



# e-FOOTNOTES

2nd Quarter

July 2011



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### President's Message

At its April 11 meeting, the Intergovernmental Coordinating Council (ICC) - a body consisting of the chief elected officials from Milwaukee County's 19 municipalities and the county itself - voted to establish a new work group to explore possibilities for shared services and functional consolidation.



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### Upcoming Reports...

- July - Analysis of City of Milwaukee's revenue structure
- July - Annual report of property values and taxes in southeast Wisconsin
- July - Latest People Speak poll results
- July - 2012 Milwaukee County budget preview

### New Members

- Daniel Hoan Foundation
- Fitzgerald Consultancy LLC
- Probe Research Services, Inc.
- Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance
- Spano Pratt Executive Search

### Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)  
[Blog](#)

## 19th annual "Salute" highlights full range of local government services

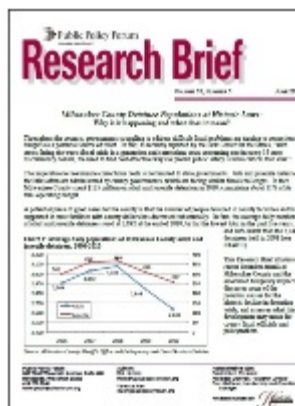


This year's annual Salute to Local Government - held at the Italian Conference Center on June 23 - took place at a time when the public's perception of the role and value of local governments and school districts has never been more unsettled. The beauty of the Salute, however, is

the opportunity it provides to put political differences aside and celebrate public sector accomplishment.

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## Milwaukee County's declining corrections population



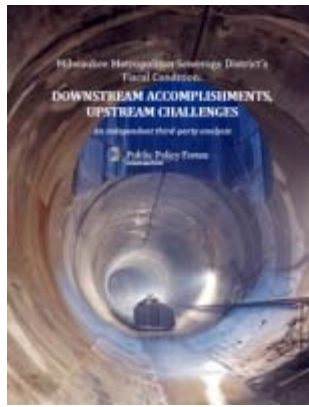
With all of the doom and gloom surrounding the finances of Milwaukee County government, it is certainly worthy of attention when some promising fiscal news emerges from the Courthouse. Consequently, when the Forum learned that the inmate population at the county's two adult detention facilities had plummeted, we took notice.

Subsequent research revealed not only that the adult population had declined in recent years, but also that the number of delinquent youth housed in state corrections institutions had dropped more precipitously. And, upon investigating the dollar savings associated with these declining populations, we found even more eye-opening numbers.

[Read on...](#)

## MMSD's ambitious water quality agenda may face fiscal hurdles

On June 13, the Forum released the fourth in its series of comprehensive fiscal assessments



of Milwaukee area local governments. The report, which analyzes the fiscal condition of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), attracted prominent coverage in the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) and on [WUWM's Lake Effect](#).

The 67-page report uses the same fiscal monitoring methodology employed previously for the Forum's reports on Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, and MATC to examine fiscal trends, compare MMSD with other wastewater treatment agencies nationally, and

analyze emerging fiscal challenges.

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## Are Milwaukee County's child care providers ready for YoungStar?



New results from a survey of 1,425 child care providers show that Milwaukee County providers compare favorably to those statewide with respect to several measures that will be rewarded under the state's new YoungStar child care rating system.

The statewide survey, conducted by the Forum in partnership with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, was designed to provide a picture of the status of the early childhood workforce in Wisconsin. Provider characteristics such as educational attainment, experience, professional credentials, and salary were measured.

Providers also were given a chance to express

their opinions about the new rating system.

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## Latest *People Speak* reveals citizens' perceptions on crime



The latest *People Speak* survey, conducted by the Forum in partnership with UWM's Center for Urban Initiatives and Research and *The Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee*, finds that residents of the region perceive no decline in City of Milwaukee crime levels during the past year, despite statistics showing a substantial decrease in crime incidents.

[Read on...](#)

## Wisconsin's New Budget Paradigm: Will it help or hinder Milwaukee's economic competitiveness?



The Governor's proposed state budget and its impact on Milwaukee's economic competitiveness was the subject of a May Viewpoint luncheon. The event - which turned out more than 140 business, nonprofit and government leaders - featured a panel discussion by several of the region's top business and economic development leaders: Gary Grunau, President, Grucon Group; Rich Meeusen, CEO, Badger Meter and Chairman, Milwaukee 7 Water Council; Jill Morin, CEO, Kahler Slater; Daniel Steininger, Co-Founder, BizStarts Milwaukee; and Donald Sykes, President/CEO, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board. The panel was moderated by Steve Jagler, Executive Editor, *BizTimes Milwaukee*. The event was sponsored by CH2M Hill, Inc., Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. and Syslogic, Inc.

[Watch the Wisconsin Eye Network broadcast here.](#)

## County Executive Abele speaks at Forum's quarterly trustees meeting



County Executive Chris Abele was the featured speaker at the June 10th quarterly Trustees Meeting. Abele talked about challenges faced and decisions made during his first 100 days in office. The meeting also featured a presentation by the Forum's 2010 Norman N. Gill Fellow, Charles J. (C.J.) Szafer, on his research into the City of Milwaukee's revenue structure. CJ's report will be released this summer.

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## Forum in the News

The Forum was frequently featured in different media outlets in the 2nd 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 2nd quarter of 2011. [Click here for highlights.](#)

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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