
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 31, 2007

Ald. Jim Bohl
Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 286-2221

Aldermen To Call For Public Stand Against Massive MPS Tax Hike

*Council Members Will Hold City Hall News Event to Make Plea For Citizen Unity
Against 16.4% Tax Levy Hike Ahead of Thursday Night's Scheduled MPS Board Vote*

A massive proposed tax levy increase is prompting members of the Milwaukee Common Council to take the unusual step of asking angered citizens to join them in contacting their Milwaukee Public Schools Board representatives and register their opposition to the proposed tax levy hike.

Ald. Jim Bohl and Ald. Bob Donovan, who expect to be joined by some colleagues, plan to hold a news conference at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, November 1, 2007) in the first floor Rotunda at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., calling on residents to voice their unified opposition to the MPS superintendent's proposed 16.4% property tax levy increase for next year.

Ald. Bohl said the proposed MPS tax increase is "beyond excessive." "My phone is ringing off the hook with calls from taxpayers outraged with this proposed school tax increase," said Ald. Bohl.

"Not only is an increase of this size a huge red flag to businesses thinking of expanding to Milwaukee, I'm convinced that an increase of this magnitude drives people into questioning why they live or own their businesses in Milwaukee. Further, this doesn't even account for the tremendous distress that such an increase poses on those residents who live on fixed or limited incomes," he said.

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MPS Tax Levy Increase Outrage/ADD ONE

Ald. Donovan has called for dissolving MPS and asked that Governor Jim Doyle and Mayor Tom Barrett intervene to expedite that process. He said a related radical change could also happen at the city level.

“It is entirely possible that my colleagues and I might ask that MPS be taken off the combined property tax bill (which includes several taxing entities including city, Milwaukee County, MPS, MATC and others) as a symbolic statement of our utter disappointment and disapproval of this outlandish tax increase,” Ald. Donovan said.

Ald. Bohl and Donovan said no matter the needs and wants of MPS administrators, the proposed 16.4% increase does a disservice to average, hard-working city property owners.

The MPS Board of School Directors is scheduled to vote on the proposed tax levy increase during a meeting that starts at 6:30 p.m. at the MPS central offices at 5225 W. Vliet St.

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