**A235C003\_23042772\_CANON.mp3**

[00:00:01] **Unidentified** I believe. Yes, please. Just let me be honest here. I see a couple of. Three one half.

[00:00:18] **Speaker 1** I guess not.

[00:00:39] **Speaker 2** You come.

[00:00:45] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:00:47] **Speaker 2** After spending so much time. How could I help? That's what I'm saying. Yeah.

[00:00:54] **Speaker 3** But you still make still.

[00:01:01] **Speaker 1** We will help.

[00:01:05] **Speaker 4** You.

[00:01:06] **Speaker 2** Take care of yourself. Okay. Good afternoon. My name is Robin Ross, and I have the pleasure of serving as a speaker of the State Assembly. I am joined by many elected officials and fellow legislators from around southeastern Wisconsin. And we are here today with really exciting news for the people in our region all across the state. We have heard from our local elected officials, county officials, those who work in city government and town governments of the challenges that have occurred over the course of decades in their local functions. We know in Wisconsin that when the income tax was first proposed, it was a shared revenue formula for local governments. Really since 1911 have been receiving payments from the state. But up until about 20 years ago, that formula really started to become broken. In 2004. The funding level was frozen under both Republicans and Democrats. And we're here today to invest, to explain and make sure that the public understands a historic investment in our local governments. What we're announcing today is the single largest investment in local governments in the history of Wisconsin. That is something that all of us should be proud of because it's being done in a collaborative Wisconsin bipartisan way. Last summer, we began to have discussions with many of our local partners about what was occurring with especially local police, local fire, transportation and services that the public have come to have had over the course of the past six months. Conversations have happened in a way that is really refreshing their bipartisan their consensus building, and they are focused on actually finding a solution, not just looking for the problems. Not too long ago, somebody said to me that there are two kinds of elected officials, problem solvers and problem seekers. I think I am proud to say that everybody here on the stage, I would say hopefully the entire legislature are focused on being in the Problem Solvers Caucus, and that's what we're here to announce today. So the plan that we're announcing will continue based on the idea that we heard this morning for the entire state. But let me just reiterate, the state of Wisconsin going forward will invest one out of every $0.05 of sales tax dollars that are generated in the state back into a fund that will be especially segregated for local governments. That means for all of the programs that are currently funded by the state, those will continue. There will be revenue streams that actually increase over time. One of the things we've also heard from our local partners that they need to have an ongoing revenue source that is not stagnant but grows as the economy grows. This fund actually will take the increase in sales tax over time. It will be run through a formula where there are different buckets and each of those buckets will grow as a sales tax in our economy continues to expand. We also focused on putting money into helping local governments change how they operate. In addition to the almost 300 $225 million that will be invested in shared revenue increase payments, we are also creating something called the Innovation Fund. It means that there will be $300 million allowed for local governments who choose entirely voluntary to cooperate with each other, to share services, improve the delivery that we give to our constituents, hopefully all at a lower price, and the state of Wisconsin will be their partner. It's a three year pilot program where we'll have the chance to innovate and watch our local partners use every bit of local creativity to be able to find a way to hopefully deliver better services at the same or lower cost. We're also tripling funding for our local emergency grants to local governments to upgrade their 911 systems for providing significant increases to EMS services. We are going from about $2 million to $15 million to help not only ensure that we have equipment and durable goods on our ambulances, but that every part of the state benefits from that. One of the other things that we've also heard as we go are going through such a challenge for folks around local law enforcement. The state of Wisconsin provides training grants to every municipality to train officers to join our police departments. We are doubling that funding, which will be a significant relief not only to those local governments, but also for the officers who are involved that sometimes have to pay that out of their own pocket. All of these are done in a way that ensures we have maximum transparency, maximum accountability, and it all also happens by us repealing the personal property tax in this bill. The state of Wisconsin is going to get rid of one of the most onerous taxes for small business, and we're doing it in a way that fully funds local government so they are held harmless. So imagine that increases funding for our local governments, more flexibility to help them innovate, and we eliminate attacks in a bipartisan way. It's something that I.

[00:06:01] **Unidentified** Something that is incredibly important.

[00:06:02] **Speaker 2** But before we take questions, turn it over to Mayor Johnson, I just want to be able to say, you know, before Mr. Johnson got elected, we had met a few times. But I want to say that the collaborative effort that we have had with the city, the county, the towns association, the counties associations, the leader principalities and all of the partners that were in there is something that should give the people of Wisconsin hope, because we certainly don't come from the same zip code. We don't come from the same party. But it is really refreshing to know that we have the same goal in mind. And while we may not always take the same path, I think we're all hopefully arriving at the same place. Sylvia Johnson.

[00:06:48] **Speaker 1** I'm ruining the president. Well, thanks so much, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate those words and the opportunity to work with you, to work the opportunity to work with my colleagues in North County, other legislators as well. The speaker and I spent a lot of time together as a player, talked about having a cot in the Capitol when I got elected mayor and spent a lot of time in the Speaker's office and other legislators office as a way to. He's a tough negotiator. I will tell you that. And I suppose he might say the same thing about me, about the county executive, some of the others as well. I'm pleased, though, that we've made some significant strides towards a remedy to the city's fiscal issues. From the outset, that's been paramount, a paramount goal of mine. And this legislation starts to diversify revenue sources for the city when it starts to increase the amount of shared revenue that goes to see what in other units of government across the state. And it puts Milwaukee on a path to resolve its onerous pension obligations. Legislative action on Milwaukee's fiscal challenges required everyone have a table to listen to, also understand and also ask some of your boss. And I thank you for hearing our concerns. I want to thank as well, the leadership in the Wisconsin State Senate for their active participation and bipartisan engagement on this issue. I also appreciate the involvement of Governor Tony Evers as well. Look, there are areas here where there are disagreements, but what remains is that we continue to discuss these matters and work together in a bipartisan collaborative approach to solve the problems. That said, the progress we've made is notable for the fact it is unprecedented in modern history. The discussions have required open mindedness and it also required diligence on all parts of this agreement. And fundamentally, there is an understanding that Milwaukee's future is important to the entire state of Wisconsin, not just here locally, not just here in the city. But Milwaukee's future is important to the entire state of Wisconsin. My city will continue to be the state's most important economic and cultural center. We are the central location for jobs, where the central location of Wisconsin for higher education as well, whether it's Fortune 500 companies, major banks, accounting firms, law practices, manufacturing, tech service industries, Milwaukee is at the heart of Wisconsin's future. There are steps ahead, but we've established an approach where common interests and respect, quite frankly, rule the day. So thank you again. The Speaker. Thanks so much.

[00:09:24] **Speaker 2** Again to.

[00:09:25] **Speaker 1** Legislative leaders that we've worked with over the course of the last year, and thanks as well to the partner that introduced right now. We've worked very closely over time. Milwaukee County Executive David Brock.

[00:09:42] **Unidentified** We have to do.

[00:09:44] **Speaker 1** So First and foremost, it is a pleasure to be here because today we stand here to acknowledge that some of the first steps have been taken as it relates to local revenue reform. These are the first, as we've seen in nearly a generation. And when you think about it, after 20 years of stagnation, we are making progress on meeting the needs of communities all across the Walker County, one of the most vital economic drivers right here in the state of Wisconsin. And I will say that communities across the state have been sounding the alarm that the demand for local services is beginning to outpace their ability to pay for those services. And I think that we can all agree that we cannot continue to keep kicking the can down the road. So leaving this problem for generations of leaders is no more. But I will also say that for Walker County, the situation is even more dire as we are facing a fiscal cliff in just a few short years that will severely hamper our ability to continue paying for critical services that residents like. But I want to be very clear there is more work to be done in this process, and this is not the finish line. But after years of political bickering on this issue, this is an actionable step forward in making government work for the people that it serves and securing the future of Walker County government and the economic future of our entire region. The potential impact of continuing and the potential impact of continuing core services without having to stare down harmful, devastating cuts in perpetuity cannot be overstated. For the sake of this group of this proposed legislation represents a punctuation mark in resetting the relationship between the legislature and leaders right here in the Morecambe region. It shows that Mark County is making good Disney a good faith actor in the push to improve local revenue conditions. And thank you to the leadership in both chambers and all caucuses for continuing this work on this important issue. And I also want to say thank you to Governor Evers as well for his advocacy and his commitment to supporting the success of local partners, specifically right here in Milwaukee County. Well, again, this is not the finish line. So we are going to continue to work on a solution of that part of board sizes, raising local dollars to solve local issues without a budgetary cost to the state of Wisconsin That doesn't compromise resources from other communities as well. So, again, thank you so much for your partnership, for your willingness to work with us. And with that, I would like to bring to the podium Majority Leader Tyler August.

[00:12:21] **Speaker 4** Well, thank you. County Executive. This is really a great day for our region. Certainly here in the city of Milwaukee and the county of Milwaukee, where we actually have leaders that are willing to step up and try and solve the fiscal issues that were not of their creation. These are things that they inherited that have, as both the mayor and the county executive said, have been an issue in this region for decades. But the good news is also for folks who don't live in the Milwaukee region, that there's plenty of this package should be proud of, as well. As the speaker mentioned, whether you live in the state's largest city here in Milwaukee or some of the smallest townships in rural Wisconsin. There is plenty in here for your community. This is a generational change in the way that we fund local governments, the way that we partner with our with our local elected officials. And there is something for everyone in this package from, again, the largest city to the smallest town and everyone in between. So this is a historic day. It's a day that Wisconsinites can be proud of to see people from different political backgrounds actually sitting down, doing the hard work to get us into a position where all governor of all local governments can be successful for the next generation. With that, I'm pleased to introduce the city of Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto. Good afternoon. I'm really pleased to be with you this afternoon because the subject we are discussing how local government is financed in Wisconsin is extremely important. I very much appreciate the efforts that have been made by Speaker Vos, by Representative Donovan, by Representative Rodriguez. But leaders in the state Senate, the governor and others to make needed improvements in the current system. In the last 20 years, state aid for most municipalities has actually declined. While inflation has caused prices to increase 51%. In 2003, the funding level for county and municipal aid was 938.5 billion. Today, the 753 million for the city of Brookfield shared revenue in 2003 was just over $1 billion. Today, at 23 it is 578,000. At the same time, the state has imposed strict property tax limits on municipalities with no provision to make adjustment based on the current significant rate of inflation. Unless municipalities obtain more resources, we will be unable to provide the same level and quality of local services that we have in the past. Lower quality services will eventually lead people and businesses to locate in other states with more prosperous and attractive cities. Wisconsin should increase its investment in cities because of cities are not doing well. Neither is the state. As a key part of helping us provide the quality local services which our shared constituency deserves. I strongly support devoting 20% of Wisconsin's 5% sales tax revenue to a non laughable fund for local governments on an ongoing and sustainable basis. I appreciate the specific proposals being made now today, and I'm hopeful that with input from the State Senate and the Governor, it will lead to a workable solution for all of our local governments. So with that, I'd like to introduce county executive delegate.

[00:16:06] **Speaker 2** Well, good afternoon. What a great day to be part of local government and recognizing our partnership with the state of Wisconsin. First, I want to just say thank you to the state, in particular the state Assembly and leadership for recognizing just how important local government is, in particular county government. Most of our services are those that potentially are life and death and are very important to our citizens of the state of Wisconsin and in my case, Racine County. Whether that's sheriff's deputies responding to perilous situations, whether it's child protective services, whether it's mental health or alcohol or drug addiction, these are important services. So this is a big step in providing a boost to be able to.

[00:16:53] **Speaker 3** Continue.

[00:16:54] **Speaker 2** Those who need help, those who are in need for the county to respond to that. So thank you. Thank you very much. The other great thing is this innovation fund. I believe there's so much to gain from here, to consolidate government, to lower costs, to create better services. What a cool thing. So to my fellow county executives, administrators to mayors, to village presidents and chairman, let's get together. Let's work for the people. Better services, lower costs. And this is exactly what this bill does. So thank you again very much. Great day to be part of Wisconsin local government. With that, I will introduce the town administrator of Norway, a partner to receive county town premier.

[00:17:40] **Unidentified** Thank you, Jeff.

[00:17:42] **Speaker 4** Thank you, Jonathan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bringing together all representatives behind me. My name is Tom Kramer, and I'm an administrator in the town of Norway. How? Norway's a village town. Outside Milwaukee County in Racine County has about 8000 people. Currently, we have a couple of problems. EMC, EMS, been been talked about today. Back when I started in 1995, we had 35 to 40 volunteers. Now we're down to eight and we supplement during the daytime with part time people. That costs a lot of money. Also shared revenue. Back when I started was about $140,000. Now it's 92,500. So I look forward to working with my neighboring communities to bring the EMS solution together. And Speaker Vos, thank you for helping with the supplement. Thanks for doing this. Go along with the town of Norway as it is a good community. They're lucky when you get up in the northern part of the state. EMS is even a bigger problem. Thank you. And now London Mayor Sean Riley from the city of Waukesha.

[00:19:11] **Speaker 5** Hello, everyone. I'm really happy to be here. I've been working in municipal government for more than 30 years, and this truly is historic. I understand that there are three other press conferences this morning. This is the fourth. What's happening today is something that to me is truly amazing. I really did not think we'd get to this point. I also have to say that there's still a lot of work to be done, though. But I appreciate the legislature working to address a significant and growing shortfall in funding of critical local services. I understand that the lift needed to make this happen. They'll be they'll need to be more work in order to cross the finish line to fix a broken municipal financial system. I'm thinking of cities in this palace. I want to thank all those that are working on this together to get us to this point. Like I say, what we have here today is truly historic. There's still work to be done, but I'm so happy to be up here. I started as a municipal attorney in 1992, and we this is the first time I can say that the funding system for municipalities is undergoing significant change for the better because the funding system will grow with the economy. And that is what municipalities need. So thank you very much. The next speaker is the Waukesha County executive Josh Shulman.

[00:20:45] **Unidentified** Washington. Washington. It happens all the time.

[00:20:52] **Speaker 6** It happens all the time. I'm in Washington County executive Josh Holman, and I'm thrilled to be here as well. I am the president of the Wisconsin County Executives and Administrators Association. And so it's a particular privilege for me to stand in front of you on the fourth of four of these sessions, to be able to say thank you to our assembly leadership and to our Senate leadership for getting us to this point. And I am so excited to be able to stand one day in the not too distant future with Governor Evers when he signs this bill. It is so important for local governments to have this kind of collaboration happening. I have been doing this work for almost 20 years in some way, shape or form. When I got into it. It was after I came back from Iraq in 2003, and I all the time get people asking me, why would you want to work in local government? And many times I say to them, You can't fix it unless you're a part of it. And the people standing up on the stage are all a part of the solution today. For years and years, I've been going to county and county administrator conferences, city administrator conferences and hearing people for generations complaining and not bringing solutions. Like the speaker spoke up just a few moments ago. This is a solution oriented approach and we should all be very proud of it. There's a long way to go to get to that day when there's a signature, but it is something just to be standing here right now. And I'm pleased to be standing with this group of people. So thank you so much to the leadership at the Wisconsin Counties Association. As the president of WCA, I'd be remiss if I didn't particularly thank Kyle Christiansen, who was critical in making this all possible, as well as the members of the task force that I formed almost two years ago to try to start this conversation. It certainly was not just that group, and there's so many people here standing here who brought us to this moment. But I feel like without that discussion, we're not standing at this podium today. So thank you to each and every one of them. I'll end by saying this, whether it's my friend Nick or the county administrator up in Price County, or whether it's my friend Lance County administrator from Marathon County or County Executive Brownlee or myself. It's a beautiful day when Milwaukee County and Marathon County and Race County and Washington County can all stand together saying this is a positive win not only for the economic engine of the state of Wisconsin, but for all of us together. So thank you for making it happen. And with that, I'd like to welcome up representatives from the Milwaukee Police and Fire Association. My name is Andrew Wagner. I'm president of the Marketplace Association. I like to think like everyone here. Thank you for gather here today. And thank you for making this an important issue in in your lives, in all of our lives. Public safety for me and for my fellow officers has been foremost in our minds for a long time. I want to thank Speaker Vos, Senator, Representative Kurt, Senator Mary, those Koski, Senator Jesse Rodriguez, Representative, State Dugal, Mayor Johnson and County Executive Braley. All of these people, both Democrat, both Republicans, came together to work on this bill.

[00:24:13] **Speaker 4** And what was.

[00:24:14] **Speaker 6** First and foremost, what we saw was that they put a precedent on public safety, and we really appreciated that. We knew that we needed to increase public safety here in Milwaukee. The budget could not have come together without.

[00:24:28] **Speaker 4** The collaborative all these people.

[00:24:30] **Speaker 6** After the cuts of the past few years in the public safety budget. We saw spikes in crime. Both our residents and business leaders had real concerns over their safety and in their future in the city. Today, we hope that all changes with the restoration that is part of this bill, with over 100 police, about 100 police officer positions over the next few years, and then the continuing support for investments in public safety in the future, there is a positive outlook that we can bring. That crime will be down in the city of Milwaukee and an even a better place to live and work by investing in public safety. We are sending a clear message that will walk the walk. You will be secure and safe to do. A place to do business will attract more investments and will create more jobs for the residents. The funding of the police department is a testament to the commitment of our state legislators and the community leaders to the safety and well-being of all markets. By working together, we can ensure that our communities remain safe and prosperous for generations. I'd like to thank everybody here again for their cooperation on this.

[00:25:34] **Unidentified** My name is Eric Kohn.

[00:25:35] **Speaker 4** I represent Milwaukee Fire Association. It's an honor to stand before you. I really want to thank Speaker Vos and all the legislature. Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Kelly Crawley for your hard work and collaboration. This is a win for not just the city but the citizens, right? And not just the citizens of.

[00:25:54] **Speaker 1** Milwaukee, but everywhere around.

[00:25:56] **Speaker 4** The fact that we can get adequate fire and EMS protections to.

[00:26:00] **Speaker 1** All of our citizens.

[00:26:01] **Speaker 4** Is a big win. And I just want to thank you guys for all your hard work.

[00:26:11] **Speaker 2** Matt Jansen. I'll take questions.

[00:26:15] **Speaker 5** When he does talk about addressing Milwaukee's pension problems.

[00:26:18] **Speaker 1** What exactly would be the mechanism to do that.

[00:26:20] **Speaker 5** With a.

[00:26:20] **Speaker 2** Sales tax.

[00:26:21] **Speaker 5** Increase for the city and the increase for the county be limited strictly to addressing.

[00:26:30] **Speaker 1** Yeah. Thank you for the question. Yeah. The increase that we will receive from the sales tax will put us in a position where we're able to take care of our unfunded liabilities in our pension and provide opportunities for us to have additional dollars to be able to invest in public safety. So, yes, to answer your question, yes, the the sales tax will allow the city market to be in a position to make investments in our pension system. And then the goal is to do a soft close of our present municipal pension system and then move all future employees into the state of Wisconsin's pension system With the Wisconsin retirement system and Mr. or.

[00:27:11] **Speaker 2** Mrs. B, what would you say when.

[00:27:12] **Speaker 5** Anybody hears that and believe that this is micromanaging was, I mean, criticism from the Waukesha County executive saying that the state is essentially dictating how local governments would be.

[00:27:21] **Speaker 1** Able to use this money?

[00:27:23] **Speaker 2** Well, one of the things that I found is that in any deal, you're going to find things in there that you think are fantastic and you're going to find things in there that perhaps if it was your writing, you wouldn't put them in there. So I think this is a really good collaborative effort. But I do want to follow up on one of the things that the mayor said. One of the best parts about the deal that's in front of us is that for those of us who visit Milwaukee or live in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, we have been concerned about cuts in police officers. Part of that has been a direct relation to the unfunded pension liability, again, not created by the present mayor, but by his predecessors. And one of the best person this deal for anybody in southeastern Wisconsin is knowing that the number of officers we have today is not going to go down. I think that is a huge benefit for the state. As the mayor said, overtime, we have a requirement in this proposal where the number of officers will go up to hopefully keep addressing the problems that we have seen regarding crime and all the issues that are associated in the city and the county. So I think it's a really good step forward. I think it is something that's really positive. And for those folks who care about Milwaukee's future and the future of public safety, that's why we hope they'll support this proposal.

[00:28:27] **Speaker 3** Justin, do you know yet how much of the revenue generated from the sales tax will be allocated to the pensions or have those details?

[00:28:40] **Speaker 1** I believe and look, there's been a lot of numbers have been floating around, so my apologies if I'm not crystal clear on it, but I believe that number is $120 million. I want to say just just for the city, Milwaukee. All right. There's a there's a pension issue at the city Milwaukee level. There's a pension issue at the Milwaukee County level. But just for the city of Milwaukee, my understanding is that the roughly $120 million is the amount of money that will be investing towards our unfunded pension liabilities level.

[00:29:10] **Speaker 3** And you said earlier that this has been something you've been working on for years. But in the last six months, there's been a shift in the conversation with going across the table, people willing to work together. What has changed in the last six months that is like that?

[00:29:25] **Speaker 2** Well, I want to give credit to all the local officials who are behind us. There was really a concerted effort, I think, in every part of the state to showcase what has been happening over time now. Chances are probably because like every family, local governments are facing inflationary pressures that we haven't seen in probably one or two generations. It's put incredible stress on city budgets. You want to make sure that if you have people who are picking up your garbage, you know, delivering, you know, a person to the hospital, any of those things that they have adequate pay to be able to find good people to work in local government. So that's one of the key stressors that we've seen. The other is, as Mr. Cramer mentioned, we're seeing, especially in rural Wisconsin, where many times the entire EMS system is run by amazing volunteers, they're aging out and younger people aren't joining at the same level. So we have to rethink how we do public safety and EMS. That's one of the key things that we're seeing in this proposal is hopefully the opportunity to innovate, but also invest in services where perhaps volunteers took care of it before. But now we need to have someone who is going to answer 911 that perhaps isn't a volunteer. So I think a lot of forces came together. But I do want to reiterate the goodwill that I think the county executive, the mayor, all those folks at the table generate. It doesn't come easy. It takes time. I think that the change in administration at the city definitely made a difference because Mayor Johnson was willing to invest the time, not always agreeing with our proposals, but fighting as vigorously as he could for his position. And I respect that. I think we did the same thing. That's a big difference from what we saw in the past.

[00:30:55] **Speaker 1** Mayor Johnson, given Salesforce.

[00:30:57] **Speaker 3** Would go to the. And then how do you like what are the percentages? And then also what is the shared revenue?

[00:31:07] **Speaker 1** We for the city of Milwaukee, the legislation would allow for a 2% sales tax and for Milwaukee County for US county to. It's .375 as an expansion for more county given.

[00:31:23] **Speaker 5** This line yet let's be able to make a tangible impact on the budget this year. We talked a lot about cuts this week. Is this going to be able to get in under the wire for that?

[00:31:34] **Speaker 1** Well, you know, that's why I say that there were some disagreements and some areas where there's still opportunity for us to work on this. This is not done yet. There's a concept that's out there, and so we'll continue to work on that. So it's it's my goal to get money in the door as quickly as possible. And I think there's a mechanism to be able to do that. But there's still work to be done. So that's inconclusive as of right now.

[00:32:00] **Speaker 3** That's all the time we have for today. Thank you. Speaker about why finances return to what it was before that what we need. So many issues in the state with a huge.

[00:32:10] **Speaker 2** Sure. I'll take a couple more questions. So part of the challenge that we see and this is where legislative Republicans have concerns the shared revenue formula as it was developed quite a while ago, has an outdated notion that only cities deliver services, that villages and towns really did not become the regional centers that they were 100 years ago. So the shared revenue formula is really outdated. But we also do not want to create a situation of winners and losers. So we have left the current shared revenue formula exactly like it was. Communities will get no less. The best part of our plan is that every single community in Wisconsin is going to get a guaranteed 10% increase in the shared revenue that they receive. Now, some of the communities that got significantly less based on a per capita, as an example, some municipalities in Wisconsin get a dollar a person, some get $300 a person. Right. That's probably a disparity. That's not fair. So we have the second part of our proposal takes much of the new dollars that are coming in goes for a formula to guarantee that there are winners in every part of the state. Every single person who's watching your local government will get more to invest in police, fire, EMS, roads. I think it's a big win for everyone. How far away? So I would say we are at 98%. We have had a broad framework. I think there is bipartisan agreement on almost everything in the package. There are individual details as an example. We do not have a specific run that was supposed to be here by noon today. But we want to make sure that the fiscal year does it exactly right to know the dollar value that will go to each municipality. We have a rough idea, but we wanted to make sure we released something that's incredibly accurate. So that's probably the last big piece that goes into the final equation. And we're hoping to have that out perhaps tomorrow, or it could be as late as next week.

[00:33:55] **Speaker 3** Can you clarify if voters will have to approve the sales tax in Walker County and if you think they will?

[00:34:01] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Under our proposal, yes, it goes to referendum. That is one of the ways that we do it all across Wisconsin. We saw what just happened last April. We have made a concession, though, because, as the mayor said, we'd like to have the ability to start paying off this unfunded pension liability as quickly as possible. So it allows the discretion for the city and the county to have a referendum any time this year, whenever they would think it was best to be able to go to the voters and ask their permission. So that's why our goal is to make sure that this is an act. And before the end of the year, no further cuts in police, no additional cuts in libraries, any of the other services, and hopefully begin the collection sometime early next year to work on that problem.

[00:34:36] **Speaker 3** What incentives you think voters will have to approve that a tax?

[00:34:40] **Speaker 2** I don't live in the city of Milwaukee, but I look all around the state of Wisconsin. Just last week in our own county of Kelly Racine County, they had a referendum on adding police officers on the property tax in the past. You know, there are many proposals around the state where it does. Sometimes it doesn't, but it's I think we have excellent salesmen who are going to be able to go out and talk to their constituents. Now, having spent as much time with the county executive and the mayor, I have no doubt that their salesman abilities is going to come to fruition and that the voters are going to see the wise decision that they're going to make.

[00:35:11] **Speaker 3** Is this sales tax way to build a pension board is now more than needs to be done to fix that problem.

[00:35:20] **Speaker 2** Right.

[00:35:21] **Speaker 1** So the way that I want to answer that question is, is that we still need to continue to run these numbers at the end of the day. You know, I would say that, you know, when we look at the numbers, yes, it would get us very close. Does this fix everybody's problems? Probably not. But what I would say is that we've been making a good faith effort and making sure that we can come to the table in looking at how do we get as close as possible, making sure that we can continue to fund the services, particularly for more pickups. Does this proposal affect the city's fire and police commissioner, though? The bill does have some provisions that would affect firemen's commission. Yes. In terms of the policy powers or the fire. What happens to.

[00:36:05] **Speaker 4** Policy?

[00:36:08] **Speaker 2** One of the things that was important to us was to make sure that as we are looking to right size and modernize Milwaukee's finances, that we also look and say, where are there outliers in the system? We did a study and show that Milwaukee was an outlier in how they organized their police and fire commission. So in working not just with the folks who represent the brave men and women of the Milwaukee Police and fire Department, but also with folks all around the country, we look to see what's the standard. And this bill basically still allows the police and fire commission to select the chief just like it does now. But it makes sure that the police chief who ultimately has the law enforcement training and background is the one making the policies in consultation with the mayor and the county council.

[00:36:50] **Speaker 5** Will there be any other restriction on how long we can either sales tax for property tax money, for instance? Is there a ban on using money on a street art section?

[00:37:04] **Speaker 2** Yes, there is. In the same way that I think a lot of my colleagues around the state have concerns about how Milwaukee and Milwaukee County got into the place that we are in now. We wanted to make sure that we are focusing on delivering the services that we know make a difference in the lives of the citizens, which is why we want to make sure that police, fire, transportation in roads, ensuring that we have a transit system at the county all able to sustain itself for the long run is important. So we also recognize that the streetcar is already built, the tracks that are already laid. They will continue under the exact same way of operating as they have before, but extensions where it would stress the budget, knowing that we have few resources to divide to public safety and the rest wouldn't be allowed.

[00:37:49] **Speaker 6** And how about anything toward law in your public schools that talk about what's in there related to that?

[00:37:54] **Speaker 3** Or any.

[00:37:55] **Speaker 6** Fool.

[00:37:56] **Speaker 1** Which I'm sure as it relates to the as it relates to the pension, folks may be aware that not all, but some employees in Milwaukee public schools are under the city Milwaukee's pension system. And so our goal is to make sure that for those employees of Milwaukee Public Schools, and not just more people in school, but some other city related entities are basically held harmless in this. And I'll have the opportunity be a writer in this as well, so that as we do a saw post on our system and move new employees into the Wisconsin retirement system and we see, you know, the payments that we'll have to make for our employees will be doing the same for Milwaukee Public Schools and other city affiliated entities as well.

[00:38:45] **Speaker 3** All right. Thanks, everybody.

[00:38:46] **Unidentified** Have a good night. Thank you.