



# COUNTY OF KENOSHA

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jim Kreuser, County Executive

1010 – 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Third Floor

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

(262) 653-2600

Fax: (262) 653-2817

### For Immediate Release

October 6, 2015

Contact: Jennie Tunkieicz, Chief of Staff

262-653-2831

[Jennie.Tunkieicz@KenoshaCounty.org](mailto:Jennie.Tunkieicz@KenoshaCounty.org)

## County Executive Kreuser introduces 2016 Budget proposal

*Kenosha* – County Executive Jim Kreuser recommends a lower tax rate for 2016 in the Budget Proposal delivered to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors today.

### *Highlights include:*

- The tax rate for county purposes declines from 2015 rate. For a home valued at \$100,000, taxes will decrease by \$1.31.
- Health Insurance internal budget rate is flat.
- Continued support for county-wide economic development.
- Community collaborations on critical services:
  - A collaborative mental health treatment in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department, Racine County, the judicial system, county attorneys, the Health Department, Human Services and contracted agencies.
  - The start-up of a collective impact model program that will help communities improve educational outcomes with a cradle to career initiative.
- Technology and innovation:
  - Initial steps for replacing the key financial system, Enterprise Resource Planning, which includes the county's general ledger, accounts payable, purchasing, fixed assets and budget.
  - Continuing a county-wide conversion from paper documents to electronic images.
  - An Information Technologies internship program with local colleges and universities.
- Facility updates:
  - Needed courtroom renovations, starting with one courtroom in 2016.
  - Initial project planning for moving and providing adequate space for the Emergency Operations Center and the Medical Examiner's Office and morgue. Planned completion by early 2018.
  - Groundbreaking in the spring for the levy-neutral Brookside Care Center expansion and renovation project.
  - Backup generators for the Public Safety Building and the Human Services Building
  - Provide for the county's portion of critical hardware updates for Joint Services' 9-1-1 System.

- Infrastructure improvements:
  - More than 13 miles of paving and repairs to County Trunk Highways
- A continuation of a Classification and Compensation study pegging benefits to the market, aiding retention and recruitment efforts.

###