- [Register of Deeds](#)
- [UW Extension](#)

### Other Programs



- [Administration](#)
- [Corporation Counsel](#)
- [County Board](#)
- [County Clerk](#)
- [County Executive](#)
- [County Treasurer](#)



## County Budget Process

One of the major responsibilities of the board is to adopt the annual county budget. The annual budget process is comprised of an operating budget and a capital budget with a five-year capital plan. Waukesha County has the lowest county property tax rate among counties without a sales tax. I am committed to maintaining the outstanding level of service while respecting the county taxpayers.

To hold the line on taxes, I will continue to look for ways to establish strategic partnerships and streamline operations to achieve ongoing cost savings.

The overriding goal of the Waukesha County budget is to keep the county's spending needs and the homeowner's ability to pay in balance. The County Board uses the following budget philosophy as a guide in its review:

- Incorporate citizen and stakeholder involvement.
- Establish links to strategic planning.
- Base decisions on measurable objectives.
- Maintain best budgeting practices for stable future budgets.
- Protect the County's Aaa/AAA bond ratings.

The county board begins the budget process in September with its review of the county's capital plan. The capital budget funds non-recurring expenditures that exceed \$100,000 for improvements in the county's infrastructure, such as roads, buildings and technology. The capital plan emphasizes long term planning, as opposed to reacting to crisis situations that would be more costly in the long run. The capital plan budget describes details of each capital project, estimates the project cost and priorities, identifies funding, provides a cost/benefit or return on investment analysis, considers alternatives, and estimates the impact on the operating budget. Capital projects are funded at a minimum with a 20% down payment.

In September the county board's executive committee reviews the capital plan budget and receives feedback from the standing committees. The board considers any amendments to the capital plan at executive committee or at the October board meeting where the plan is adopted.

Standing committees begin reviewing the operating budget throughout October. Below is the schedule for the standing committees budget review. Finance committee will also review the budget in its entirety. You can stay informed by monitoring [agendas posted online](#).

- Thursday, October 1 Public Works committee 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, October 2 Judiciary and Law Enforcement committee 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, October 5 Executive committee 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 6 Land Use Parks and Environment committee 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 6 Human Resources committee 1 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday, October 8-9 Health and Human Services 8:30 a.m.

## Partnerships Save Us Money

**Joint Employee Health and Wellness Center** opened in partnership with the City and School District of Waukesha and is estimated to save Waukesha County \$3.1 million in healthcare costs over 5 years

**Joint Materials Recycling Facility** opened in partnership with the City of Milwaukee which will benefit taxpayers further by sharing the processing cost and combining material tonnage to improve profitability



Jefferson County joined the Waukesha County Federated Library System which helps reduce fixed costs and expand access to library items in both counties



Waukesha County Medical Examiner is contracting to provide services to Washington and Walworth counties which increases the department's revenues and funds a third pathologist

