



# DANE COUNTY

**Joe Parisi**  
County Executive



**Newsletter Column** - 300 words

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## **Working With You to Keep Dane County Great**

*Column By: Dane County Executive Joe Parisi*

Growing up in Middleton, I always knew that Dane County was a special place. Our community has given me so much, and has inspired me to give back. I am honored to serve you as your new Dane County Executive.

Our home has changed a great deal from when I was younger. Dane County's population is now 490,000 people and is the fastest growing county in Wisconsin.

While determining how to grow at the same time we protect our farms and lakes will continue to be a challenge, we now face new hurdles - - including how the state budget will impact our quality of life for years to come.

As Dane County Executive, I will meet these challenges head on – by working with you to find solutions, and without sacrificing everything that makes our community great.

My first priority will be finding a way to balance the county budget in the face of deep cuts from the state. Hours after I was officially sworn in, I met with my budget team to begin addressing the changes that may come from the Governor's budget proposal.

We do not yet know the final impact of the state budget, but we know that it could greatly affect human services, more than half of the county's annual budget.

Prioritizing economic development is also key. I've been meeting with some of our county's economic development leaders, including representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and THRIVE, to make good on the creation of my new Dane County Office of Economic Development.

And I'm committed to making Dane County a clean energy jobs leader. As the price of gasoline climbs, we must re-double our efforts on creating jobs pursuing innovative, cost-effective sources of alternative energy.

I'm looking forward to working with you to achieve these goals.