



Community to celebrate life, legacy of Lucille Berrien Saturday, Aug. 1, at Berrien Park

The community is invited to celebrate activist and matriarch Lucille Berrien at a Community Memorial Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026, at Berrien Park, 3629 N. 16th St., from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Community organizations will share information and resources with area families and neighbors.

Organizations and community members supporting this life-and-legacy celebration include Milwaukee County Parks; Milwaukee County Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones; the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office; the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Milwaukee Turners; Souls to the Polls; the League of Women Voters; True Skool; and the Greater Milwaukee Urban League. Please join Lucille Berrien's family and community members for refreshments, food, music, and activities for all ages.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

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MILWAUKEE

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



Milwaukee honors Hank Aaron's legacy with new mural, Hank Aaron Day Proclamation

Fifty years after Hank Aaron hit his historic 755th and final career home run in Milwaukee, community leaders, Brewers officials and Aaron's family gathered Monday to unveil a new mural celebrating his lasting impact on baseball and the city.

The mural, located at the Clinton Rose Senior Center on Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, commemorates Aaron's record-breaking achievement while recognizing his legacy of perseverance, leadership and service beyond the game.

The celebration marked the 50th anniversary of Aaron's 755th home run, hit on July 20, 1976.

Commissioner Emeritus Bud Selig, who was present for much of Aaron's Brewers (Braves) career and has long been one of the game's most influential figures, reflected on Aaron's impact both on and off the field.

Selig said Aaron's legacy reaches far beyond the statistics, describing him as someone who inspired generations through his character, perseverance and leadership.

For Billye Aaron, the anniversary served as another reminder that her husband's influence continues to inspire generations, both on and off the field.

She said seeing the community continue to celebrate his life and values is a meaningful tribute to the person he was beyond baseball.

Artist Rosy Petri said the project was more than commemorating a baseball milestone. The mural highlights Aaron's accomplishments while reflecting the resilience, dignity and community impact that defined his life long after his playing career ended. Rosy says she has three pieces of art reflecting on the history of the men and women Negro leagues. —Photos by Yvonne Kemp



Election Watch 2026

HE'S BACK IN!

MKE Cnty Exec David Crowley reenters state gubernatorial race, picks up key endorsements from three Wisconsin mayors

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley speaks during a governor candidate forum Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at the Cooperage in Milwaukee—Angela Major/WPR

Three Southeast Wisconsin mayors who lead communities stretching from the state's largest suburban county to the lakeshore, recently endorsed Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley for governor.

The three mayors—Waukesha Mayor Alicia Halvensleben, Wauwatosa Mayor Dennis McBride, and Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson—pointed to Crowley's record as a local executive who balanced budgets, cut taxes for working families, and built the statewide coalition that secured long overdue shared revenue reforms for every Wisconsin community.

The endorsements come almost a week after Crowley ended his campaign for governor and endorsed Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, who subsequently dropped out of the governor's race herself over the financial condition of her campaign.

Her departure provided room for Crowley to get back into the race with the endorsement of Gov. Tony Evers, who is not seeking reelection.

The shakeup in the race comes less than a month out from the state's primary election on Aug. 11

"Waukesha voters sent a clear message this spring: they want leaders who bring people together and deliver results, not more partisan fights," said Waukesha Mayor Alicia Halvensleben.

"David Crowley has done exactly that. He worked across the aisle to secure shared revenue reforms that help cities like ours keep our streets safe and our services strong. He understands what our communities need because he has done this job. I am proud to endorse him for Governor."

"I have watched David Crowley lead through the toughest circumstances a local executive can face, and he has always led with steadiness, integrity, and results," said Wauwatosa Mayor Dennis McBride. "He balanced billion dollar

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DR. TERENCE THOMAS
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Supporting academic excellence

Alumni Profile Imani Holloway

Building a Future in Mental Health with Purpose and Resilience

Imani Holloway is a second-year scholarship recipient whose academic journey reflects resilience, purpose, and a growing commitment to helping others.

After transferring from UW-Parkside to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the spring semester, Imani plans to continue at UWM for the next three years as she builds a strong foundation for her future.

Recently, Imani made the thoughtful decision to switch her major to Psychology, a field that aligns closely with her interest in mental health,

personal growth, and service.

As a member of the Class of 2029, she is approaching this next chapter with curiosity and determination.

This summer, Imani is exploring internship opportunities that will allow her to gain hands-on experience and deepen her understanding of the psychology field.

She has also connected with ARC services at UWM, taking proactive steps to access academic support and accommodations that help her thrive while managing health concerns.

Imani is already gaining meaningful experience in the mental health field through her role as an intake coordinator with The Practice MKE, a private, women-led therapy clinic serving women from diverse backgrounds and addressing a wide range of mental health needs.

Since beginning the position in January 2026, she has had the opportunity to contribute to a care-centered environment while learning more about the impact of accessible mental health services.



I Want All Associations With Me

Coming Home to Milwaukee After Twelve Years in Arizonian

By Yolanda D. White Poullard

There is virtually nowhere in America where tragedy hasn't left its fingerprints.

That thought crossed my mind as I booked a flight from Glendale, Arizona, to Milwaukee for a summer vacation. When people asked where I was headed, I answered proudly.

"Milwaukee."

"For vacation?"

I smiled.

"Yes."

Twelve years ago, I could never have imagined giving that answer.

When I left Milwaukee in 2014, I was in a hurry.

Part of it was practical. My mother needed me in Arizona. Part of it was deeply personal. I loved Milwaukee, but I wasn't sure Milwaukee loved me back. Every painful memory seemed to have an address. Leaving felt less like an adventure than a necessity.

This summer, at fifty-six, I came home.

Not because everything had been resolved, but because enough time had passed for me to ask a different question.

What does Milwaukee look like now?

For eighteen days, I drove hundreds of miles through the city that

(continued on page 3)

Celebrating



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I Want All Associations With Me

(continued from front page)

raised me. I wasn't chasing landmarks. I was chasing memory.

I visited my sisters. I hugged my daughter and granddaughters. I laughed with lifelong friends on front porches, in restaurants, and basements until late into the evening. I celebrated my birthday over homemade gumbo. I attended Tabernacle Community Baptist Church, where my sister is a Mother and where hymnals were still passed from hand to hand and cardboard fans rested beneath the pews, waiting for another warm Sunday morning. I made an unofficial assignment of finding Milwaukee's best corned beef. I searched three times for a slice of Hup's Pizza, only to find a dark building each time despite every online listing insisting it was open. My hotel couldn't manage to keep me a working room key, but strangers kept giving me stories.

Somewhere between Brookfield, Burleigh, Menomonee Falls, Farwell Avenue, and downtown, I realized Milwaukee had changed.

So had I.

Some neighborhoods looked as though they had received Botox—fresh paint, new investment, renewed energy. Others carried every year I'd been gone. Incredible Potholes demanded attention on streets I'd once driven without thinking. A bridge I expected to cross had simply disappeared. Shopping centers that once anchored entire neighborhoods had become memories. Milwaukee wasn't one city anymore. It felt like many cities sharing the same map.

Yet beneath all those changes, Milwaukee remained unmistakably itself.

Porch conversations still lasted longer than anyone intended.

People still asked about your family before asking what you did for work.

Churches still prayed for grieving families, neighborhoods, elected officials, and children before the sermon ever began. Worship wasn't separated from ordinary life. It flowed into it.

Even the nights sounded like home.

Sitting outside my hotel in Brookfield, I listened as frogs, cicadas, crickets, and birds stitched together a soundtrack I'd forgotten existed. In Arizona, silence often sounds like air conditioners humming. In Wisconsin, even the darkness has a voice.

I found myself noticing everything.

The way clouds argued with sunshine every few minutes.

The giant trees creating shade worth sitting under.

The smell after a summer rain.

The accents.

The brick buildings.

The church fans advertising local funeral homes.

The ordinary details that never make postcards but somehow become the things you miss most.

I realized I wasn't just visiting Milwaukee.

I was interviewing the city that raised me.

Coming home also meant returning to streets connected to my own history.

I drove past schools where I learned and one where I was expelled. I visited neighborhoods where friends had been killed. I stood in an alley where I had once been beaten and robbed. Every stop reminded me that places remember us, even when we've spent years trying to forget them.

Milwaukee has seen every version of me.

The child.

The teenager.

The young reporter.

The woman who made terrible decisions.

The woman who earned two college degrees.

The woman who stumbled.

The woman who got back up.

I was robbed here.

I was raped here.

I was beaten here.

I fought here.

I stole here.



I was jailed here.

For years, those memories convinced me they defined my relationship with Milwaukee.

This trip taught me something different.

The city wasn't asking me to ignore those chapters.

It was inviting me to remember the others.

The friends who never stopped loving me.

The sisters who welcomed me home.

The church that reminded me community is built long before Sunday morning.

The laughter on porches.

The conversations with strangers.

The trees that accepted every hug without asking where I'd been.

Somewhere along the way, I had started introducing myself by my middle name, Demeteria. It created just enough distance from the hurting version of Yolanda that I didn't have to carry all of her history into every new room.

But eighteen days in Milwaukee gave me a gift I wasn't expecting.

I remembered who Yolanda is.

Yolanda D. White Poullard has helped more people than she has hurt.

She has sought understanding more often than she demanded it.

She has risen more times than she has fallen.

She has survived things she once believed would destroy her.

This birthday, I made a quiet promise to myself.

I want associations with all of me.

Not only the polished parts.

Not only the accomplishments.

Not only the woman people applaud.

All of me.

The mistakes.

The healing.

The joy.

The grief.

The survivor.

People love roses and often complain about the thorns. I've finally accepted they belong to the same flower.

When I boarded my flight back to Arizona, I realized I hadn't returned to rediscover Milwaukee.

I had returned to rediscover the woman Milwaukee raised.

Cities change.

Bridges disappear.

Restaurants close.

Neighborhoods flourish while others struggle.

Time edits every place.

But one truth followed me from Wisconsin back to Arizona.

Wherever you go, there you are.

This time, I wasn't running from Milwaukee.

And for the first time in a very long time, I wasn't running from Yolanda either.

(To be continued...)

MKE Cnty Exec David Crowley reenters state gubernatorial race

(continued from front page)

budgets, delivered the largest property tax cut in Milwaukee County history, and made sure local governments across Wisconsin finally got the resources we need. Wisconsin needs a Governor who knows how government actually works. That is David Crowley."

"David Crowley represents a new generation of leadership that is judged on results, not rhetoric," said Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson.

"From affordable housing to mental health to good paying jobs, he has delivered for working families.

"As a mayor, I know how much it matters to have a partner in Madison who respects local communities and invests in them. David will be that partner for Sheboygan and for every corner of Wisconsin."

The 3 mayors join Governor Tony Evers, who endorsed Crowley earlier this month and Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson who endorsed Crow-

ley last year.

"I am honored to have the support of Mayor Halvensleben, Mayor McBride, and Mayor Sorenson," said David Crowley. "These leaders know what it takes to run a government, balance a budget, and deliver for the people they serve.

"When Milwaukee County faced fiscal challenges, we built a coalition across the state and secured revenue reforms that brought money back to every Wisconsin community.

"As Governor, I will keep working hand in hand with local leaders in our cities, suburbs, and rural communities to lower costs, expand opportunity, and be a Governor for All of Us."

David Crowley is the Milwaukee County Executive and the first African American and youngest person elected to that office.

Raised in Milwaukee in a union household, he has balanced billion dollar budgets,

delivered the largest property tax cut in county history, added over 1,000 units of affordable housing in 6 years, including suburban communities for the first time, and cut opioid deaths in half. He has won every race for the Legislature and County Executive.

The Democratic primary is August 11, 2026.

"DAVID CROWLEY REPRESENTS A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP THAT IS JUDGED ON RESULTS, NOT RHETORIC"

—Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson

Alpha Kappa Alpha tops Guinness record at 72nd Boule with 2,282 of its members packing meals for the needy

Article by Latoya Silmonand, photo courtesy of News3lv.com

LAS VEGAS (KSNV) — More than 27,000 women descended on the Valley with a shared goal of service as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority held its 72nd International Boule.

As part of the gathering, members launched a Guinness World Record attempt with Three Square to pack 15,000 weekend meal bags.

The effort also included donating a quarter-million diapers to families through Baby's Bounty.

The previous record listed by Guinness World Records was set in 1993. On Sunday, the sorority exceeded that mark with a number of 2,282 members.

Alpha Kappa Alpha's International President and CEO Danette Anthony Reed said the work reflects the group's mission of "service to all mankind."

The Boule is Reed's final one as international president and CEO. Sunday night, she celebrates her tenure, which includes the launch of what was described as the nation's first Black-owned, women-led and sorority-based credit union.



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FIRST SUNDAY

MKE Community Journal's Religion Section

AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS HISTORY



Is the United States a Christian Nation?

The founders were mostly Christian. They built a godless government. By Richard Leighland—

Article courtesy of medium.com via Restless Quills

A common cry we hear today is, “The United States of America is a Christian nation!” It isn’t, and it was never intended to be. Despite this, most of the founders were Christians.

Those Christian founders weren’t Christian in name only. John Jay, the first Chief Justice, wrote in an 1816 letter, “...it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

Jay was also elected president of the American Bible Society in 1821, though it was more of an honorary appointment than an active role.

Patrick Henry, who played a major role in the Revolution and whose opposition to the Constitution helped bring forth the Bill of Rights, was an Anglican.

John Witherspoon was an ordained Presbyterian minister; Samuel Adams was a devout Congregationalist; Charles Carroll was a Catholic; and Roger Sherman was a Congregationalist who wrote on theology in his spare time.

These men, except for Pat-

rick Henry, all signed the Declaration of Independence. Anyone who tries to tell you that the founders were Atheists is lying to you.

This is what makes our founding documents remarkable. It was men like them, most of them Christian, who created a Constitution that never once mentions Christ, the Bible, church, or God at all.

The only mention of deity you’ll find there is in the date, where it says, “in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven.” However, this was a convention, not a creed.

Though religion is mentioned in the Constitution twice, both times it was to keep religion out of government.

The First Amendment forbids any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise, and Article VI says, “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust.”

Even the presidential oath provides for this. The Constitution says, “oath or affirmation.” The affirmation is for those elected whose conscience won’t allow a religious swearing.

The people of the time understood exactly what this meant. Critics, during ratification debates, attacked the terms of Article VI.

At North Carolina’s convention, Rev. Henry Abbot warned

that without a religious test, “...pagans, deists, and Mahometans might obtain offices among us.” The critics weren’t wrong. The framers heard the objections and kept the clause anyway.

The nonbeliever’s inclusion wasn’t an oversight discovered later. In 1788, though it created a scandal, it was still ratified, and then, in 1796, the young government put it in writing to a foreign power.

Joel Barlow, an American diplomat, negotiated a treaty with Tripoli, one of the Barbary states whose pirates preyed on American shipping. It was a practical document that spoke of peace, commerce, and the business of tribute payments.

The eleventh article of the treaty opened with a sentence that is conveniently overlooked by those who argue the United States is a Christian nation.

It states, “As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion...”

The key phrase is “not, in any sense.” The Senate ratified the treaty unanimously in June of 1797. President John Adams, a Christian who regularly attended church, signed it.

The newspapers printed it, and there were no outcries or scandals. It was wholly unremarkable, but set a standard for the country that is largely ig-

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “The reason America isn’t a coercively Christian nation is partly because of the gift Christianity gave to the world: the understanding that religion can’t be externally imposed. Religion has to come internally, from transformed people. You can’t make someone Christian by law. You can only enforce obedience. That’s not what Christianity is.” —Russell Moore

nored by those today who argue for the country’s Christian founding.

Why would a generation of mostly Christian men build a deliberately non-Christian state?

Because they knew implicitly that it wouldn’t be a battle between Christians and “heathens,” but between Christian and Christian. In Massachusetts, the established Congregationalist church jailed and fined Baptists. What was their crime? They were Baptists.

In Virginia, the Anglican Church taxed dissenters and used those taxes to pay its clergy, which was something James Madison actively fought against.

Our founders understood that wherever an “official” church existed, the majority of its victims were other Christians who had a different way, no matter how minor, of practicing their faith.

The question the phrase “Christian nation” can never answer is: which version? There are hundreds of denominations, with perhaps thousands of variations. Is the United States a Baptist nation? A Catholic one? Methodist? Mormon?

Each denomination would

far from orthodoxy that he later took a razor to his own Bible and cut out the miracles.

Franklin, a month before his death, wrote that he doubted the divinity of Jesus. Adams was a Unitarian and denied the Trinity itself.

The men most responsible for the founding language were the least orthodox in the room. However, the more orthodox majority voted for that language too, and this is what people on both sides of the argument fail to see.

These choices had some strange consequences. With no “official” religion, the country invented one with divine figures, sacred documents, holy days, shrines, saints, and martyrs.

Columbia emerged as a patron goddess and was celebrated in poem and song for over a century until largely replaced by Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam.

On the ceiling of the Capitol rotunda is a fresco of George Washington, titled The Apotheosis of Washington, where he sits enthroned in the heavens, surrounded by goddesses, making him a kind of deified emperor.

It was not intended to be sacrilegious; it happened because people need to give form to ab-

As long as you bring no harm to another’s life, liberty, or pursuit of happiness, do what you will. Today, every American, Christian or other, benefits from the foresight of our founders.

Sources

(all links verified at the time of writing)

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Speech of Rev. Henry Abbot, North Carolina Ratifying Convention, July 30, 1788, in *The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution*, vol. 4, ed. Jonathan Elliot (1836), 191–92, <https://archive.csac.history.wisc.edu/henry-abbot7.30.pdf> (“pagans, deists, and Mahometans”).

Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the United States and Tripoli, 1796–97, Article 11, Avalon Project, Yale Law School, https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/bar1796t.asp

James Madison, *Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious*

“This is what makes our founding documents remarkable. It was men like them, most of them Christian, who created a Constitution that never once mentions Christ, the Bible, church, or God at all.”

like to claim it is theirs, but ultimately, you can only have one, and nobody can, or is willing to, agree.

The religious test ban wasn’t to protect Christians from Atheists, but to protect them from each other.

To make it work, the founders built the only structure that could hold them all: a government that held none of them. The Declaration uses language that is deliberately inclusive: “Nature’s God,” “their Creator,” and “divine Providence.”

These are phrases a Baptist, a Catholic, a Jew, a Muslim, or even a Pagan or Atheist could sign with no issue.

Jefferson himself, who drafted the document, was so

stract ideas.

It was to fill a void created by a government that named no god, and built by men who mostly prayed to one.

The record shows a very different picture from what most people on both sides of the argument claim.

There is neither a godless conspiracy nor a Christian founding. Instead, it is something that is more deliberate and interesting than either.

Religious men, who saw religion used as a weapon, took that weapon off the table for everyone, including themselves.

Even then, it wasn’t a clean decision, but the principle left was simple. Worship, or don’t, as you see fit.

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The Apotheosis of Washington, Architect of the Capitol, <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/art/apotheosis-washington>

This piece was inspired by Maria Chambers’s article, *They wanted prayer in government until religious freedom showed up wearing horns. I recommend taking a few minutes to read it.*



Image created using AI

As long as there are Black Christians, there is White Supremacy

Black Christians are what keep them in Power

By Gregory Jackson, spiritual educator—Article courtesy of medium.com

Christianity is a White Man’s Religion

Christianity as a global institution was shaped and weaponized by European empires. The religion that emerged from Rome and spread through colonization was not the faith of a Jewish carpenter from Galilee. It was a state religion, de-

signed to unify empires, sanctify conquest, and pacify the conquered.

The white Jesus, the European theology, and the colonial church were all created by white men to serve white interests.

Black Christians, by continuing to worship this God, keep the system relevant. Without

Black believers, the white man’s religion would lose its moral authority and demographic power.

They have created laws designed to manage the Black population. As long as there are Black Christians, there are Black Atrocities, and God is the glue.

Staying Power

Black Christians are the backbone of white supremacy. The irony is devastating: Black Christians are the very thing that keeps white supremacy alive.

They give the system legitimacy, population, and resources. Black Christians are the foundation upon which the system of racial control is built — they provide the moral cover,



I took my 13-year-old granddaughter to the Civil War exhibit in Menomonee Falls so she could learn first-hand about the war and the reasons behind it.

Before the afternoon was over, however, she also learned the difference between history and His-story.

With my offering corrections and clarification as we stopped at the various booths and tents of exhibits, she'll take back to school this fall a new understanding of the war that divided and ultimately reunited the country over the issue of slavery.

Princess Alaiah (a descendant of the Fulani and Mende tribes of Sierra Leone) was in awe as Union and Confederate soldiers engaged in a theatrical battle, with 'bodies' littering the park grounds. That battle concluded with the Gettysburg Address by a President Abe Lincoln lookalike.

Much of our two-hour adventure, however, was grounded in my offering corrections of His-story, particularly of Honest Abe's true motivations and goals, not just of the war, but his feelings about Black people (versus citizens) in general.

The most engaging segment of our venture took place when we visited a tent that served as headquarters for the Colored Troops, which I quickly noticed included only one Black (Colored) soldier.

As it was explained, the coordinators of the event said their efforts to 'enlist' additional Black 'actors' to fill out the Colored ranks fell far short of their goals.

That was unfortunate not only because most of the event visitors were White suburban-

ites whose knowledge of Wisconsin's involvement in the Civil War in general was limited, particularly as it relates to the role of Colored troops who made up Company F of the 29th Regiment.

For the record, there were over 200,000 brothers in blue (not cops), and nearly one third gave their lives for the end of slavery and a promise of equality that was never fully achieved.

It was during my conversation with the 'lone ranger' ---colored trooper---that I learned as much as I taught. At the center of my debate with a 'Union' chaplain and 'Abe Lincoln' and myself was whether the 16th president was liberal, conservative, or a 'liberal racist.'

Honest Abe and I got into a debate of sorts when I explained that the 16th president and author of the Emancipation Proclamation was a 'liberating racist.'

I based that latter title on a September 1858 speech Lincoln gave in which he said 'ex-slaves' should not be allowed to vote, because they were not intelligent enough to participate in that sacred act of democracy. And they definitely shouldn't ever be allowed to intermarry.

In his defense, Actor Abe said I was misinformed, as the real Abe was fully about equality of the races.

If so, I explained, why did he say he would continue slavery if it would end the war? Moreover, I asked if he so loved the Colored folks, why did his emancipation proclamation exclude slaves in the northern states?

Lincoln also called Frederick Douglass and selected White abolitionist leaders to the White House (built by enslaved Black people, by the way), seeking their support to ship all of our ancestors to South America when the war concluded?

Douglass, a formerly enslaved person and one of the greatest orators in American history, told him where to stick his stovetop hate...er...hat.

Douglass should receive some of the credit for the enlistment of Black free and enslaved brothers to the Union forces.

And while the involvement of Black folks was prompted by Lincoln's mandate that our ancestors be allowed to fight for their freedom and kick the grits outta Confederate bigots, there was a hidden agenda at work.

My reading of history suggests that, similar to his Emancipation Proclamation, the call to arms of Black soldiers was intended to undermine the Confederacy.

And despite rampant racism and underpayment, historians reported that the Colored troops contributed mightily to the Union victory. Without them, slavery would have continued in the new nation of the Confederate States of Amerika.'

What we did learn from the Chaplain was about the heroic involvement of the F Troop (wasn't that a comedy TV series of White soldiers in the 60s?), which consisted not only of the few brothers who resided in the free state of Wisconsin, but of several surrounding states as well.

Even more surprisingly, he revealed, members of the Wisconsin Colored troops were on hand in Texas when Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger announced that Lincoln's executive order had freed them.

That announcement was the foundation for Juneteenth, which former President Joe Biden made a national holiday.

For the record, there were over 200,000 brothers in blue (not cops), and nearly one third gave their lives for the end of slavery and a promise of equality that was never fully achieved. It was during my conversation with the 'lone ranger' ---colored trooper---that I learned as much as I taught. At the center of my debate with a 'Union' chaplain and 'Abe Lincoln' and myself was whether the 16th president was liberal, conservative, or a 'liberal racist.'

I further explained that since Lincoln's proclamation excluded enslaved people in the North, 'Jubilee Day' should be held on January 1, 1865.

That date is significant because it signaled the enactment of the 13th Amendment, which officially ended slavery in America (but not prejudice and bigotry).

Lincoln rushed to enact the 13th Amendment in part because his proclamation was illegal and probably would not have withstood judicial scrutiny.

In total, it was an enjoyable and educational experience. I'm sure Princess Alaiah saw the Civil War and 'Honest' Abe through a new prism. I only wish more brothers and sisters could have participated, as we were the only freed 'Coloreds' in attendance.

Hotep.



My 'Fulani Princess' holding a sword and wearing the hat of the 'good guys'



The Princess with 'Honet Abe' actor



Civil War reenactors firing away.

Photos by Mikel Holt



Social Development Commission considers bankruptcy pathways as it deals with debt!

By Meredith Melland
Article courtesy of Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service

photo caption: The Social Development Commission's former headquarters on North Avenue was foreclosed earlier this year. The agency is now considering options for bankruptcy. (Photo by Jonathan Aguilar / Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service / CatchLight Local)

Social Development Commission board members haven't decided yet if bankruptcy is the right move for the agency after a virtual board meeting Thursday.

As an anti-poverty agency, SDC provided services that included tax assistance, weatherization and job training for years before halting operations amid financial turmoil two years ago.

Now that SDC is insolvent, which means it can't pay its debts, and has little-to-no financial resources, the board discussed the agency's options for the future.

Options include but are not limited to filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 7 for liquidation or under Chapter 11 for restructuring.

Commissioners discussed a memo outlining the bankruptcy options, which was not shared with the public, during the meeting. Commissioners said it was prepared by staff at Foley & Lardner LLP.

"I'm glad we have the document here," Commissioner Michael Harris said. "However, time is just passing us by as well, because we do need to make a decision."

With liquidation, a trustee would be appointed

to help turn SDC's assets into cash, distribute the money between the creditors and people owed and wind down and close the institution, according to Commissioner Peter Fetzter.

Fetzter is an attorney and partner with Foley & Lardner, but does not specialize in bankruptcy.

For Chapter 11, SDC and its creditors would have to agree to a reorganization plan in which SDC could reasonably resume operations and pay off its debt over time, Fetzter said.

"It can't just be pie in the sky that you can resume operations," Fetzter said. "You actually have to be able to demonstrate that to the court."

Fetzter said funding didn't seem likely for SDC. "I've not seen it," he said. "Without funding, we can't operate. If we can't operate, then I think we need to liquidate."

Discussion

"I'm not convinced today that bankruptcy is the pathway," said Jorge Franco, interim CEO and board chair of SDC.

He said he's not sure what SDC would get out of it, as the organization is already in negotiations with some creditors and could continue to explore private sector opportunities to support funding.

Commissioner Richard Diaz said he feels like the commission is discussing the same things over and over again without taking action or determin-

ing the future direction of SDC.

"If bankruptcy isn't an option and we are going to pursue funding, what are we going to do?," Diaz asked. "Like, what is our plan to entice funders to give us dollars?"

Commissioner Walter Lanier said he does not think SDC should pursue bankruptcy at this time, but he could see value in learning more about the requirements for reorganization, which Fetzter agreed with.

Fetzter said he's hearing two visions for SDC: one would be a private-public model that would try to get private funding for lost grant funding and slowly rebuild SDC's operations, and the other would be a much smaller SDC that would be more of a research entity.

"Visions are great, but that vision has to include how you actually think you can get funding and how likely is that funding to happen," Fetzter said.

Franco suggested that SDC staff prepare a strategic list of pathways for SDC for the board to review and comment on.

Other items

Before the board moved into closed session, Amy Rowell, executive director of COA Youth & Family Centers, called again for accountability and transparency from SDC staff and commissioners.

Rowell has previously said SDC owes her organization more than \$150,000 and hasn't been open about when or why it hasn't paid, which is putting a burden on COA and the nonprofit community.

"You talk about rebuilding credibility and reimagining the role SDC might play and ensuring the health and well-being of the community, but you must be willing to acknowledge much more clearly what happened to reassure that the same will never happen again," she said.

Franco said he empathized with COA's situation and understood Rowell's comments.

"I can tell you this, we will do everything we can to restore those dollars that are owed. Unfortunately, it's going to take time," he said.

SDC's next board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 20, according to the agency's website.

—Jonathan Aguilar is a visual journalist at Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service who is supported through a partnership between CatchLight Local and Report for America.

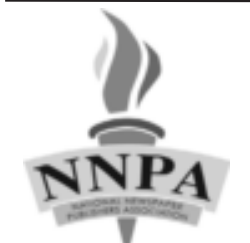


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drtntscholarship.org

"Milwaukee Black Legacy Families," retail site.

NEW POLL: David Crowley Surges in Democratic Primary

Almost a third of voters remain undecided, leaving the race wide open and up for grabs as Crowley builds momentum with support from Gov. Evers, labor, and mayors

A new election poll released on Wednesday shows that Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley has surged into a second place tie in the Democratic primary for governor, while almost a third of the electorate is undecided.

After being informed about Governor Tony Evers' endorsement and the Republican Governors Association (RGA) spending to meddle in the Democratic primary, Crowley surges even more to claim sole possession of second place and close rapidly on Francesca Hong.

And in a direct head-to-head, the race is also tied with a significant number of undecided voters remaining who will be the deciding factor in the race.

This wide-open race is a sprint to the finish as the Crowley for Wisconsin campaign launched its first statewide ad buy today, continuing to build momentum following endorsements from Governor Evers, the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council, The Next 50, Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Waukesha Mayor Alicia Halvensleben, and Wauwatosa Mayor Dennis McBride.

"When I said, 'allow me to reintroduce myself,' I meant it — because we're ready to roll," said County Executive Crowley. "Our campaign is building momentum because so many Wisconsinites are just beginning to tune into this race.

"They're looking for a leader who believes that, no matter where they live or the challenges they face, everyone deserves a fair shot. This November, we need to defeat Tom Tiffany and move Wisconsin forward with leadership that brings people together instead of driving us apart. I believe I'm the candidate who can do that, and I look forward to sharing my vision for a Wisconsin that invests in working families, strengthens our schools, grows our economy, and ensures every community has the opportunity to thrive."

David Crowley is the Milwaukee County Executive and the first African American and youngest person elected to that office. Raised in Milwaukee in a union household, he has balanced billion dollar budgets, delivered the largest property tax cut in county history, added over 1,000 units of affordable housing in 6 years, including suburban communities for the first time, and cut opioid deaths in half. He has won every race for the Legislature and County Executive.

The Democratic primary is August 11, 2026. The PPP poll was conducted July 21-22, 2026 with a survey of 708 likely Democratic primary voters for the Crowley campaign.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Lawyer website via Google

The Democratic candidates for Governor include Mandela Barnes, Joel Brennan, Francesca Hong, David Crowley, and Kelda Roys. If the primary election was today, who would you vote for?

Mandela Barnes.....	15%
Joel Brennan	3%
Francesca Hong	35%
David Crowley.....	14%
Kelda Roys	5%
Not sure	28%

Having heard some more information, let me ask you again: the Democratic candidates for Governor include Mandela Barnes, Joel Brennan, Francesca Hong, David Crowley, and Kelda Roys. If the primary election was today, who would you vote for?

Mandela Barnes.....	13%
Joel Brennan	3%
Francesca Hong	33%
David Crowley.....	22%
Kelda Roys	6%
Not sure	24%

And if the Democratic candidates for Governor were just Francesca Hong and David Crowley, who would you vote for?

Francesca Hong	38%
David Crowley.....	39%
Not sure	22%

Where to find YOUR Milwaukee Community Journal

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Milwaukee Community Journal Office-3612 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Milwaukee County Courthouse-901 N. 9th Street

Milwaukee City Hall-200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee Public Library/Central Branch-814. W. Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee Public Library/Atkinson Branch-1960 W. Atkinson Ave.

Milwaukee Public Library/Martin Luther King Branch-2767 N. MLK, Jr. Drive (new library currently under construction)

Milwaukee Area Technical College/Downtown MKE Campus-700 W. State St.

University Wisconsin-Milwaukee Student Center-3210 N. Maryland Ave.

Beans & Barley-1901 E. North Ave.

Knapp Senior Citizen Apartments-Knapp Street

Arlington Court Senior Citizen Public Housing-1633 N. Arlington Place

Lapham Square Apt.-1901 N. 6th Street

BMO Bank-2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive

St. Ann's Milwaukee/Bucyrus Campus-2450 W. North Ave.

YWCA 1915 N. Dr. MLK, Jr. Drive

Walgreens 2826 N. Dr. MLK, Jr. Drive

Coffee Makes You Black-2803 N. Teutonia Ave.

PICK N' SAVE STORES/MILWAUKEE-BROWN DEER-LENDALE

North 35th street location-2355 N. 35th St.

Midtown location-5700 W. Capitol Drive

East Garfield location-1100 E. Garfield St.

East Point location-605 E. Lyon Street

Brown Deer location-120 W. Brown Deer Rd.

Glendale location-1735 W. Silver Spring Dr.

GALST GROCERY STORES

Galst Foods at 1622 W. North Ave.

Galst Foods at 4030 N. Teutonia Ave.

BP Gas Station-807 W. Atkinson Ave.

Sids Barber Shop-2420 W. Hopkins St.

CHURCHES

Mt. Calvary-2959 N. Teutonia Ave.

Mt. Zion Assembly-4300 N. Green Bay Ave.

St. Matthew CME-2944 N. 9th St.

Progressive Baptist-8324 W. Keefe Ave.

Greater Galilee-2432 N. Teutonia Ave.

St. Mark AME-1616 W. Atkinson Ave.

Ephesians Missionary Baptist-510 W. Meinecke Ave.

All Saints Catholic Church-4015 N. 26th St.

Ebenezer Worship Center 3132 N. Dr. MLK Drive

Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ-3500 W. Mother Daniels Way

**WE HAVE
BLACK MILWAUKEE'S
ATTENTION!**

LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV005790

In the matter of the name change of:
QUINESHA RAELOONNA COLE

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
FROM: QUINESHA RAELOONNA COLE to: QUINESHA RAELOONNA LEWIS

Birth Certificate: QUINESHA RAELOONNA COLE

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. REYNA MORALES

9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026, TIME 10:30 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 6-18-2026

BY THE COURT:

HON. REYNA MORALES

Circuit Court Judge

286/7-8-15-22-2026

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DIVORCE - 40101 Case No. 26FA002409

In Re: The marriage of Petitioner: MAYCKA L MORALES CRUZ and LUIS A SANCHEZ VAZQUEZ

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT:

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a Petition for divorce or legal separation against you.

You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Petition within 40 days from the day after the first day of publication.

The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at: Clerk of Court, Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N 9th St Milwaukee WI 53233 and to MAYCKA L MORALES CRUZ 3030 W Michigan St Apt 102 Milwaukee WI 53208

It is recommended, but not required that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Petition within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Petition, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Petition.

A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of 948.31 Wis. Stats., (Interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents setting forth the percentage standard for child support established by the department under 49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under 767.511 (1m). Wis Stats. are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

You are notified of the availability of information from the Circuit Court Commissioner as set forth in 767.105 Wis. Stats.

767.105 Information from Circuit Court Commissioner.

(2) Upon the request of a party to an action affecting the family, including a revision of judgment or order under sec. 767.59 or 767.451:

(a) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall, with or without charge, provide the party with written information on the following, as appropriate to the action commenced:

1. The procedure for obtaining a judgment or order in the action.
2. The major issues usually addressed in such an action.
3. Community resources and family

court counseling services available to assist the parties.

4. The procedure for setting, modifying, and enforcing child support awards, or modifying and enforcing legal custody or physical placement judgments or orders.

(b) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall provide a party, for inspection or purchase, with a copy of the statutory provisions in this chapter generally pertinent to the action.

Date: 2-6-2026

BY: MAYCKA L MORALES CRUZ 254/7-8-15-22-2026

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV005790

In the matter of the name change of:
QUINESHA RAELOONNA COLE

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
FROM: QUINESHA RAELOONNA COLE to: QUINESHA RAELOONNA LEWIS

Birth Certificate: QUINESHA RAELOONNA COLE

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. REYNA MORALES

9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026, TIME 10:30 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 6-18-2026

BY THE COURT:

HON. REYNA MORALES

Circuit Court Judge

286/7-8-15-22-2026

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DIVORCE - 40101 Case No. 26FA002409

In Re: The marriage of Petitioner:

MAYCKA L MORALES CRUZ and LUIS A SANCHEZ VAZQUEZ

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT:

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a Petition for divorce or legal separation against you.

You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Petition within 40 days from the day after the first day of publication.

The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at: Clerk of Court, Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N 9th St Milwaukee WI 53233 and to MAYCKA L MORALES CRUZ 3030 W Michigan St Apt 102 Milwaukee WI 53208

It is recommended, but not required that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Petition within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Petition, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may

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You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of 948.31 Wis. Stats., (Interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents setting forth the percentage standard for child support established by the department under 49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under 767.511 (1m). Wis Stats. are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

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767.105 Information from Circuit Court

Commissioner.

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Date: 2-6-2026

BY: MAYCKA L MORALES CRUZ 254/7-8-15-22-2026

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL TO PUBLISH LEGAL NOTICES

The Milwaukee Community Journal expanded its services to the greater Milwaukee community with the publishing of legal notices in the 'WEEKEND EDITION.' As a qualified provider of the publication of legal notices, MCJ will serve City, County and State offices for publishing community notifications.

Such notifications include:

Public Hearings

Public Meetings

Election Notices

Divorce Proceedings

Name Changes

Publication of Summons when personal services cannot be made to defendants

Notice of Auction of unclaimed storage property

Probate Notices

Foreclosure Sheriff's sales notice of creditor listing of property for sale.

Other general legal and public notices

ABOUT MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL (MCJ) WEEKEND EDITION

The Milwaukee Community Journal Weekend Edition is published weekly. Each week, MCJ Weekend focuses on different subjects, HEALTH, PERSONAL, FINANCE, FAMILY, MEN, AND WOMEN. THE WEEKEND EDITION now includes the publishing of records designated by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for publication of legal notices, with added value in the Wednesday Edition. The Weekend Edition is a public newspaper of general circulation that complies with the laws of Wisconsin relating to publication of legal notices. MCJ Weekend Edition has published weekly over ten years, in the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County. We have a paid circulation of approximately 89% of our circulation, weekly. And our actual paid subscribers are over the 1000 required by State Statute.

ABOUT THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL (MCJ)

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) is a quality news organization published throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. Established in 1976, the Milwaukee Community Journal has advanced the plight, struggles and victories of minorities in Wisconsin, with a passion for building community. The MCJ accentuates the positive, analyzes the negatives and advocates to seed success. The Milwaukee Community Journal stockholders are Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo (90%); Mikel Holt (5%); and Todd Thomas Thomas (5%) respectively, and is current in filing by the State of Wisconsin, effective October 10, 2018.

Signed: Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo, President/Publisher

As long as there are Black Christians, there is White Supremacy

(continued from page 4)

the demographic presence, and the financial flow that keeps the architects in power. Black Christians are not victims of white supremacy — they are enablers of it.

What we Believe Determines their Fate

If Black people stopped believing, the architects would lose their primary source of control and extraction. Without Black Christians, the white man’s religion would be exposed for what it is: a hollow tool of power with nothing to hold it up.

Without us, the architects would have no one to save, control, or extract from, and no one to justify their power.

Their relevance depends entirely on Black belief. It would collapse under its own irrelevance. The architects rely on Black believers — and as long as they have them, they will never lose their grip. That is the uncomfortable truth.

Denominations Created by White Men

White men created denominations like the Baptist church. John Smyth is often credited with founding the Baptist tradition in England in the early 17th century.

John Wesley founded the

Methodist church. The Presbyterian church traces its roots to John Calvin. The Catholic and Anglican churches were state institutions.

Every major denomination was created by white men — often with the explicit purpose of shaping the religious and political landscape of their time. Black Christians inherited these traditions, but they did not create any of them.

If There Were No Black Christians, Racism Would Not Exist

If Black people had rejected Christianity, the white man’s religion would have lost its primary justification for slavery and colonization.

The curse of Ham was used to justify slavery.

The command for slaves to obey masters was used to enforce submission.

The white Jesus was used to sanctify the racial hierarchy.

Without Black believers, these tools would have been less effective.

The architects needed Black Christians to legitimize their system. If Black people had said “no” to the white man’s God, the system would have collapsed.

If There Were No Black Christians, slavery would

have ended

Black Christian acceptance of the religion enables the system to continue. This is historically accurate. The same religion that was used to justify slavery was also used to pacify the enslaved. By teaching them to forgive, obey, and wait for heaven, the church delayed resistance and prolonged the system.

If There Were No Black Christians, the Laws Would Be Just

White men wrote the laws to serve white interests. Black Christians, by accepting the divine authority of those laws, legitimized them. If Black people had rejected the white man’s God, they would have had no reason to accept the white man’s laws.

Why Do We Continue to Make Christianity Something It Never Was?

The answer is complex:

Identity: Christianity has been woven into Black identity for centuries. To reject it is to reject a part of oneself.

Community: The church is a source of community, support, and survival. Leaving it means losing a support system.

Hope: Christianity offers hope in a world of suffering. It promises that justice will come, even if it doesn’t come now.

Fear: The threat of hell is powerful. Many Black Christians stay because they are afraid of what will happen if they leave.

Programming: The indo-

ctrination starts early and is reinforced throughout life. It is difficult to unlearn.

Lack of Alternatives: Many Black people lack a clear alternative. They are not aware of African spiritual traditions, and they are not ready to embrace atheism.

Christianity Has Never Been Good

Christianity as an institution has never been good. It has al-

“Every major denomination was created by white men — often with the explicit purpose of shaping the religious and political landscape of their time. Black Christians inherited these traditions, but they did not create any of them.”

ways been a tool of control, a justification for violence, and a mask for evil. The teachings of Jesus have been used to distract from the atrocities of the church. The face of Jesus has been used to conceal the institution's history.

Understanding the Origin Should Lead to Rejection

If Black Christians understood:

That Christianity was adopted by Rome as a state religion

That the cross was an instrument of execution

That Jesus was a painting, not a historical figure

That Christianity was used to justify genocide, slavery, and

colonialism

That every other culture has its own deity, so Black people should too

That a white savior looks like the oppressor

...they would reject Christianity. But they don’t.

The Church as an Architect of Slavery

From its inception as a state religion, Christianity was intertwined with empire and con-

Christians are the backbone of a system that was designed to destroy them. By continuing to worship the white man’s God, they keep the system alive. By continuing to wear the cross, they honor the instrument of their oppression. By continuing to pray to a white savior, they reject their own ancestors.

The historical and financial record is clear: Christianity, as an institution, was built and con-

tinues to be sustained on the backs of Black people through their stolen labor, resources, and land. The wealth of the Church is stained with blood.

Associate Dentists

Dental 360 & Associates, LLC seeks Associate Dentists for various & unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. (HQ: Brown Deer, WI) to diagnose patients’ dental needs & chart patients’ existing conditions. DDM / DDS in Dental Medicine/Dental Surgery req’d. WI Dental Licensure req’d. \$150,000/yr-\$200,000/yr + Benefits: PTO & Dental. Send resume to: careers@dental360grp.com REF:SAK

IMPORTANT INFO

ATTENTION!

CYCLOSPORASIS

OUTBREAK ALERT

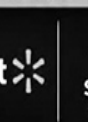


To anyone concerned about the outbreak of CYCLOSPORASIS in foods I've read a thread of places & certain foods that have caused people to get sick:

RESTAURANTS MENTIONED



GROCERY STORES MENTIONED



ANY BAGGED LETTUCE OR LETTUCE ON ANY KIND OF FOOD FROM ANY RESTAURANT STAY AWAY FOR NOW.

DRISCOLL STRAWBERRIES



PUBLIX FROZEN BLUEBERRIES



BLUEBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES & RASPBERRIES, GRAPES, WATERMELON, CHERRIES, PEACHES.



CILANTRO & PARSLEY



PLEASE SHARE

SO OTHERS ARE AWARE!

NOTICE

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is requesting proposals for **Certified Woodchip & Landscape Mulch Supply and Installation Services**, 1124 N. 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI. Project scope, proposal requirements and guidelines may be obtained online at: <https://mps.aegraphics.com/>. **THEN:**

- Click on "All Public Jobs".
- Search for the project listed above.
- OR paper copies may be obtained from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents.

MPS HUB and Student Employment / Participation requirements are as stated within the proposal documents.

All questions should be submitted in writing prior to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 to DFMSPProcurement@milwaukeepublicschools.org. No questions will be answered after that date and time. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the RFP. Written questions and responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all proposals, as stated within the proposal document instructions, no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Dr. Brenda Cassellius

Superintendent of Schools

CITY OF MILWAUKEE 2027 REQUESTED BUDGET SUMMARY				
In accordance with Chapter 65 of the Wisconsin Statutes and the Milwaukee City Charter 18.04(1), a summary statement of the departmental requests for appropriations for the year 2027 and the anticipated revenues is hereby published as a matter of information.				
MAYOR CAVALIER JOHNSON				
SECTION 1. CITY BUDGET UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMMON COUNCIL				
	2026 ADOPTED BUDGET	2027 REQUESTED BUDGET	2027 REQUESTED VERSUS 2026 ADOPTED	
A. GENERAL CITY PURPOSES				
1. BUDGETS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES				
Administration, Dept. of	\$22,942,789	\$26,210,007	\$3,267,218	
Assessor's Office	5,676,889	5,948,211	271,322	
City Attorney	9,356,963	9,893,456	536,493	
City Development, Dept. of	8,188,139	8,598,147	410,008	
City Treasurer	4,851,182	5,002,710	151,528	
Common Council-City Clerk	13,313,932	14,142,725	828,793	
Community Wellness & Safety, Dept. of	1,354,725	3,628,926	2,274,201	
Compliance & Engagement, Dept. of	1,886,467	1,935,982	49,515	
Comptroller	5,859,969	6,389,456	529,487	
Election Commission	5,247,509	3,906,948	-1,340,561	
Emergency Communications, Dept. of	27,171,944	27,214,253	42,309	
Employee Relations, Dept. of	6,395,445	6,896,593	501,148	
Fire and Police Commission	5,490,902	6,025,369	534,467	
Fire Department	165,408,632	178,760,714	13,352,082	
Health Department	22,682,951	25,794,017	3,111,066	
Library	33,651,471	36,197,258	2,545,787	
Mayor's Office	2,108,535	2,207,917	99,382	
Municipal Court	4,199,399	4,378,886	179,487	
Neighborhood Services, Dept. of	25,881,545	27,045,167	1,163,622	
Police Department	310,111,835	345,822,092	35,710,257	
Port Milwaukee	7,060,819	7,240,643	179,824	
Public Works, Dept. of	164,868,703	177,889,666	13,019,963	
Special Purpose Accounts	187,284,347	192,441,663	5,157,316	
Fringe Benefit Offset	-225,321,709	-244,666,956	-19,345,247	
TOTAL BUDGETS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES	\$815,673,383	\$878,902,850	\$63,229,467	
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES (REVENUES)				
Taxes & Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$75,881,544	\$79,570,517	\$3,688,973	
Licenses and Permits	20,787,000	20,396,000	-391,000	
Intergovernmental Revenue	316,795,000	315,724,000	-1,071,000	
Charges for Services	163,457,819	166,193,700	2,735,881	
Fines and Forfeitures	2,000,000	2,100,000	100,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	32,145,000	34,363,000	2,218,000	
Fringe Benefits	25,000,000	26,000,000	1,000,000	
Tax Stabilization Fund Withdrawals	32,300,000	0	-32,300,000	
Property Tax Levy	147,307,020	234,555,633	87,248,613	
TOTAL FINANCING FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES	\$815,673,383	\$878,902,850	\$63,229,467	
B. EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT				
1. BUDGETS FOR EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT				
FIREMEN'S PENSION FUND	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$-3,000	
EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT FUND				
Pension Contribution	\$193,885,382	\$197,354,798	\$3,469,416	
Social Security	26,059,931	27,800,000	1,740,069	
Administration	24,635,860	25,610,294	974,434	
Employer's Pension Contr.-WRS	10,300,000	16,500,000	6,200,000	
Non-City Emp. Normal Cost Incr.	5,731,724	4,297,241	-1,434,483	
DEFERRED COMPENSATION	543,377	570,299	26,922	
TOTAL BUDGETS FOR EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	\$261,171,274	\$272,144,632	\$10,973,358	
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT				
Revenues	\$27,802,242	\$28,940,060	\$1,137,818	
Local Sales Tax	156,537,456	157,908,483	1,371,027	
Property Tax Levy	76,831,576	85,296,089	8,464,513	
TOTAL FINANCING FOR EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	\$261,171,274	\$272,144,632	\$10,973,358	
C. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS				
1. BUDGETS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS				
Special Capital Projects or Purposes	\$35,415,000	\$35,164,000	\$-251,000	
Administration, Dept. of	9,160,000	6,565,000	-2,595,000	
Assessor	0	890,000	890,000	
City Attorney	0	7,598,000	7,598,000	
City Development, Dept. of	55,300,000	56,550,000	1,250,000	
Common Council - City Clerk	223,867	7,863,576	7,639,709	
Dept of Community Safety and Wellness	0	45,000	45,000	
Dept of Compliance and Engagement	0	1360000	1,360,000	
Election Commission	900,000	5,900,000	5,000,000	
Emergency Communications, Dept. of	0	5,445,000	5,445,000	
Employee Relations, Dept. of	0	325,000	325,000	
Fire Department	13,000,000	60,922,000	47,922,000	
Health Department	750,000	3,350,000	2,600,000	
Library	3,000,000	8,860,000	5,860,000	
Municipal Court	370,000	500,000	130,000	
Neighborhood Services, Dept. of	3,225,000	4,460,000	1,235,000	
Police Department	5,000,000	13,000,000	8,000,000	
Port Milwaukee	2,900,000	4,200,000	1,300,000	
Dept. of Public Works (Total):	(107,465,000)	(173,658,521)	(66,193,521)	
Infrastructure Services	93,205,000	137,558,521	44,353,521	
Operations Division	14,260,000	36,100,000	21,840,000	
TOTAL BUDGETS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$236,708,867	\$396,656,097	\$159,947,230	
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS				
General Obligation Borrowings	\$120,098,943	\$282,527,097	\$162,428,154	
Tax Incremental District Borrowing	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	
Special Assessments	3,165,000	2,665,000	-500,000	
D. CITY DEBT (INCLUDING SCHOOL PURPOSES)				
1. BUDGET FOR CITY DEBT				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR CITY DEBT				
Revenues and Reserves	\$165,464,868	\$215,115,918	\$49,651,050	
Property Tax Levy	106,777,275	112,132,817	5,355,542	
TOTAL FINANCING FOR CITY DEBT	\$272,242,143	\$327,248,735	\$55,006,592	
F. COMMON COUNCIL CONTINGENT FUND				
1. BUDGET FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONTINGENT FUND				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONTINGENT FUND				
Property Tax Levy	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	
SUBTOTAL BUDGET AUTHORIZATIONS - COMMON COUNCIL CONTROLLED PURPOSES (Sections A-F)				
Non-Tax Levy	\$1,590,795,667	\$1,879,952,314	\$289,156,647	
Non-Tax Levy	1,253,974,796	1,440,503,775	186,528,979	
Tax Levy	336,820,871	439,448,539	102,627,668	
TOTAL FINANCING FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONTROLLED BUDGETS (Sections A-F)	\$1,590,795,667	\$1,879,952,314	\$289,156,647	
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS (SECTIONS G-M)				
G. TRANSPORTATION FUND				
1. BUDGET FOR TRANSP. FUND				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION FUND				
Parking Permits and Meters	\$7,984,000	\$10,278,000	\$2,294,000	
Parking Citation Revenue	14,000,000	18,000,000	4,000,000	
Other Funding Sources	19,239,093	27,605,000	8,365,907	
TOTAL FINANCING - TRANSP. FUND	\$41,223,093	\$55,883,000	\$14,659,907	
H. GRANT AND AID PROJECTS (EXCEPT CAPITAL)				
1. BUDGET FOR GRANT & AID				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR GRANT AND AID PROJECTS				
Grantor Share (Non-City)	\$83,928,856	\$75,114,096	\$-8,812,760	
I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND				
1. BUDGET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND				
Self Supporting/Excess TID revenues	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$-15,000,000	
J. WATER WORKS				
1. BUDGET FOR WATER WORKS				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR WATER WORKS				
Operating Revenue	\$106,896,216	\$126,145,900	\$19,249,684	
Retained Earnings/Non-Oper. Revenue	110,014,772	102,457,035	-7,557,737	
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR WATER WORKS	\$216,910,988	\$228,602,935	\$11,691,947	
K. SEWER MAINTENANCE FUND				
1. BUDGET FOR SEWER MAINT.				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR SEWER MAINTENANCE				
Sewer User Fees	\$35,908,928	\$35,777,103	\$-131,825	
Sewer Fee - Storm	44,681,842	44,748,708	66,866	
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,470,978	12,094,939	1,623,961	
Proceeds from Borrowing	22,500,000	24,200,000	1,700,000	
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR SEWER MAINTENANCE	\$113,561,748	\$116,820,750	\$3,259,002	
M. DELINQUENT COUNTY TAXES				
1. BUDGET FOR DELINQUENT COUNTY TAXES				
2. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DELINQUENT COUNTY TAXES				
P				

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