

e-FOOTNOTES

1st Quarter

March 2011



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President's Message

I had the opportunity to appear on WUWM's *Lake Effect* the morning after Governor Walker introduced his 2011-13 state budget. Asked for my succinct reaction, I commented that the budget was "nothing short of revolutionary." I added that from the detached perspective of a policy wonk, it would be fascinating to observe how its fiscal and policy impacts play out.



[Read on...](#)

Upcoming Events...

May 12, 2011
Viewpoint Luncheon:
Wisconsin's New Budget Paradigm: Will it help or hinder Milwaukee's economic competitiveness?
[For more information and to register click here.](#)

Salute to Local Government Awards...

Nominations are being accepted through May 6, 2011. Nominate an individual or program for awards in four separate categories as well as the "Leader of the Future" award and the "Norman N. Gill" award. For the nomination form go to: www.publicpolicyforum.org/salutenomination.php

Upcoming Reports...

April - Survey results of

Susan H. Hatch becomes Forum Chairperson



The Forum's Board of Trustees voted to install Milwaukee businesswoman Susan H. Hatch as its new chairperson at the March 16 annual meeting. Hatch becomes the first woman to chair the Forum in its 98-year history. Hatch, who has been Forum secretary for the past four years, replaces Milwaukee commercial real estate broker James T. Barry III, who is stepping down after a two-year term.

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Framing the issues facing the next Milwaukee County Executive



Special elections for open seats provide a unique opportunity for the Public Policy Forum to educate voters about the key issues and challenges facing local governments. The Forum has taken full advantage of the opportunity posed by the special election for Milwaukee County executive, releasing a Milwaukee County Executive Election Brief in late January, holding a candidates forum in early February, and authoring op ed pieces on four successive Sundays in the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Crossroads](#) section. The Election Brief summarizes the Forum's recent research on the scope and nature of key issues facing Milwaukee County

government and serves as an election primer for both voters and candidates.



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Survey probes citizens' views on protecting water resources

With the impact of last summer's floods still fresh in the minds of citizens, the Forum surveyed nearly 400 residents of the Milwaukee, Kinnickinnic, and Menomonee River watersheds to gauge their opinions on water resource issues. The survey results show opinions are mixed on the role of government

Milwaukee County child care providers
 May/June - Fiscal Condition of MMSD
 June/July- Annual report of property values and taxes in southeast Wisconsin

New Members
 American Design
 Attic Correctional Services, Inc.
 John Burgan
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 Rachel Forman
 Grant Thornton
 Catherine Madden
 Menomonee Valley Partners
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Public Policy Forum Research Brief
 Institutional Attitudes Toward Protecting the Region's Waterways
 Support for government protection, water being almost universally high

A new survey reports that citizens of Wisconsin have strong support for government protection of the region's waterways. The survey was commissioned by the Public Policy Forum and conducted by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. The survey also found that administrative agencies have an important role to play in protecting the public's water resources.

Respondents were asked a series of questions designed to assess their views on understanding of water quality issues, the extent to which they are an active water resource manager and quality issues faced by government agencies, and government action in the future. Respondents also were asked to rate the effectiveness of government action in the future.

When asked about the effectiveness of specific government actions, respondents viewed the agencies as their most effective water resource manager. There was considerable support for government action to protect water quality. Respondents also were asked to rate the effectiveness of government action in the future. Respondents also were asked to rate the effectiveness of government action in the future.

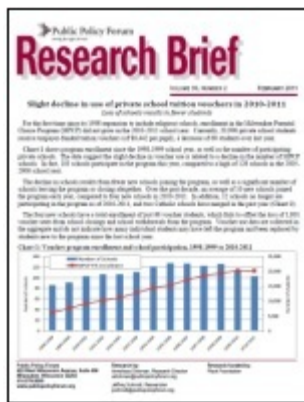
Chart 1: Effectiveness of government action in protecting water quality

Agency	Very Effective	Effective	Not Effective	Very Not Effective
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources	45%	35%	15%	5%
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation	15%	25%	45%	15%
Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Education	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Insurance	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Justice	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Public Safety	10%	20%	50%	20%
Wisconsin Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism	10%	20%	50%	20%

and the impacts of individual actions on protecting the region's waterways. The survey, which was commissioned by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, also shows that citizens rank "the quality of water in the inland lakes, rivers, and streams in southeastern Wisconsin" an average of 3.3 on a scale of 1 to 5.

[Read on...](#)

Slight decline in school voucher program enrollment



Public Policy Forum Research Brief
 Slight Decline in use of private school vouchers
 Use of vouchers remains high

The Forum's 13th annual census of schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) - released in February - finds that fewer low-income students are attending private schools in Milwaukee using taxpayer-funded tuition vouchers in 2010-2011 than in the previous school year. Currently, 20,996 private school students use taxpayer-funded tuition vouchers through the program, a decrease of 66 students from 2009-2010.

Chart 1: Number of private school students using vouchers in Milwaukee, 1999-2010

Year	Number of Students
1999	18,000
2000	18,500
2001	19,000
2002	19,500
2003	20,000
2004	20,500
2005	21,000
2006	21,500
2007	22,000
2008	22,500
2009	23,000
2010	22,934

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Administering justice in a time of transition and tight budgets



The Forum's March 16th Annual Meeting featured a presentation on a new Evidence-Based Decision-Making initiative pursued by the Milwaukee Community Criminal Justice Council, followed by a panel discussion with three of the county's top justice system leaders. Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr., District Attorney John T. Chisholm, and Circuit Court Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers discussed their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the existing justice system, opportunities for collaboration among the various justice system agencies, and how budget pressures are impacting criminal justice policy. The panel was moderated by Forum Trustee Matthew J. Parlow.

[The presentation can be accessed here.](#)
[Watch the Wisconsin Eye Network broadcast here.](#)
[Photos from the event can be seen here.](#)

Milwaukee County Executive candidates forum




More than 220 people attended the Forum's February candidate forum that focused on the election for Milwaukee County Executive. Each of the five candidates on the primary ballot - Chris Abele, Ieshuh Griffin, Lee Holloway, Jim Sullivan and Jeff Stone - participated in the Forum and responded to questions from Forum president Rob Henken, who served as moderator. Questions were based on the critical issues facing county government that were highlighted in the Forum's *2011 Milwaukee County Executive Election Brief*, released just prior to the event. The event received television coverage on Fox 6 and TMJ4, as well as print coverage in several publications. Event sponsors were Associated Bank, Baird, HNTB Corporation, Medical College of Wisconsin, and Michael, Best and Friedrich.

[2011 Milwaukee County Executive Election Brief can be accessed here.](#)
[Photos from the event can be seen here.](#)

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The Forum has joined both Facebook and Twitter.

We encourage you to "like" our [Facebook page](#) and "follow us" on Twitter [@PPFMilwaukee](#).

Forum in the News

The Forum was frequently featured in different media outlets in the 1st quarter of 2011.

[Click here for highlights.](#)
[Click here for a complete list.](#)

Forum on the Streets

Forum staff were busy disseminating research and sharing their policy insights with government and civic entities in the 1st quarter of 2011.

[Click here for highlights.](#)

Thanks for checking out the latest e-Footnotes and please don't hesitate to let us know what you think. Thanks also for your continued interest and support of the Public Policy Forum.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schmidt
Researcher/IT Director
Public Policy Forum