



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Jim Kreuser, County Executive

1010 – 56th Street, Third Floor
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140
(262) 653-2600
Fax: (262) 653-2817

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennie Tunkieicz
262-653-2831
Jennie.Tunkieicz@kenoshacounty.org

County Executive Jim Kreuser presents 2018 budget, emphasizing economic development, future growth initiatives

Kenosha – County Executive Jim Kreuser’s 2018 proposed budget is emphasizing activities that will continue to attract economic development to Kenosha County.

Kreuser presented the budget to the County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday night.

“Over the last eight years, Kenosha County has proven it is the destination hot spot for economic development,” Kreuser said. “We are attracting businesses across the nation – and international businesses, like Haribo from Germany. We are also, more and more, becoming a place where new people want to live and raise a family.”

Kreuser said the 2018 budget proposal guides the county toward its goals of:

- Reaching an AAA bond rating status;
- Making the necessary infrastructure improvements that will continue to lead to economic development, which will lead to jobs; and,
- Continuing to implement cost-effective and more efficient ways to provide services to taxpayers.

The proposed budget:

- Continues to fund the successful High Impact Fund, in cooperation with the Kenosha Area Business Alliance. Since its inception, \$3.75 million has been awarded to companies and has contributed to:
 - 1,475 jobs
 - \$168 million in new private investment
 - \$47,000 average annual salary
 - \$69 million in total new payroll
- Continues with necessary road improvement and maintenance projects.
 - Since 2009, Kenosha County has paved over 134 miles of county trunk roads.

- In that time, the county has also rebuilt and transferred roads to the City of Kenosha, including County Highway S, between 39th Avenue and Highway 31; 30th Avenue, to County Highway E; County Highway N; and, County Highway M was transferred to the Village of Somers.
- Kreuser noted that the work on County Highway N was done initially for Gordon Foods, but it led to Amazon and, now, an expansion of Uline.
- Continues necessary building maintenance, and provides funds for enhancing the downtown/courthouse footprint.
- Includes money for floodplain acquisition.
- Increases health outreach services to the most vulnerable and the very young.
- Builds upon mental health and drug addiction programs.
- Completes the renovation and expansion of Brookside Care Center
- Completes the 2nd Floor renovation of the Public Safety Building for improved Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Department.
- Completes Fleet Maintenance Building to improve law enforcement vehicle services.
- Completes the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System that will modernize services, such as general accounting, accounts payable, vendor management and financial reporting.

“This budget can accomplish all that I have outlined and more,” Kreuser said. “It is within the advisory recommendation the County Board adopted in July.”

The net cash effect on the owner of a \$100,000 home will be less than \$2 a year, or just under 4-cents a week, Kreuser said.

The proposed budget will now go to the County Board for review. A public hearing on the budget is set for Tuesday, Nov. 7, and the County Board is expected to vote on the budget on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

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