

CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE 2017 Public Safety Referendum



VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Voters will be asked whether to approve an increase in the tax levy to maintain current paramedic services and hire two additional police officers to fulfill all of the department's response and preventative responsibilities.

WHY DO WE NEED A REFERENDUM NOW?



South Milwaukee must act now if it is to **maintain its critical fire, paramedic and police services** that are at risk from a growing budget gap.



The challenge is that while the need and **program costs continue to rise, current funding sources are stagnant or decreasing.**



Because of state-imposed levy limits, South Milwaukee must **ask approval from taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy** to fund these services.



As part of a community-wide survey in the Spring of 2017, **South Milwaukee residents voiced support for seeking additional funding to maintain these critical public safety services**, with the majority supporting a referendum to raise the property tax levy.

WHAT WILL IT MEAN IF A MAJORITY OF VOTERS VOTE "YES"?

If the referendum is approved, the City of South Milwaukee will be able to **maintain paramedic services and add two police officers**. The annual property tax would increase by \$52 per year (\$35 going toward paramedics and \$17 going toward police) for every \$100,000 of property value, starting with the bills issued in December 2017.

Public Safety Referendum \$616,641 Per Year (Increase of \$52 per \$100,000 of property value)		
Property Value	Estimated Tax Increase	
	Per Year	Per Month
\$100,000 of property value	\$52.00	\$4.33
\$150,000 of property value	\$78.00	\$6.50
\$200,000 of property value	\$104.00	\$8.66

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF A MAJORITY VOTE "NO" AND THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

An already extremely challenging city budget will be made worse, as the City is faced with difficult decisions to address the growing budget gap and will likely have to make additional cuts to current services — potentially including public safety:



A reduction in paramedic staff could **double or even quadruple emergency response times**, which is directly related to patient outcomes.



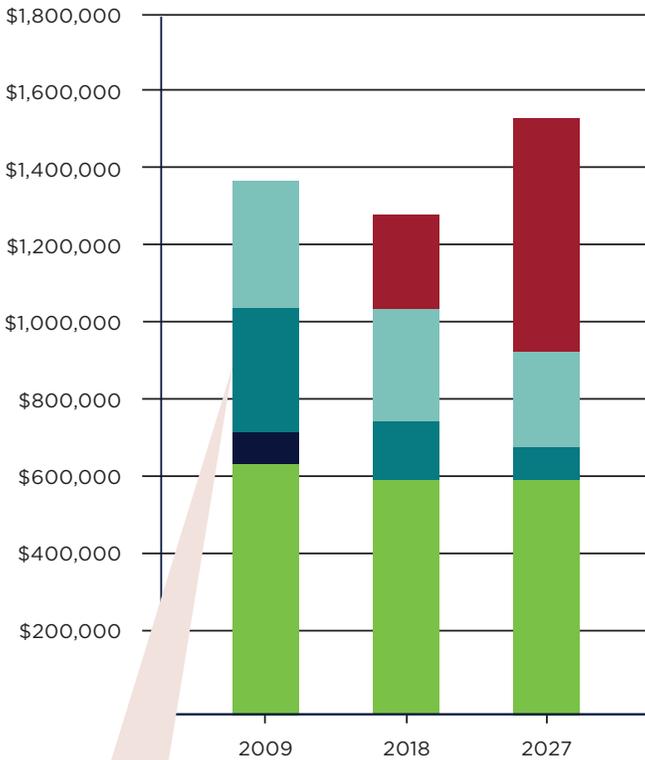
The City would be **unable to hire additional police officers** to meet the growing community need.



PARAMEDIC FUNDING CHALLENGE

The City's paramedic service, which is provided by the fire department, has been a major asset for the community, enabling rapid-response for residents facing emergencies and medical issues. The City must take action this year to secure alternative funding that will preserve high-quality paramedic service.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE PARAMEDIC/ALS REVENUE SOURCES



While **city funding** has stayed relatively consistent, **county funding has declined** and will continue to decrease, leading to a **growing budget shortfall** starting in 2018 that will double by 2027.

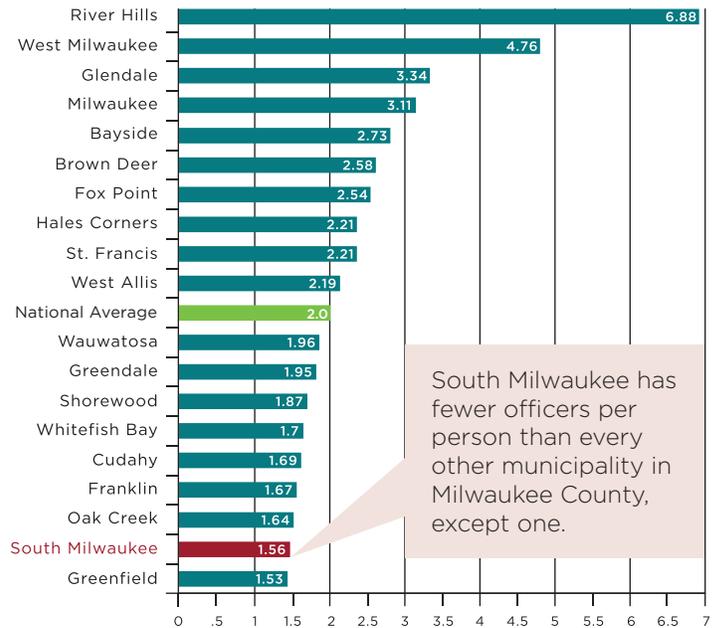


POLICE SERVICES CHALLENGE

Over the past 20 years, the South Milwaukee Police Department's **staffing level has decreased, despite a greater demand** for officer time due to increases in crime and drug-related incidents including burglaries, thefts and heroin overdoses.

South Milwaukee is well **below the local and national average** for the number of officers based on population.

NUMBER OF OFFICERS PER 1,000 POPULATION



South Milwaukee has fewer officers per person than every other municipality in Milwaukee County, except one.

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION AND LEARN MORE

REFERENDUM INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 12 (5-7 p.m. at City Hall)
Monday, October 30 (5-7 p.m. at City Hall)



VOTE

VOTE NOVEMBER 7

ABSENTEE VOTING: October 23–November 3
(in person at City Hall)
Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail: **November 2, 4:00 p.m.**

