

City of Milwaukee Legislative Agenda
State of Wisconsin's 2013-14 Legislative Session

“Reinvest in Milwaukee”

Milwaukee is the heart of Wisconsin's economy. It is a premiere center of advanced manufacturing, fresh water research and development, green technology, health care, biomedical technology and financial services. Milwaukee's dynamic and accessible markets attract tourism, business and investment in large and increasing numbers. Our transportation system is the backbone for statewide tourism, conventions, and commerce and is the gateway to the state's economy.

Our diverse and resilient community both supports and challenges state policy makers. Since fiscal, economic and community ties between the city and state run strong in both directions, we have identified a multitude of opportunities to invest and reinvest in Milwaukee that will reap dividends for the rest of the state. This legislative package provides numerous ways for the state to build on our interdependence and improve Milwaukee's future ability to thrive.

Key Legislative Priorities

Stabilize the City's Fiscal Capacity

- Maintain or increase all sources of intergovernmental revenue, especially shared revenue.
- Protect the city's property tax base and ensure uniform assessment practices.
- Provide more local revenue options to reduce the reliance on the property tax.
- Treat all municipal employees equitably with regard to pension and healthcare contributions.
- Ensure we receive timely and reliable financial information from the state.

Maintain Local Control and Flexibility

- Strengthen the ability of local leaders to make decisions that affect their constituents and improve local fiscal health.
- Retain local authority over conditions of employment - such as residency requirements.
- Remove legal impediments to efficiencies that are locally identified and supported.
- Ensure fair city representation on regional boards and commissions, like SEWRPC, MATC and MMSD.
- Incentivize efforts to achieve municipal service consolidations.
- Repeal or adequately fund state mandates on local governments.

Enhance our Economic Well Being

- Support job creation and training programs and economic development incentives.
- Fund local educational institutions in a manner that is conscious of educational quality and fair to our taxpayers.
- Expand the presence of state agencies and universities in the city.
- Invest in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor and other catalytic economic development opportunities.
- Improve transitions into the workplace for the recently unemployed or incarcerated.

Strengthen our Mobility and Infrastructure

- Seek additional funding to support local road and sewer improvements, with an emphasis on “fixing it first”.
- Restore or improve funding for alternative forms of mobility such as rail, transit, bicycles, and pedestrian access.
- Ensure residents have a comprehensive and safe transportation system that provides convenient and affordable access to jobs.
- Invest in the Port of Milwaukee, the Aerotropolis, and other multi-modal initiatives.

Promote Racial, Social and Economic Equity for City Residents

- Fight for living wage job opportunities for city residents, like the Milwaukee Promise.
- Reduce disparities that create obstacles to fighting poverty, such as the racial disparity in infant mortality rates.
- Remove barriers to employment and voting and prevent discrimination.
- Support programs that improve family support structures, like the Fatherhood Initiative.
- Enhance access to health insurance and programs that will improve community health.

Invest in our Neighborhoods, Public Safety and Quality of Life

- Invest in programs that support foreclosure prevention, intervention, and neighborhood stabilization.
- Support water, park and lakeshore health and overall sustainability of our environment and natural resources.
- Promote and leverage our natural assets for tourism and economic growth.
- Remove barriers to crime reduction, especially policies that encourage the proliferation of illegal guns.
- Fund and support domestic and sexual assault service programs and policies.

2013-14 State Legislative Package Proposals

| Department | Category | Proposal | Budget Item | New Item |
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| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Repeal Wis. Stat. §74.37 and possibly create a statewide Tax Tribunal for both exemption and valuation cases as an alternative to circuit court. | | |
| Assessor | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 458 to require the certification or licensure of all appraisers. | | |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §70.47 (7) (a) to allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance to create a refundable fee for objecting to a property tax assessment at the Board of Review. | | |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §70.11 (39) to delete the phrase "electronic peripheral equipment" to narrow the computer exemption to include only computers. | B | |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §70.511 to create a statute of limitations on refunds of remissions of property taxes. | | N |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §70.995 to allow 1st class cities to perform manufacturing assessments on properties located within the city. (WFA Commission) | B | |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §70.47 to require income and expense information to be submitted to the Board of Assessors, consistent with the requirement for Boards of Review. (WFA Commission) | | |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stats. §70.03 and 70.112 to clarify the taxability of triple-net leased properties and the value of licenses and permits appertaining to real property. | | |
| Assessor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §70.57 (1b) to require the Department of Revenue to provide municipalities with a preliminary determination of equalized value annually by August 1. | | N |
| City Attorney / DCD | Neighborhoods & Housing | Repeal or amend Wis. Stat. §704.44 (9) to allow landlords to terminate a lease if a crime is committed in or on rental property. (2011 Wisconsin Act 143) | | N |
| City Attorney | Administration & Finance | Repeal or amend Wis. Stat. §157.115 (1) (b) 2 which mandates that a municipality take over an abandoned cemetery, mausoleum or burial place. | | |
| City Attorney | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stats. §19.36 (6) and §19.35 (3), Wisconsin Public Records Law, to create a provision for charging requesters for a record custodian's actual and direct costs of redacting, or separating, portions of records that are not subject to public disclosure from portions that are subject to disclosure. | | |
| City Attorney | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stats. §19.31-39, Wisconsin Public Records Law, to create a schedule of fees to be charged for electronic records. | B | |
| City Attorney | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Wis. Stat. §706.05 and §846.17 to require new owners of real estate to record with the Register of Deeds within 10 business days. | | N |

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| City Clerk /City Treasurer | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 985 and §19.84 and §75.521 (6) to substitute internet posting for physical posting of agendas, notices, ordinances, tax liens, and foreclosure petitions. | | |
| City Clerk | Administration & Finance | Create Wis. Stat. §125.32 (3m) (h) to allow Class B alcohol licenses at locations where other business is conducted. | | |
| City Clerk | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §97.30 (2) (a) to allow 1st class cities to issue retail food establishment licenses at any time during the year and allow that such licenses shall be valid for one year. | | |
| City Clerk | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stats. §4.07 and §4.09 to correct ward boundary discrepancies created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 43. | | N |
| City Treasurer | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 74 to remove the ability of 1st class cities to sell land for non-payment of taxes since the City has not done this since 1947. | | N |
| Common Council | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §66.0628 to authorize 1st class cities to auction taxicab permits for payments exceeding the costs related to licensing. | | |
| Common Council | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §62.50 to grant 1st class cities the option of enacting a system where the chiefs of the fire and police departments are appointed by the Mayor. | | |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §346.60 to double fines for speeding greater than 10 miles over the speed limit. | | |
| Common Council | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §341.35 to allow municipalities to charge the motor vehicle registration fee to vehicles weighing greater than 8000 pounds. | | |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §167.10 to prohibit the possession and use of fireworks statewide, to strengthen state law for permitting of fireworks granted by the state or any local jurisdiction, to establish a penalty for fireworks violation and to establish enforcement jurisdiction where a violation occurs. (CC #070741). | | |
| Common Council | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. §71.54 to provide an annual inflationary adjustment to the Homestead Property Tax Credit Program retroactive to 2001 and to provide future annual inflation adjustments. | B | |
| Common Council | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. §234.623 to raise the income threshold to \$30,000 for the WHEDA Property Tax Deferral Loan Program. | B | |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §961.571, the Controlled Substances Act, to include flavored tobacco wrappers and rolling papers as drug paraphernalia. | | |
| Common Council | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §66.0901 (1m) to allow the use of reverse auction bidding when awarding public works project contracts. (CC #111100) | | |
| Common Council | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. §66.109 to allow for multijurisdictional Business Improvement Districts. | | N |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Limit the marketing of "Pabst Blast" and other flavored malt beverages above 8% ABV to young people. (CC #110386) | | |

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| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 218 to provide uniform statewide solid waste regulatory reform for dealing in discarded, salvageable and recyclable materials. (CC #111628) | | |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §125.68 (3) to prohibit Class A and B liquor licenses within 300 feet of a day care center. (CC #081575) | | |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat.Ch. 349 to allow school crossing guards to direct traffic at more than just school crossings. | | N |
| Common Council | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §134.65(2)(b) to authorize adoption of reasonable health, safety and welfare standards for issuance, renewal, nonrenewal, suspension and revocation of a tobacco license, including overconcentration and other adverse neighborhood effects. | | |
| Comptroller | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 812 to make the garnishment and wage assignment process more uniform and streamlined for employers. | | N |
| City Development | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 236 to allow for successive Certified Survey Maps to create industrial and commercial parcels without minimum lot areas or time constraints. | | N |
| City Development | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. §66.1105 (5) (bm) to keep property being marketed for redevelopment purposes out of a Tax Incremental District's base value. | | |
| City Development | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Wis. Stat. Chs. 704 and 846 to restore tenant protection provisions for tenants living in properties in foreclosure. | | |
| City Development | Neighborhoods & Housing | Provide funding to demolish or rehabilitate abandoned or dilapidated property. | B | N |
| City Development | Neighborhoods & Housing | Work with WHEDA and the State Legislature to secure funding from the Transform Milwaukee proposal. | B | N |
| City Development | Neighborhoods & Housing | Provide funding to support the redevelopment of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor. | B | N |
| City Development | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 703 to require that each of the condominium laws and the land division/combination laws must be complied with when creating a condominium. | | N |
| City Development | Economic Well-Being | Provide funding to support a permanent train set manufacturing facility in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor. | B | N |
| City Development | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. §66.1105 to allow for economic activity tax incremental districts. | | |
| Employee Relations | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §111.70 (4) (mc) 6. to clarify that the design and selection of health care, including co-pays and deductibles, is a non-negotiable issue for Police and Fire employees. | | N |
| Employee Relations | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stats. §63.18 through §63.53 regarding City Civil Service to delete or change outmoded and illegal references in the language of the Statute. | | |

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| Employee Relations | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 111 to prohibit retirement age as a subject of bargaining for new employees of 1st class cities. | | N |
| Employee Relations | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 103 to conform state family and medical leave law to federal family and medical leave law, specifically allowing employers to implement a different method for calculating the 12-month period of eligibility. | | N |
| Employee Relations | Administration & Finance | Create Wis. Stat. §63.275 to allow members of the fire and police departments who are regularly appointed under §62.50 to participate in transfer and promotional examinations for positions under control of the City Service Commission if they are otherwise qualified. | | |
| Neighborhood Services | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 846 to make financial institutions responsible for the same property maintenance standards as property owners when a foreclosure action is filed. | | N |
| Neighborhood Services | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 846 to request authority for the City and financial institutions to enter properties in foreclosure which meet criteria of abandonment, in order to stabilize and preserve the properties. | | N |
| Neighborhood Services | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 846 to request authority for the City to order and obtain a bank or lender's investor information when a property in its portfolio is in foreclosure. | | N |
| Neighborhood Services | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 704 to strengthen state consumer protection laws to protect consumers from unreasonable "rent to own" terms and conditions. | | N |
| Neighborhood Services | Neighborhoods & Housing | Amend Adm. Rule SPS 361.40 (1)(b) to eliminate the requirement for a licensed design professional when a building exceeds 50,000 cubic feet, and to redefine the criteria for construction projects which require the use of a design professional. | | N |
| Neighborhood Services | Neighborhoods & Housing | Work with the Dept. of Safety & Professional Services to develop memoranda of understanding allowing the city to issue variances to the uniform dwelling code and to provide annual inspections of petroleum tanks and elevators located within the City. | | N |
| Neighborhood Services | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 94 to change licensing procedures for certified pesticide applicators. (WFA Commission) | | |
| DOA | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §119.12 (6) to create a system of representation by the City Attorney that avoids legal conflicts between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public Schools. | | N |
| DOA | Neighborhoods & Housing | Create a statewide employer-assisted housing corporate income tax credit. | B | |
| DOA – Budget | Administration & Finance | Provide for an annual increase to the municipal component of the State Shared Revenue Program to be allocated as the current appropriation is allocated. | B | |
| DOA - Budget | Administration & Finance | Increase maximum liquor license fees. | | N |
| DOA – Budget | Administration & Finance | Increase the current levy limit threshold. | B | |

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| DOA – Budget | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 66 to allow for special assessments on street projects to be based upon a combination of factors to include affected street frontage, trip generation, and land use variety. | B | N |
| DOA – Environmental Sustainability | Environmental Sustainability | Create Wis. Stat. §196.01 (5) (b) 7 to exempt from public utility regulation persons who generate electricity or heat and amend §196.374(2)(a)2.f. to allow participation in renewable energy programs. | | N |
| DPW – Operations | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 287 to create a product stewardship law under the Department of Natural Resources under which multiple product classes can be considered for designation under producer-funded stewardship programs. | | N |
| DPW – Operations | Environmental Sustainability | Amend Wis. Stat. §84.07 to require the State and County to regularly mow highways and State or County owned properties as required by municipal ordinances. | B | |
| DPW – Operations | Environmental Sustainability | Provide funding to communities impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests for risk management and reforestation. | B | |
| DPW – Operations | Environmental Sustainability | Provide funding for stormwater maintenance projects, including bio swails. | B | N |
| DPW - Sewer | Environmental Sustainability | Restore the rate subsidy and level of funding for the Clean Water Fund. | B | |
| DPW - Operations | Environmental Sustainability | Provide funding for a regional single stream recycling facility for the City of Milwaukee and Waukesha County. | B | N |
| DPW - Operations | Administration & Finance | Preserve and/or expand municipal authority to collect payments in lieu of taxes from public utilities under Wis. Stat. §66.069 to include sewer and stormwater utilities. | | N |
| DPW - Operations | Environmental Sustainability | Reduce tipping fees and/or increase financial assistance for local recycling programs. | B | |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stats. Ch. 345 to authorize City of the first class to establish a time frame (180 days) to pay and/or adjudicate a parking citation. | | |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Create Wis. Stat. §349.132 to authorize cities to tow and/or boot any vehicle with 3 or more unpaid parking citations. | | |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 346 to create an inflationary increase for all parking and moving violation fines and to create the ability to increase the citation for 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , etc. offense within a calendar year and impose late payment fees. | B | N |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Modify Wis. Stat. §346.50 (22) to revise disabled parking regulations and provisions. | | |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Create authority in Wis. Stat. Ch. 349 to enable a municipality to designate 1) bike parking lots onstreet and 2) specify which kinds of vehicles may be permitted or prohibited from parking. | | N |

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| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 349 to allow license plate recognition technology to enhance enforcement of parking and vehicle requirements, such as registration. Citations would be issued via mail, rather than vehicle placement. | | N |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 349 or 346 to allow a municipality to require any vehicle legally impounded or towed to be registered prior to release. | | N |
| DPW – Parking | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §349.13 to allow parking enforcers to have the same authority as traffic officers. (WFA Commission) | | |
| Election Commission | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §6.855 to allow a municipality to designate additional satellite in-person absentee voting locations during each election. | | |
| Election Commission | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §7.30 (2) to allow a municipality to draw poll workers from the county as well as the municipality. | | |
| Election Commission | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §7.20 (2) to allow the selection of members of the Board of Election Commissioners to be a non-partisan process. | | |
| Election Commission | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stats. §6.88 and §7.52 to allow true early voting by permitting electors to place their ballots immediately into a locked ballot box prior to an election or to allow the early processing of absentee ballots. | | |
| Health Department | Community Health | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 118 to reinstate the Healthy Youth Act which provides comprehensive sex education in public education. | | |
| Health Department | Community Health | Amend Adm. Rule DHS 107.24 to include Pack 'n Plays as a piece of durable medical equipment covered under Medicaid. | B | N |
| Health Department | Community Health | Create a single funding stream from pooled Wisconsin allocated federal dollars to support early childhood mental health consultations. | B | N |
| Health Department | Community Health | Amend Adm. Rule DHS 107.13 to improve compensation to primary care physicians for time spent caring for children with mental health challenges and their family. | | N |
| Health Department | Community Health | Amend. Adm. Rule DHS 107.13 to create separate Severe Emotional Disturbances criteria for infant and young children mental health services. | | N |
| Health Department | Community Health | Provide funding to cover lead detection and removal services, materials, and/or construction purchases. | B | |
| Health Department | Community Health | Provide funding for asthma reduction. | B | N |
| Health Department | Environmental Sustainability | Provide funding for lakefront beach water quality through enhanced surveillance and testing. | B | |
| Health Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 950 (Crime Victims Rights Amendment) to provide for a victims right to be accompanied by an advocate during all stages of the criminal justice process. | | N |

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| Health Department | Crime & Public Safety | Support legislation to address the effects of interpersonal domestic violence that make restraining orders more effective, that remove guns from domestic violence perpetrators and that allow human trafficking victims to heal and rebuild their lives. | | N |
| Library | Education | Amend Wis. Stat. §86.19 to seek an exception to DOT's policy on freeway signage to allow signs to be posted for exits to the Historic Central Library. | B | |
| Library | Education | Provide funding for the Ready to Read Program. | B | N |
| Library | Education | Support the continued use of the Universal Service Fund for Statewide Library Services. | B | N |
| Library | Education | Recognize and provide funding for the Central Library as the State Resource Library to provide support for the Great Lakes Marine History Collection. | B | |
| Library | Education | Continue or increase funding for Department of Public Instruction funded library initiatives including 13% funding for Library System Aid, BadgerLink, Interlibrary Loan service and the Wisconsin Talking Books and Braille Library. | B | |
| MAWIB | Economic Well-Being | Provide funding for summer youth employment. | B | |
| MAWIB | Economic Well-Being | Provide funding for Transitional Jobs for Long Term Unemployed and exoffender Milwaukee residents providing paid work experience and job placement assistance. | B | N |
| Mayor | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §121.07 (8) to fix the funding flaw by counting pupils enrolled in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program for purposes of calculating general equalization aid. | B | |
| Municipal Court / DOA-Budget | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §814.65 (1) to increase the maximum allowable Municipal Court Fees. | | |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §236.35 to allow PSAPs to divert "non-initialized" cellular 911 calls which meet certain criteria to another entity to be dealt with administratively, rather than in an emergency fashion. | | N |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Change the format of Vehicle Registration Stickers to reduce the incidence of theft. | B | |
| Police Department | Neighborhoods & Housing | Provide funding and support for a Vacant Property Crime Reduction Pilot Project. | B | N |
| Police Department | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §48.396 to place a reasonable limit on costs imposed by the state to fund access to juvenile data. | B | N |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §19.36 to prohibit open records requests for Automated License Plate Reader data. | | N |
| Police Department | Administration & Finance | Amend Wis. Stat. §19.36 (10) to keep MPD non-substantiated discipline records of its employees confidential from open records requests. | | N |

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| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Allow for the use of Red Light Cameras for the purpose of speed, red light running and accident reduction at certain qualifying intersections. | | |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §175.60 to ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed carry permits. | | N |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §941.23 to make the possession of a concealed firearm by those currently prohibited under Wisconsin law a felony. | | N |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §175.60 to make the second and subsequent instances of possession of a concealed firearm without a permit a felony. | | N |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 175 to make the straw purchasing of a firearm a felony (2009 AB 373). | | |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 175 to prohibit felons from being within 1,000 feet of a store that sells firearms, a gun show or a firing range. | | |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 175 to require that private gun sales be subject to criminal background checks performed by a federally licensed dealer. | | |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 165 and Ch. 175 to require the timely reporting of a lost or stolen firearm and to criminalize false filing. (2009 AB 518) | | |
| Police Department | Crime & Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. Ch. 175 to memorialize the federal prohibition on felons possessing ammunition found in 18 U.S.C. 922(g). | | |
| Police Department | Crime and Public Safety | Amend Wis. Stat. §165.85 (3) and Adm. Rule LES 6 to expand the reasons for decertification and increase training standards for law enforcement officers. | | N |
| Police Department | Crime and Public Safety | Ensure that any 911/PSAP legislation provides a spot on any 911 advisory board for the City of Milwaukee, and allows municipalities to be eligible for PSAP grants. | | N |
| Police Department | Economic Well-Being | Provide funding for pole cameras to provide increased security for the 30th Street Corridor. | B | N |
| Police Department | Crime and Public Safety | Provide funding for shot spotters. | B | N |
| Police Department | Crime and Public Safety | Create parity between public and private schools in the reporting of criminal conduct. | | N |
| Port | Economic Well-Being | Amend Wis. Stat. §85.095 to provide state assistance for and/or to expand the eligibility for the DOT Harbor Assistance Program to include dock equipment and cranes as allowable purchases. (WFA Commission) | B | |