



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi

County Executive



Newsletter Column

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Protecting the Dane County Promise

A Column by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

One of the most important tasks I have as County Executive is creating a budget that reflects your priorities. With your input, and through new partnerships, I've introduced a budget that protects the Dane County Promise by providing vital human services for vulnerable citizens, while protecting public safety and our natural resources.

These partnerships achieved major savings. By working with Sheriff Mahoney, we saved \$1 million through the partial closure of the minimum-security, work release Huber Center.

Through the shared sacrifice and ideas of our county workforce, our employees contributed more than \$2 million in savings. County parks staff have agreed to partner with their counterparts in the highway department to plow and keep our roads safe this winter, saving tax dollars, and increasing staffing in this critical area over last year's levels.

By working with The Boys and Girls Club, the Urban League, and Centro Hispano, I'm launching a new Life and Employment Skills Initiative with Operation Fresh Start to help at-risk youth land and keep jobs. Other partnerships with the Clean Lakes Alliance and the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District will bring in new monies to bolster our ongoing work to clean up our lakes.

My budget also strengthens our neighborhoods and families. I restored \$1.9 million in proposed cuts to human services, including funding for senior centers and youth centers, and invested more in proven programs in challenged neighborhoods – Joining Forces for Families and the Early Childhood Initiative.

I also create a new Office of Jobs and Prosperity by consolidating county economic development efforts. This office will work with other entities to strengthen our workforce, retain and create family-supporting jobs, bolster minority-owned businesses, and expand exciting sectors of our economy, such as clean energy jobs and local foods.

Public safety is also protected in my budget, with additional resources for our first responders, our county's 911 Center, and a new initiative to address the alarming increase of heroin abuse in Dane County.

Through everyone working together, my budget protects the Dane County Promise.

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