



# COUNTY OF KENOSHA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
Jim Kreuser, County Executive

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News Release

**EMGARGOED until 8 p.m.**

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## **Kreuser presents State of the County Address**

Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser gave his State of the County Address Tuesday night (April 19, 2016), emphasizing the county's fiscal strength, economic development priorities and great county employees.

Among the highlights of his presentation before the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors:

- Unemployment is down – Kenosha County continues to trend lower as a result of the number of available jobs in the area.
- The county's General Fund balance is up – A recent year-end report shows the General Fund has grown to \$18.25 million in 2015, and the reserve fund as a percentage of the General Fund is at an all-time high of 29.3%.
- Economic development continues to be a high priority: The County needs to continue necessary infrastructure investments and support of the High Impact Fund, administered by the Kenosha Area Business Alliance. Since its creation in 2011, the High Impact Fund has led to the creation of 1,200 new jobs, \$128 million of new private investment.
- The county's partnership with KABA and the Town of Salem, resulting in the new Salem Business Park, is well-underway. A highway project this summer will assist the project.
- Kreuser called for continued support of the discussions between the Town of Paris, the Village of Somers and the City of Kenosha. "Economic development should not be held back merely because of political boundaries," Kreuser said.
- The outdoor Wi-Fi project for Downtown Kenosha continues moving forward and Wi-Fi will be added to several Kenosha County Parks.
- A path to addressing the challenge of rising Mental Health Care costs in the county will be presented at a Community Meeting, set for 6 p.m. on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Kenosha County Job Center.
- The Medically Assisted Treatment Program, a pilot project offering Vivitrol to address alcohol and opioid addiction has just under 20 participants. The collaborative project

includes the Kenosha County Division of Health, the Kenosha County Detention Center, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and Professional Services Group.

- Recognized retiring Kenosha County Board Supervisors Ron Johnson, 32 years on the board, and Doug Noble, 26 years on the board. Also, Supervisor Aaron Kohlmeier, 6 years on the board, and Supervisor Anita Johnson, 4 years on the board.
- Recognized retiring Kenosha County employees: Gary Sipsma, Highway Commissioner; Jonathan Rudie, Parks Director; Adelene Greene, Workforce Development Director; and Chris Hribal, social worker and coordinator of services for adults and children with disabilities and special needs.

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