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Ald. Tony Zielinski
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Alderman Challenges Mayor to Debate Mayoral Control of MPS

Ald. Tony Zielinski Proposes Public Debate on Critical Governance Proposal

Ald. Tony Zielinski today invited Mayor Tom Barrett to debate publicly the mayor's proposal to allow Milwaukee's mayor to appoint the superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools and to do away with the current MPS governance structure of a publicly elected school board.

Alderman Zielinski, who last week hosted a City Hall news conference to voice opposition to mayoral control of MPS, today sent an email to Mayor Barrett inviting him to publicly debate the proposal. "Your proposal would take away the control of our schools from a duly elected body and turn that control over to the mayor and his or her hand-picked designees," Alderman Zielinski said in his email.

"The people of Milwaukee deserve a forum where they can hear more about what your proposal would mean to this community, to all who have a stake in the future of our schools – including students, parents, teachers and taxpayers," he said in the email.

"I look forward to a lively, respectful and informative debate that I believe will help preserve the democratic process," the alderman said in his email.

Alderman Zielinski said he is open and available to debate the issues with the mayor "whenever and wherever" in a public setting with a neutral moderator. "In a democracy we should be allowed to publicly debate such drastic proposals as what the mayor is putting forth, and hopefully he'll agree to my challenge," he said.

In addition to the email, this morning Alderman Zielinski personally informed Pat Curley, the mayor's chief of staff, of his debate invitation.