



# 2015 STATE OF THE COUNTY

## County Executive Jim Kreuser

March 3, 2015



The State of Kenosha County is...

**Robust!**

**And Growing!**



# Good infrastructure leads to economic development, which leads to jobs

**KENOSHA NEWS**

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## Hot spot for development

Big development projects are on local agendas

Suddenly, the Kenosha area is a hot development spot.

In the past week two r Pleasant Prairie along and 88th Avenue.

Also in the past week, Kenna Manufacturing

**BizTimesMedia**

## Kenosha County is a red hot development spot

Monday, September 30, 2013

By **Andrew Weiland**

Kenosha County's population ranks only fourth among the southeastern Wisconsin counties, but because of its proximity to the Chicago area, it is one of the most active development areas in the region and has become one of the most important areas in the state for economic development

MILWAUKEE  
BUSINESS JOURNAL

From the Milwaukee Business Journal  
:http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/print-edition/2014/09/26/business-boom-development-explodes-as-kenosha.html

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Business boom: Development explodes as Kenosha County draws national, Illinois firms

BUSINESS OF GROWING MILWAUKEE

Sep 26, 2014, 5:00am CDT

Subscriber-Only Article Preview



**Sean Ryan**  
Reporter- Milwaukee Business Journal  
[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#)

Todd Battle called the two-year industrial development boom in Kenosha County "one of those overnight success stories 20 years in the making."

Kenosha County, especially LakeView Corporate Park in Pleasant Prairie, has drawn business from Illinois for decades. The past two years have accelerated that, as shown by a tally the county and \$800 million in capital investment in that time period.

compiled by Battle, president of the Kenosha Area Business Alliance. Battle counted 4,000 new jobs moving into the county and \$800 million in capital investment in that time period.

Battle and other real estate executives who played key roles in the uptick explained its causes during the Business of Growing ...

Reporter Sean Ryan covers commercial and residential real estate for the Milwaukee Business Journal and through the [Real Estate Roundup](#) blog on the website. He also covers construction, highways and public transit.



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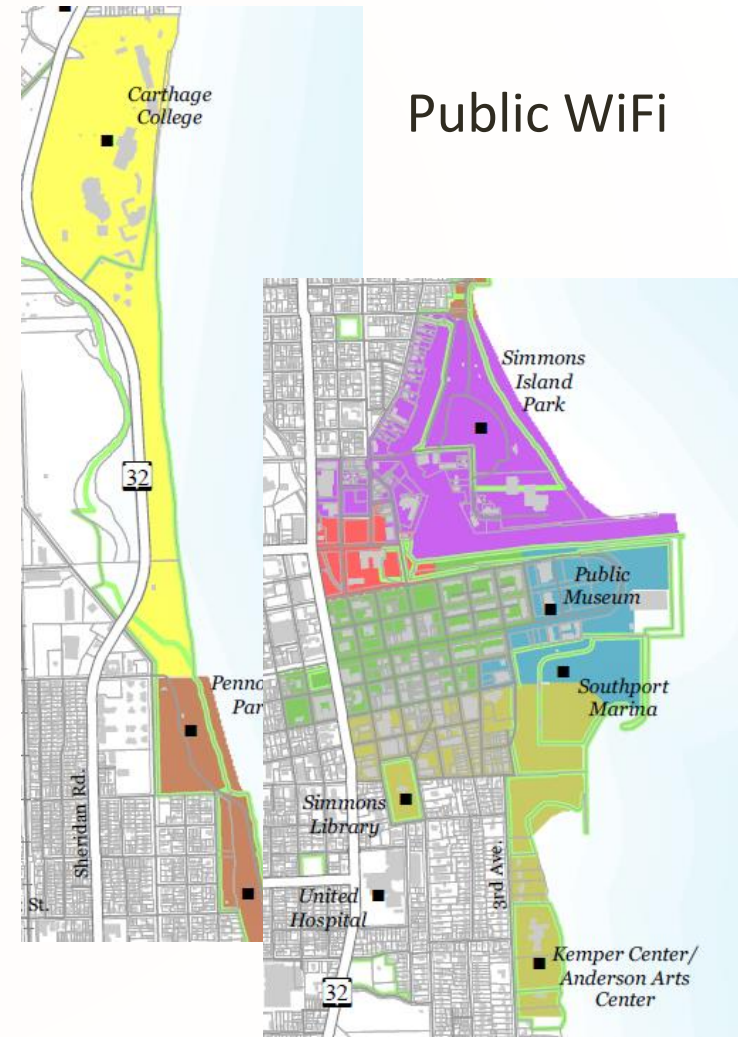




# Good infrastructure leads to jobs, which leads to economic development



Kenosha County Highways





# KABA, our Economic Development Partners

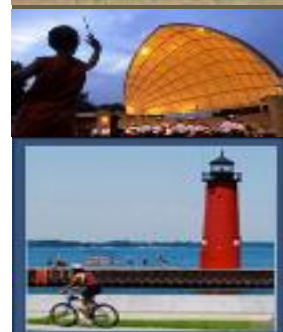


# KABA Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3UqQR3Qimo>







# Strategic moves will position Kenosha County for stronger Growth



# TOOLAMATION





# Kenosha County is well positioned for continued growth





# Kenosha County's Job Center

Works to meet the needs of employers  
and people looking for work



Recent Job Fairs





# Strong partnership with higher education



# Upcoming job openings



Meijer, approximately 300 jobs, information session March 16-18, followed by workshops and a hiring fair the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>



UNFI, in Sturtevant, 20-plus jobs, information sessions March 10<sup>th</sup>



Amazon, approximately 1,000 jobs, with more than 50 percent of those slated to be full-time with benefits, hiring in mid to late April



Costco, more than 100 jobs, hiring probably in May for opening slated for July



FNA Group, more than 145 jobs from production level to executive level, hiring expected mid-year this year



United Hospital Systems, ULINE, InSinkErator, Kenall are all in hiring mode



For our high school students and those in their early 20s looking for work, there will be Young Adult Job Fair on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Boys and Girls Club.





# Summer Youth Employment Program



**“Since 2009 when we instated the youth employment program, there has been a 64% reduction in juvenile crime.”**

Kenosha Police Chief John Morissey





# County Employees Work Hard to Provide Great Services



Gabrielle Hargrove, Public Health Technician Division of Health Services Car Seat Program



Karl Zuberbuehler & Amy Brenner Division of Workforce Development Child Support Program



Al Smith, Social Worker Division of Children & Family Services Access Office (taking report of possible abuse or neglect of child)



Laura Yocum, Office Manager District Attorney's Office



Emily Burden, Executive Secretary Corporation Counsel's Office



Sharon Davis Department of Human Services Office of the Director





# Kenosha County is fiscally strong

- 2014 General fund reserves are expected to exceed \$12.6 million (unaudited) – the highest in the history of the County. We expect to exceed 22% of general fund expense, exceeding the 17% policy by 5%.
- 2014 Sales tax is estimated to be \$12.7 million, the highest in the history of the County.



# Work on the Kenosha County Administration Building is substantially complete





# Brookside Care Center Project

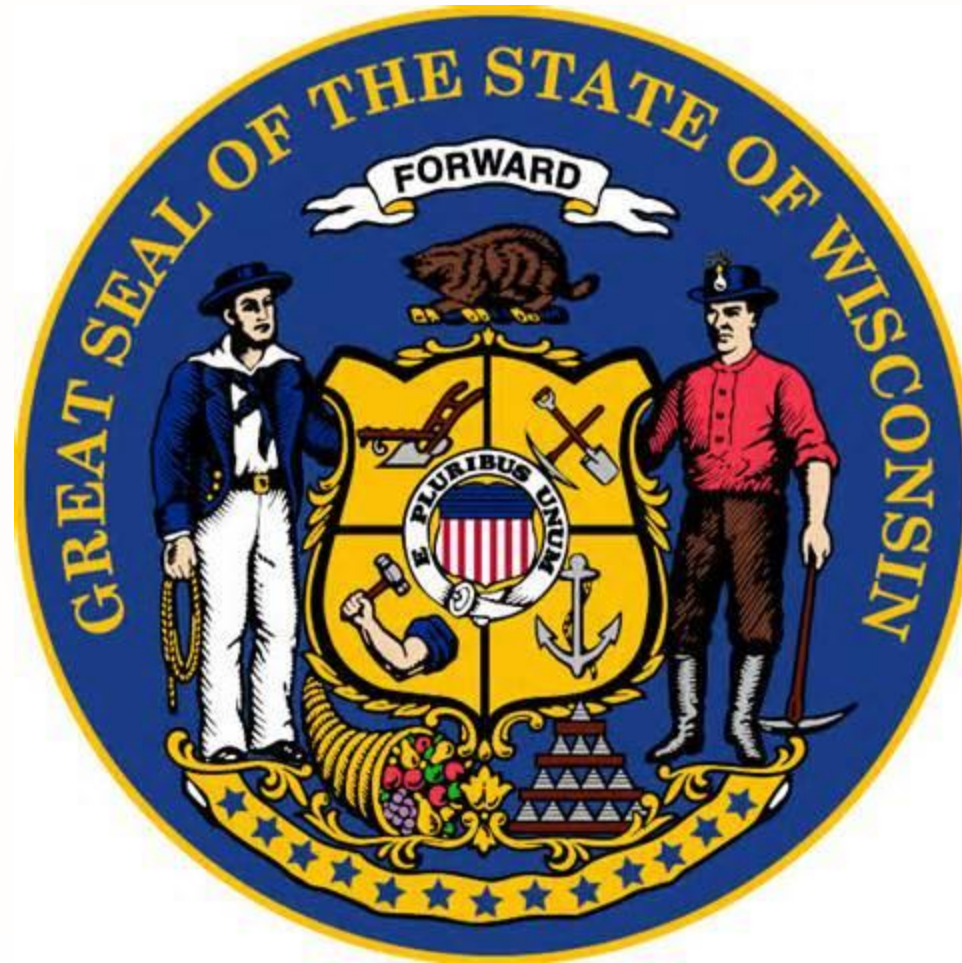


PERSPECTIVE LOOKING NORTH





# State Biennial Budget is being reviewed





# State Budget Impact

## Budget Analysis

- Transportation
  - The Governor follows through on his commitment to fully fund the 4 percent increase for general transportation aids approved in the 2013-15 budget.
  - Repeals the requirement that DOT must construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities on new highway construction.
  - Prohibits DOT from funding community sensitive design on state highway projects. This prohibition would not prevent local governments from funding community sensitive design costs if they choose to do so.
  - However, we are very concerned about the funding mechanism for transportation needs within the State Budget. The 1.3 billion in borrowing is not a substantive long-term solution for the looming shortfall in the Transportation Fund.





# State Budget Impact

## Budget Analysis

- Property Tax Assessment
  - Proposal to change the property tax assessment process from municipality-based system to a county-based system with an opt-out for the ~18 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> class cities.
  - Changes begin in 2016 and are completed by 2017.
  - The maximum annual amount a municipality could be charged is 95% of what a municipality previously paid for assessment services in 2015.
  - DOR would maintain oversight of the property assessment system.





# State Budget Impact

- Overall Analysis
  - The 2015-2017 State Budget contains several items that will impact counties – Aging and Disability Services, courts and highway maintenance
  - Kenosha County will advocate against the reinstatement of county-wide assessment with your assistance
  - We look forward to working with Chairman Kubicki, Vice-Chairwoman Breunig, all of the County Board committee chairs and supervisor, as well as the Wisconsin Counties Association, and Wisconsin Legislature as we continue through the budget process to offer ideas, input and solutions.





# Great things go on in Kenosha County every day!





# The future of Kenosha County

The future of Kenosha County is bright,

The outlook of our County is strong,

The state of our fund balance is the highest in our history,

The state of our economic development is off the charts



# God Bless Kenosha County

