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TONY ZIELINSKI
ALDERMAN, 14TH DISTRICT

Opposition to streetcar gains stronger foothold

Statement of Alderman Tony Zielinski August 14, 2019

The newly elected Alderman of the 13th District (who won the special election yesterday – August 13th) – and his opponent – ran on a position of being opposed to the expansion of the streetcar.

In fact, every candidate who ran for the open 13th District seat ran as being opposed to the streetcar expansion. Each knew full well they wouldn't have a chance of being elected had they not been opposed to expanding the streetcar!

To me this reveals the immensely strong opposition to the streetcar expansion that exists broadly across the city. The average citizen sees the streetcar for the boondoggle that it is.

The mayor loves touting how many “rides” the streetcar is experiencing this summer, but you won't see him releasing any polling numbers showing how average Milwaukeeans truly view the streetcar. Those numbers wouldn't look so great for the mayor.

The election in the 13th District just puts a spotlight on the evidence of opposition among citizens to the streetcar, and with the former incumbent in the 13th District now retired (and his successor in place) the Common Council has gained yet another streetcar expansion opponent.

I'd say the mayor's expansion plans for the streetcar are now on very shaky ground.

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