



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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For more information, please contact:
Rod McWilliams (414) 278-4216 or cell (414) 235-6592

WALKER OPPOSES PROPOSED SALES TAX INCREASE

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker held a news conference this morning at the entrance of the Shops at Grand Avenue to highlight his opposition to a sales tax increase proposed by some members of the Milwaukee County Board.

“The latest proposals at the county level don’t even pretend to actually lower the property tax levy,” said Walker.

Historically, efforts throughout the state to raise the sales tax have promised property tax relief, but each failed to deliver long-term relief. In 1961, the state created a 3% sales tax; in 1969, the state raised it to 4%; in 1982, the state raised it to 5% and allowed counties to keep the revenue generated from an additional .5% sales tax. In 1983, they made the sales tax permanent.

Walker pointed out that the two different resolutions being debated by the County Board would require a change in state law in order to become effective. The Governor, Congressman Green, and the leaders in the Assembly and Senate have all expressed their opposition to new taxes. “Pushing this at the local level takes our focus off of real answers,” said Walker.

Milwaukee County already has one of the highest sales taxes in the state. The county has a .5% sales tax. The stadium district board has a .10% sales tax they collect in Milwaukee County and four other counties. And the Wisconsin Center District has a .25% sales tax on food and beverage sold in Milwaukee County. Property taxes have gone up 52% since the sales tax went up in 1991.

Walker concluded that, “the sales tax will not provide property tax relief; it will simply take more money from the taxpayers via a new tax.”

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