

PORTAGE COUNTY
Patty Dreier



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
County Executive

October 3, 2017

Dear Residents of Portage County:

It is my honor and privilege to present the 2018 Executive Budget. I believe it will serve us well as we balance changing needs and seize opportunities before us.

This budget retains all core local government services mandated by law and positions us to continue moving our County forward through these changing times.

This budget supports our tradition of resourcing services to protect children. It also has strong and supportive programs for people with mental health needs and addictions. It continues our Drug Court, a treatment court to reduce recidivism and associated jail bed days. Through an enhanced and expanded deferred prosecution program centered out of the District Attorney's Office, we will also improve our ability to hold greater numbers of low risk offenders accountable while diverting them from using limited court resources. We have "recycled" tax levy in various department budgets to reconfigure our resources and target essential priorities. In other words, "status quo" was thrown out the window.

As one citizen who is a seasoned professional in skilled nursing finances recently told me, "the system is broken," for nursing homes as we once knew them—the kind that stand alone like our

Portage County Health Care Center. Today's times call for continuums of care and services that provide modern accommodations and financial balances with assisted care and independent living options. Over the past few years, we have been trying to sustain an obsolete stand-alone model when there are many other viable options for providing skilled nursing care to frail elders and people with disabilities. This is why we are distributing a request for proposals yet this fall to see if we can generate other options and partners for a more sustainable future for these services in our County. With another million dollar funding gap since last year, we are not able to sustain this course without partners and without putting our core County mission and credit rating at risk!

In this budget, I have set aside \$5,000 to begin building a fund for another groundwater quality study in five years. By setting aside \$5,000 each year for five years, we will have enough for our next Countywide groundwater quality study to monitor our progress.

We all depend more on technology every day—and that same technology can also put us at risk from a security standpoint. This is why I have prioritized technology, our networks, and cybersecurity in this budget.

This budget also supports normal progression for our County employees on our salary scale plus a 2% annual adjustment to keep the scale up-to-date and working for us from an employee retention/attraction standpoint.

In the 2018 budget, I have set aside an additional \$104,053 for capital improvements *within our operating budget* bringing us to a total of \$879,500 for capital projects in our annual budget. Our goal is to reach \$1 million in our annual operating budget for capital projects so that we can be less reliant on borrowing for routine capital upgrades such as roof replacements and HVAC systems. These funds which help us “live more within our means” had been removed (spent) through a budget process prior to my election to this Office in 2010, so each year we have been rebuilding this fund with the goal of more sustainability in our fiscal approach.

After 1.09% of equalized valuation growth last year, we were happy to learn that our valuation this year increased by 4.96%. Portage County’s property values total about \$5.54 billion. Our net new growth is 1.43%. (It was 1.47 in 2017 and 1.00% in 2016.) Under a state law regarding levy limits, Portage County could only increase its levy by a maximum of \$330,889 over the previous year’s operating budget. The 2018 Budget does include the maximum increase to the levy limit.

Outside the levy limit is our Countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The 2018 EMS Budget shows a 60.22% increase in the EMS Levy adding \$812,392. It supports the purchase of two ambulances (one replacement and one new), expands EMS services in the Plover area improving response times to some rural parts of the County, and includes a 1.5% increase on the contract to current providers.

The tax rate that I have proposed in 2018 is 5.18 or \$5.18/\$1,000. This means that for every \$1,000 of equalized value, the County levy is \$5.18 of County tax. For instance, the County’s property tax on a \$151,700 home, a median value for a home in Portage County now, would be \$785.81. The mill rate is 4 cents more than last year’s property taxes on a median home when the tax rate was 5.14 and a median home was \$147,600 with County taxes at \$758.66.

I have proposed a total 2018 County budget of \$103,874,702 which is a 1.22% increase over 2017’s amended budget. It includes our 2018 tax levy total of \$28,676,206. Our operating levy sees a 1.43% change.

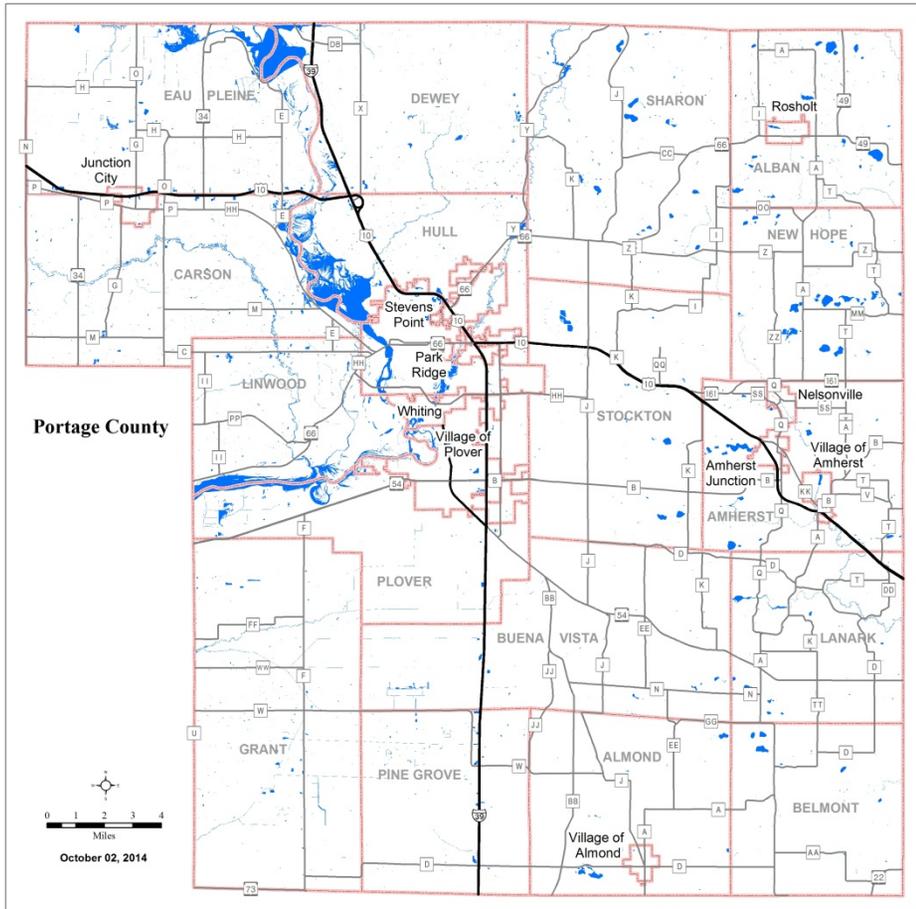
I invite you to learn more about the details of the 2018 budget by perusing the full budget book or the “budget in summary” document. I hope you will also take a look at the outline of my budget presentation which can be found at our County website, www.co.portage.wi.us. Please call or email my office (715-346-1997 or dreierp@co.portage.wi.us) or contact your County Board Supervisor to share your feedback! Together, I am sure we will create an even better way to move forward. Thank you for putting your trust in me—not just this year, but for the past eight years of my service as your County Executive.



Patty Dreier
Portage County Executive

PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN – COMMUNITY PROFILE

Portage County Map:



Portage County Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Portage County government to enhance the quality of life for all its residents by providing fiscally responsible services that enable our citizens to build productive communities, families, and lives.

Portage County in Brief:

Portage County, located in central Wisconsin, covers an area of 823 square miles. Intersected by two major highways, US Highway 10 and Interstate 39/US Highway 51, the County is approximately 170 miles east of Minneapolis/St. Paul, 50 miles west of Green Bay, and 155 miles northwest of Milwaukee.

Founded in 1842, Portage County has a diverse landscape and rich culture. Its roots are in the logging industry and trading posts that defined its communities. Major commerce of the area now includes agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, insurance, and education. The rural setting of the County also allows for year-round recreational areas including parks, lakes, streams; the 26-mile Green Circle Trail for biking, hiking, and jogging; numerous cultural festivals, live music/entertainment venues, restaurants, coffee shops, and shopping locations.

The County is governed by a County Executive and a 25-member Board of Supervisors, elected from one city, nine villages, and seventeen townships, with an estimated population of 70,761 (*WI Demographic Services Center, 2017 estimate*). The County seat is located in the City of Stevens Point.

Portage County Municipalities:

1 City	Stevens Point
17 Townships	Alban, Almond, Amherst, Belmont, Buena Vista, Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Grant, Hull, Lanark, Linwood, New Hope, Pine Grove, Plover, Sharon, Stockton
9 Villages	Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Junction City, Nelsonville, Park Ridge, Plover, Rosholt, Whiting

PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN – COMMUNITY PROFILE

Largest Employers (alpha order):

AIG/Travel Guard	Lands' End	Stevens Point Area Public School District
Associated Bank	McCain Foods USA	University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
City of Stevens Point	Ministry St. Michaels (part of Ascension)	Verso Corporation
Copp's Food Center	Monogram Goods	Walmart
Del Monte Corporation	Portage County	Worzalla Publishing
Donaldson Company	Sentry Insurance	YMCA of St. Pt. Area
HO Wolding	Skyward	

Source: Portage County Business Council

Employment by Industry:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational services, and health care and social assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail trade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture, forestry, transportation and warehousing, professional and scientific

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Principal Tax Payers:

Sentry Insurance	Service Cold Storage, LLC
Skygroup, LLC	Walmart Real Estate
American Intl. Realty Corp.	S-H Forty-Nine Propco-Oakridge, LLC
Seramur Family Ltd., Partnership	NewPage Wisconsin System, Inc.
Marshfield Clinic	Heritage Inv. Co.

Source: Portage County Treasurers Office of Tax Year 2016

Miles of Roads and Streets:

State	157
County	434
City, Villages, and Towns	1,308

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Income, Jobs, & Unemployment:

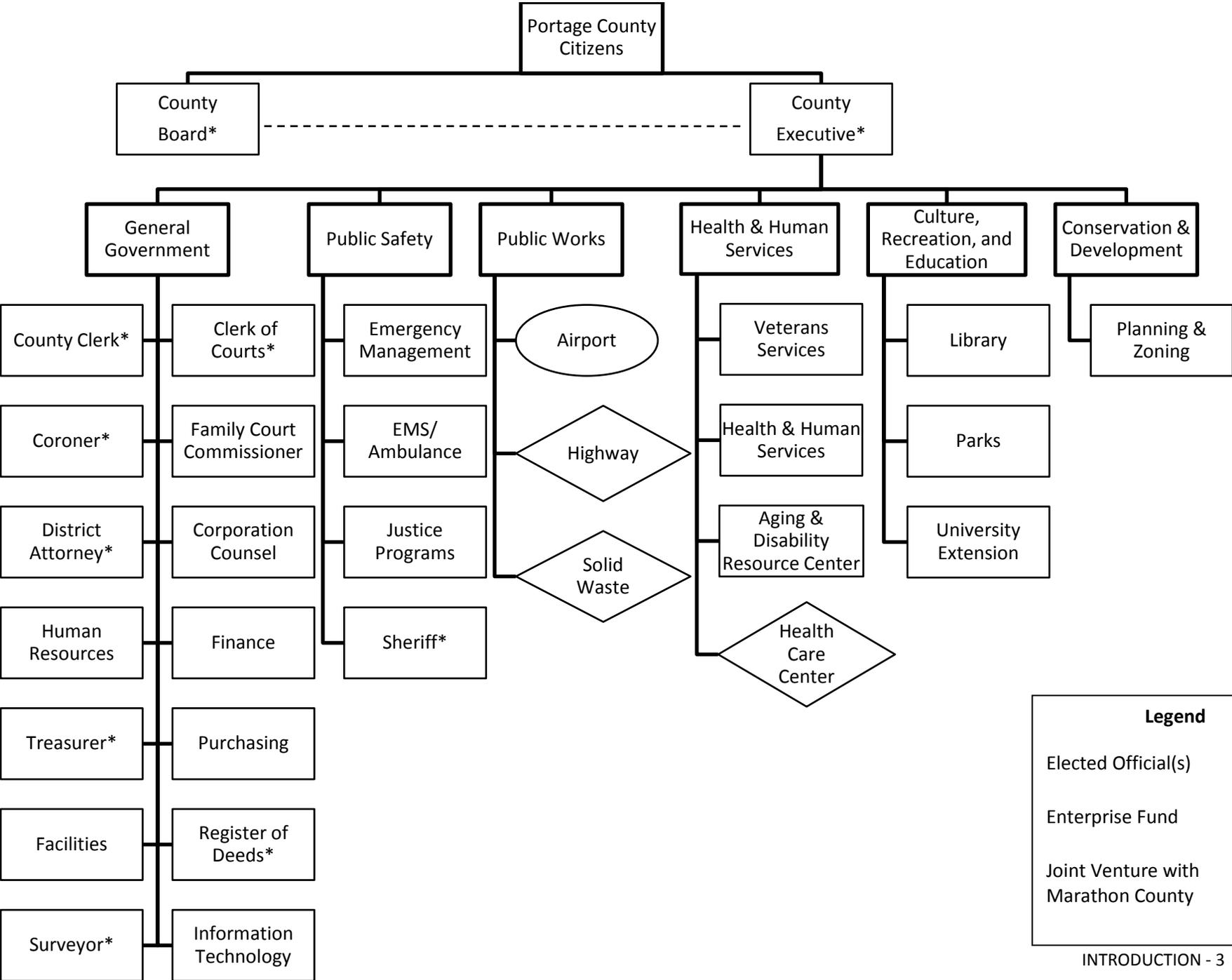
Per Capita Income	\$26,071	Civilian Labor Force	39,180
Median Family Income	\$66,709	Portage County 2016 Annual Unemployment Rate	3.9%
Median Non-Family Income	\$27,654	Wisconsin 2016 Annual Unemployment Rate	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Education:

Elementary/Secondary	
Almond/Bancroft	Pacelli Catholic Schools – St. Bronislava and St. Stephen
Saint Adalbert Catholic School	Rosholt
Stevens Point – Bannach, Jefferson School for the Arts, Kennedy, Madison, McDill, McKinley, Plover-Whiting, Roosevelt I.D.E.A., & Washington	St. Paul Lutheran School
	Tomorrow River/Amherst
	Wisconsin Rapids – Grant
Junior High/High Schools	
Almond/Bancroft	P.J. Jacobs Junior High School
Ben Franklin Junior High School	Point of Discovery School
Charles F. Fernandez Center for Alternative Learning	Stevens Point Area Senior High School
Pacelli Catholic Middle and High School	Rosholt
	Tomorrow River/Amherst
Post-Secondary	
Mid-State Technical College	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

PORTAGE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Legend

Elected Official(s)	*
Enterprise Fund	◇
Joint Venture with Marathon County	○

DRAFT ONLY BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET – WILL BE REPLACED WITH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION AFTER ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO: _____

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY APPORTIONMENT FOR THE 2017 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2018

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue establishes the Equalized Value for Portage County for the 2017 apportionment which is set at \$5,537,353,800; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has duly formulated her 2018 budget proposal and presented it to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, to fund and operate the County, a tax levy of \$28,676,846 with an associated rate of \$5.18 per thousand (\$1,000) of equalized value is needed; and

WHEREAS, the levy is in compliance with the levy limit as imposed by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 (2017-2019 State Biennial Budget) which limits the property tax levy increase to the greater percent change of net new construction for Portage County at the level of 1.426%, or the statutory rate of 0%; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were noticed on Monday, October 9, 2017 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2018 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 1, 2017.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution establishes the tax levy for the 2018 Portage County Budget to be apportioned to Portage County municipalities. The total levy is \$28,676,846 for the 2018 Budget as follows:

	Amount
Operating Levy – General	\$23,534,857
Operating Levy – County Wide EMS	2,161,478
Bridge & Culvert Aid	225,000
Debt Service Levy	<u>2,754,871</u>
TOTAL Levy	\$28,676,206

This resolution requires a majority vote of the board for passage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes a property tax levy in the amount of \$28,676,206 in support of the 2018 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to levy the required taxes against all taxable property in Portage County and to levy special assessments and charges against the respective municipalities as provided by law.

DATED THIS 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

James Gifford, Chairman

Dan Dobratz

Allen Haga, Jr., Vice Chairman

Jeanne Dodge

Bo DeDeker

DRAFT ONLY BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET – WILL BE REPLACED WITH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION AFTER ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO: _____

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: ADOPTION OF THE 2018 PORTAGE COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Executive and Finance Committee have conducted numerous budget meetings in formulating the 2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 budget proposed by the County Executive has been presented and detailed to the County Board of Supervisors on October 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were formally noticed on Monday, October 9, 2017 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2018 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 1, 2017, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the annual budget of \$103,874,702 at its annual fall meeting on November 1, 2017 to fund and operate the County.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution adopts the 2018 Portage County Budget of \$103,874,702 including the appropriations, revenues, and use of fund balance as proposed by the County Executive and amended by the County Board of Supervisors as outlined in the 2018 Portage County Budget. Passage of this resolution requires a majority vote of the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the budget of \$103,874,702 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018.

DATED THIS 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017.

DRAFT ONLY BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET – WILL BE REPLACED WITH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION AFTER ADOPTED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

James Gifford, Chairman

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