

# PORTAGE COUNTY



# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

October 2, 2018

To the Residents of Portage County and the County Board:

The 2019 budget process is nearly complete. The budget presented in this document was only accomplished via a lot of hard work from our County department heads and their staff who took the 0% net guidance target I gave them so seriously that the savings they created covered the deficits in the budget—expected and unexpected. I'm very thankful for their efforts, and I encourage you to thank them when you have the opportunity to do so.

This budget retains all core programs and services—discretionary or not—and puts the County in an ideal position for next year's budget development process. The tax rate proposed for 2019 is \$5.07 (down from \$5.18) per \$1,000 of equalized value. The median value for a home in the County is \$155,900 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The tax on that home's value would be \$790.41.

Of course, the County is pursuing a referendum in the November election for the Portage County Health Care Center. The referendum is asking to authorize the County to exceed the levy limit by up to \$1,400,000 (2019-2022). If the referendum passes and the County exceeds the levy by all or a portion of that amount, the tax rate could increase up to \$5.32 per \$1,000 of equalized value.

The total, proposed Portage County Tax Levy for 2019 is \$29,013,295. The total, overall budget for 2019 is \$111,799,476, a net decrease of 0.42% from the 2018 modified budget. The vast majority of the monies—over 2/3—in county budgets are not discretionary, and this is often overlooked. The total amount of discretionary money available in the 2019 budget is \$34,145,796.

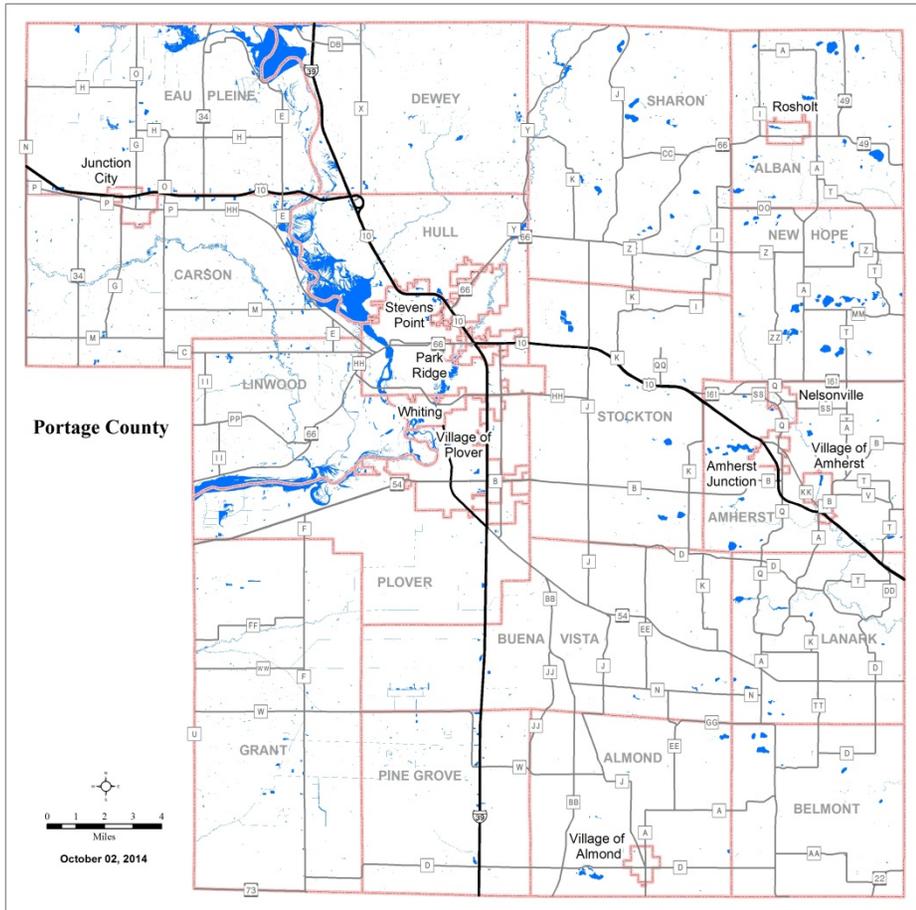
In an era of capped tax levies, it's discretionary funding that has to cover most of the increases in costs of doing business in County government. For instance, the Consumer Price Index is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. It is currently at 2.7% (as of August, 2018). Net New Construction in Portage County, the metric that determines how much our levy is allowed to increase from year to year, was higher than we expected at 1.81%. Even though it was better than what we thought we'd receive, you can see we are still short of covering basic increases in the market. This also doesn't account for unexpected losses or shifts within the County that generate or do little to solve our deficits.

This is why I will lead an effort alongside staff and the County Board to conduct a Program Evaluation and Prioritization Process in 2019. This will develop a method for the uniform analysis and prioritization of all County discretionary programs for the 2020 budget and beyond. I look forward to setting our County on a more stable and predictable fiscal path for the future, as it's the only way we can sustain most of what we do under a punishing status quo.

**Chris Holman, 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	Donaldson Company	RR Donnelly
Associated Bank	Herrschners Inc.	Sentry Insurance
Ascension	H.O. Wolding	Skyward
Canadian National Railway	Ki Mobility	Stevens Point Area Public School District
City of Stevens Point	McCain Foods USA	University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Del Monte Corporation	Monogram Foods	Verso Paper Corporation
Delta Dental of Wisconsin	Portage County	Worzalla Publishing

*Source: Portage County Business Council*

### Employment by Industry:

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

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 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	Holiday Inn

*Source: Portage County Treasurers Office of Tax Year 2017*

### Miles of Roads and Streets:

State	157
County	434
City, Villages, and Towns	1,310

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

### Income, Jobs, & Unemployment:

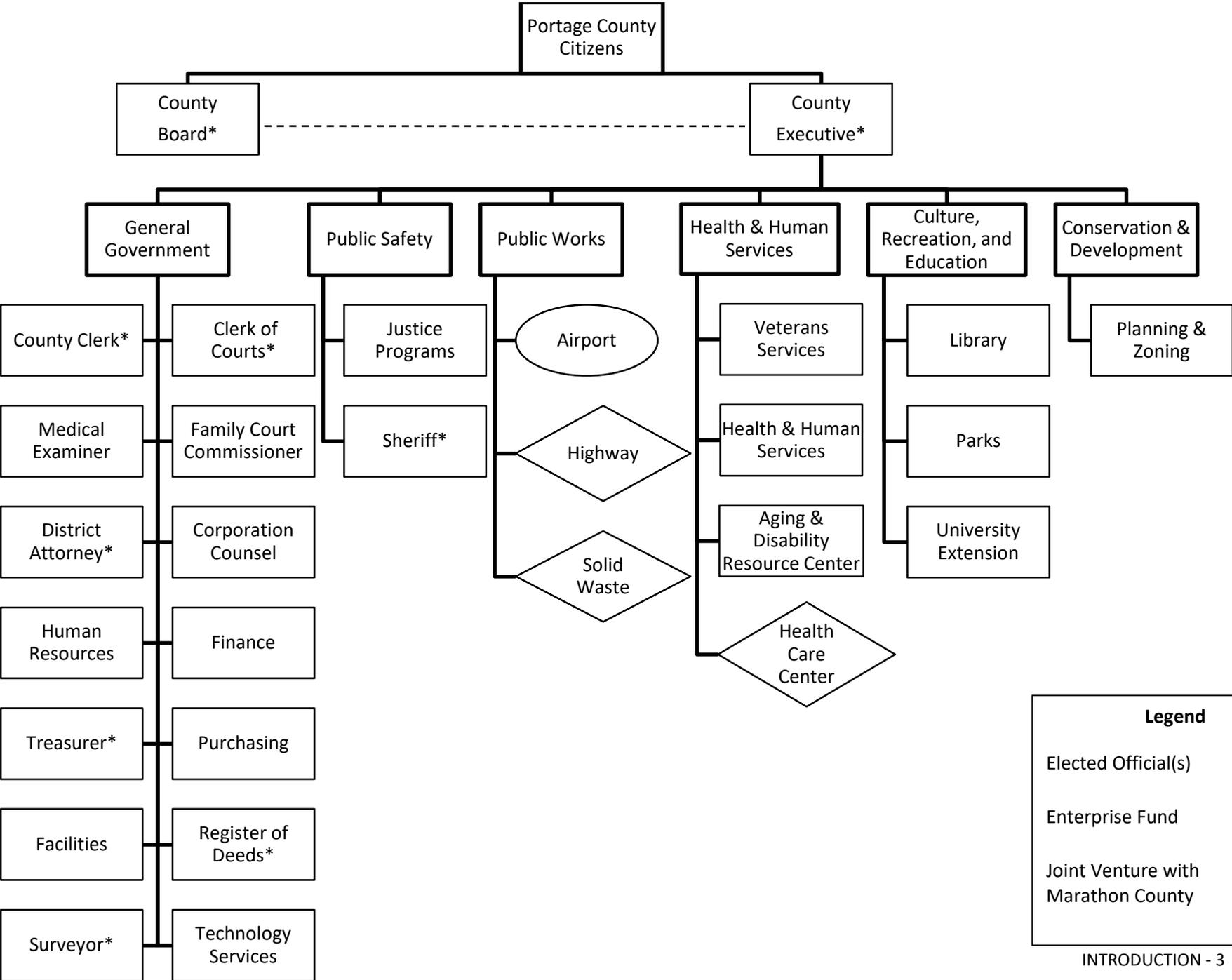
Per Capita Income	\$26,832	Civilian Labor Force	39,267
Median Family Income	\$69,059	Portage County 2017 Annual Unemployment Rate	2.5%
Median Non-Family Income	\$28,658	Wisconsin 2017 Annual Unemployment Rate	3.2%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 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	
Stevens Point – Bannach, Jefferson School for the Arts, Kennedy, Madison, McDill, McKinley, Plover-Whiting, Roosevelt I.D.E.A , & Washington	Rosholt 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 2018 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2019

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue establishes the Equalized Value for Portage County for the 2018 apportionment which is set at \$5,718,318,800; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has duly formulated his 2019 budget proposal and presented it to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, to fund and operate the County, a tax levy of \$29,949,096 with an associated rate of \$5.24 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 1.806%, 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 8, 2018 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2019 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 20, 2018.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution establishes the tax levy for the 2019 Portage County Budget to be apportioned to Portage County municipalities. The total levy is \$29,013,295 for the 2019 Budget as follows:

	Amount
Operating Levy – General	\$24,688,351
Operating Levy – County Wide EMS	2,161,478
Bridge & Culvert Aid	50,000
Debt Service Levy	<u>3,049,267</u>
TOTAL Levy	\$29,946,096

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 \$29,949,096 in support of the 2019 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 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2018.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne Dodge, Chair

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Dennis Raabe

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James Gifford, Vice Chair

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Larry Raikowski

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Dave Ladick

***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 2019 PORTAGE COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Executive and Finance Committee have conducted numerous budget meetings in formulating the 2019 budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 budget proposed by the County Executive has been presented and detailed to the County Board of Supervisors on October 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were formally noticed on Monday, October 8, 2018 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2019 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 20, 2018, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the annual budget of \$112,342,662 at its annual fall meeting on November 20, 2018 to fund and operate the County.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution adopts the 2019 Portage County Budget of \$112,342,662 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 2019 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 \$112,342,662 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019.

DATED THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2018.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Jeanne Dodge, Chair

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Dennis Raabe

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Jim Gifford, Vice Chair

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Larry Raikowski

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Dave Ladick