
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

September 12, 2019

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 531-2096

MEDIA ALERT

Alderman Donovan urges GOP legislative leaders to use caution on sales tax ask

Alderman Bob Donovan sent a letter (**attached**) yesterday (Wednesday, September 11) to Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader **Scott Fitzgerald** and Assembly Speaker **Rep. Robin Vos** urging them to “scrutinize very carefully the recent proposal (by Mayor Tom Barrett, County Executive Chris Abele and others) to allow the communities within Milwaukee County to levy a one-percent sales tax.”

In the letter, Alderman Donovan asks that the sales tax measure be approved but urges that the enabling legislation “does as much as is possible to prevent the misuse of these funds by the administration of Mayor Barrett.” He states: “The truth of the matter is that I do not believe that this administration will properly manage this revenue or spend it on the real priorities of those I represent.”

Alderman Donovan, chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee, states in the letter that the Barrett Administration has diverted millions of federal dollars into the streetcar “and threatens now to pour millions of levy dollars into its continued operation”.

The alderman writes: “I do not know and I cannot speak to the politics and policies of the County Executive or the leaders of the many communities throughout Milwaukee County. For the City of Milwaukee, however, I ask that you do, indeed, provide the City the authority to impose this necessary tax, subject to ratification by referendum. I ask also, however, that you only do so in such a way that it cannot be mismanaged by an administration that has done little to earn my, or frankly your, trust.”

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Public Safety and Health

MEMBER

- Community and Economic Development
- Steering and Rules
- Anti-Graffiti Policy



ROBERT G. DONOVAN
ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

September 11, 2019

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald
Majority Leader, State Senate
Room 211 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Rep. Robin Vos
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 217 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Fitzgerald and Representative Vos,

In the nearly 20 years that I have been privileged to serve the City of Milwaukee, I have consistently done whatever I felt I could to ensure the City receives its fair share. Whether it be transportation aids, school funding, shared revenue, or anything else, I understand as well as anyone the connection between the revenues provided to Milwaukee and the vital services we provide to our constituents.

It may seem incongruous, then, when I urge you both to scrutinize very carefully the recent proposal to allow the communities within Milwaukee County to levy a one-percent sales tax and to ensure that the enabling legislation does as much as is possible to prevent the misuse of these funds by the administration of Mayor Barrett. The truth of the matter is that I do not believe that this administration will properly manage this revenue or spend it on the real priorities of those I represent.

The record of this administration in recent years, as evidenced by its budgets, has demonstrated an animus towards public safety, with consistent reductions in the staffing of the fire department, a refusal to maintain the sworn strength of the police department, and reductions in necessary equipment purchases -- all of which I have consistently opposed.

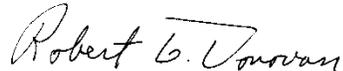
And rather than improving the quality of our infrastructure by a more aggressive paving program, he has already diverted millions of federal dollars to the Milwaukee Streetcar and threatens now to pour millions of levy dollars into its continued operation.

Our residents want safe, clean streets; timely garbage collection; an adequate supply of inspectors tasked with abating nuisances; and a robust fire/rescue service. These are not secrets. These are things the Common Council and the Mayor have been told time and time again.

I do not know and I cannot speak to the politics and policies of the County Executive or the leaders of the many communities throughout Milwaukee County. For the City of Milwaukee, however, I ask that you do, indeed, provide the City the authority to impose this necessary tax, subject to ratification by referendum. I ask also, however, that you only do so in such a way that it cannot be mismanaged by an administration that has done little to earn my, or frankly your, trust.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. You can also reach me on my cell phone at 414-531-2096.

Respectfully,



Ald. Robert G. Donovan
8th District