



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jim Kreuser, County Executive

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News Release

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Kreuser: State of Kenosha County is strong, robust and growing

Kenosha – County Executive Jim Kreuser emphasized historically high county reserve fund and sales tax collections, along with county-wide economic development gains at his annual State of the County Address.

“I am pleased and proud to stand before you tonight and say the State of Kenosha County is not just strong, it is robust and growing,” Kreuser said at the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Kreuser said the county anticipates the general fund reserves will exceed 22% this year. The County Board policy calls for reserves to be at 17% of the general fund. Strong reserve fund levels are an indicator of financial strength and stability.

The 2014 county sales tax collections are estimated to be \$12.7 million – a million dollars more than was collected in 2013. Kenosha County collects .5% on eligible purchases made in the county.

“Our prudent fiscal custodianship and strategic planning with Finance and IT have helped Kenosha County emerge from the Great Recession and has put our community on a path toward greater prosperity,” Kreuser said.

Kreuser praised the County Board for its commitment to maintaining and improving infrastructure, like the county highway system.

“Good infrastructure leads to economic development, which has led to jobs, which we have been focused on since 2008,” Kreuser said. “Together, we have done our part and the private sector is responding.”

Another valuable investment for economic development has been the partnership with the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, he said.

Kreuser listed the numerous companies planning to host job fairs in coming months, including Meijer, Amazon and Costco.

He also praised the County Board for approving a plan with KABA that will allow for development of a business park in the Town of Salem.

“We will continue to make these strategic moves that will position Kenosha County for even stronger growth well into the future,” Kreuser said.

Kreuser said he and department heads are still reviewing the potential impact on the State’s proposed biennial budget. Areas of concern include highway funding, disability services, court services, he said. He urged the County Board to oppose the proposal for county-wide assessing.

State of Kenosha County Highlights:

- Kenosha County is an economic development hotbed
- Significant hiring is taking place over the next several months
- 2014 General fund reserves are expected to exceed \$12.6 million (unaudited) – the highest in the history of the County.
- 2014 Sales tax is estimated to be \$12.7 million, the highest in the history of the County.
- Infrastructure being addressed:
 - Roads
 - Broadband
 - Buildings
 - Wi-Fi
- The county’s KABA partnership, which includes administering the county’s high impact Fund and the Salem Business Park plan, has continued to result in attracting new businesses to Kenosha County and job growth.
- More information is needed to determine what reductions are included in the State biennial budget.

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