

PORTAGE COUNTY



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

October 1, 2019

To the Residents of Portage County and the County Board:

The 2020 budget process is nearly complete. Once again, I gave County department heads and their staff a 0% net guidance target. I'm very thankful for their efforts, as they do everything they can to help the county create a successful budget each year. I encourage you to thank them when you have the opportunity to do so. This is not easy work, and as time passes we continue to fall behind in many areas of the budget given our fiscal constraints.

The 2020 budget retains all core programs and services and puts the County in a better position for next year's budget development process. The tax rate proposed for 2020 is \$5.18 (down from \$5.24) per \$1,000 of equalized value. The median value for a home in the County is \$158,800 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The tax on that home's value would be \$822.58.

The referendum that was passed for the Portage County Health Care Center last year is still in place, and the tax rate will increase based upon how much we levy out of the total \$1.4 million that the referendum authorized. Last year, we levied \$935,801. For 2019, the Health Care Center is projecting a surplus, which can be saved for future operational shortfalls or levy reductions.

The total, proposed Portage County Tax Levy for 2020 is \$31,161,525. The total, overall budget for 2020 is \$109,776,455. The vast majority of the monies—over 2/3—in county budgets are not discretionary, and this is often overlooked.

In an era of capped tax levies, I believe that we need to balance the year-to-year needs with a longer-term perspective whenever possible. This will require some minor shifts in our budget philosophy and lead to some cuts in future budgets.

In this fiscal climate, the county will also be an unreliable source of funding for any non-county agency for the foreseeable future. My focus has to be on the county as an organization, and this is why my budget prioritization process is being put in place.

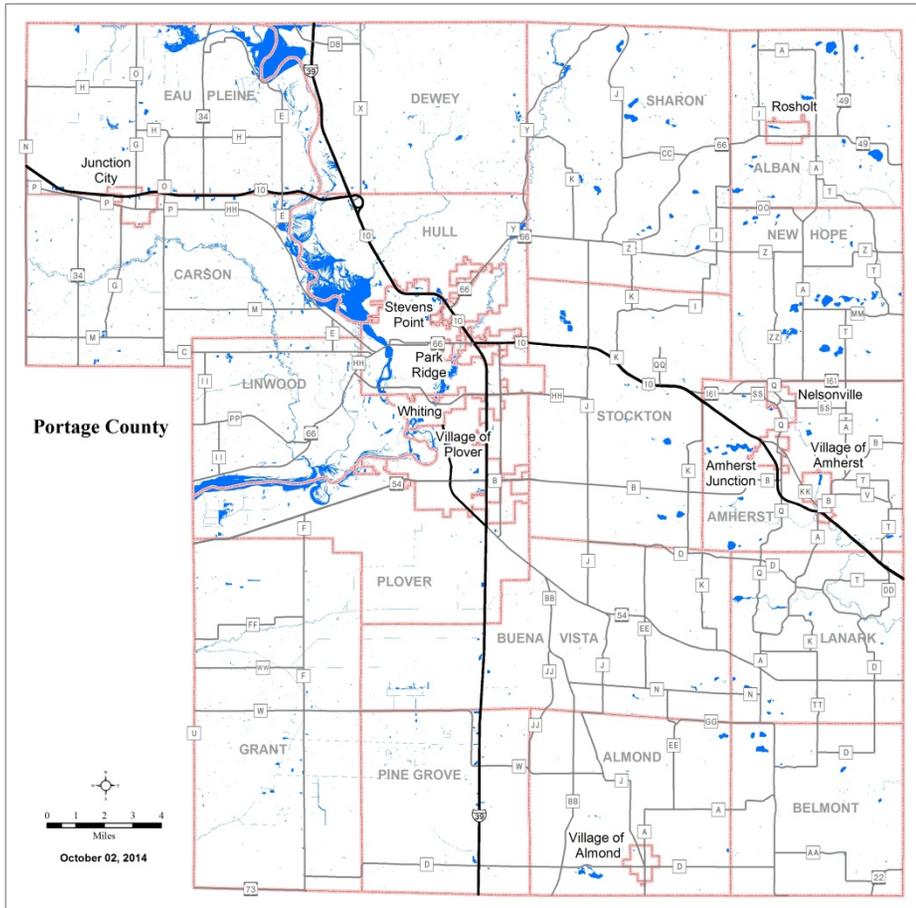
Net New Construction in Portage County, the metric that determines how much our levy is allowed to increase from year to year, was higher than we expected at 2.04%. Nevertheless, based on my budget guidance we had to overcome a budget deficit of roughly \$250,000.

As always, I am available should you have any questions, and I will continue to do my very best for you as I continue my term in this position.

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 71,038 (*WI Demographic Services Center, 2018 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 (*alphabetical 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	UWSP
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"> • 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"> • Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Principal Real Estate Taxpayers:

Sentry Insurance	John Parker Development LLC
Skygroup, LLC (Skyward)	St. Michael's Hospital
Lineage SCS WI LLC (Service Cold Storage)	Aspirus Wausau Hospital Inc.
American Intl. Realty Corp. (AIG/Travel Guard)	Verso MN WI LLC
Marshfield Clinic	S-H Forty-Nine Propco-Oakridge LLC

Source: Portage County Treasurer's Office - Tax Year 2018

Miles of Roads and Streets:

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Income, Jobs, & Unemployment:

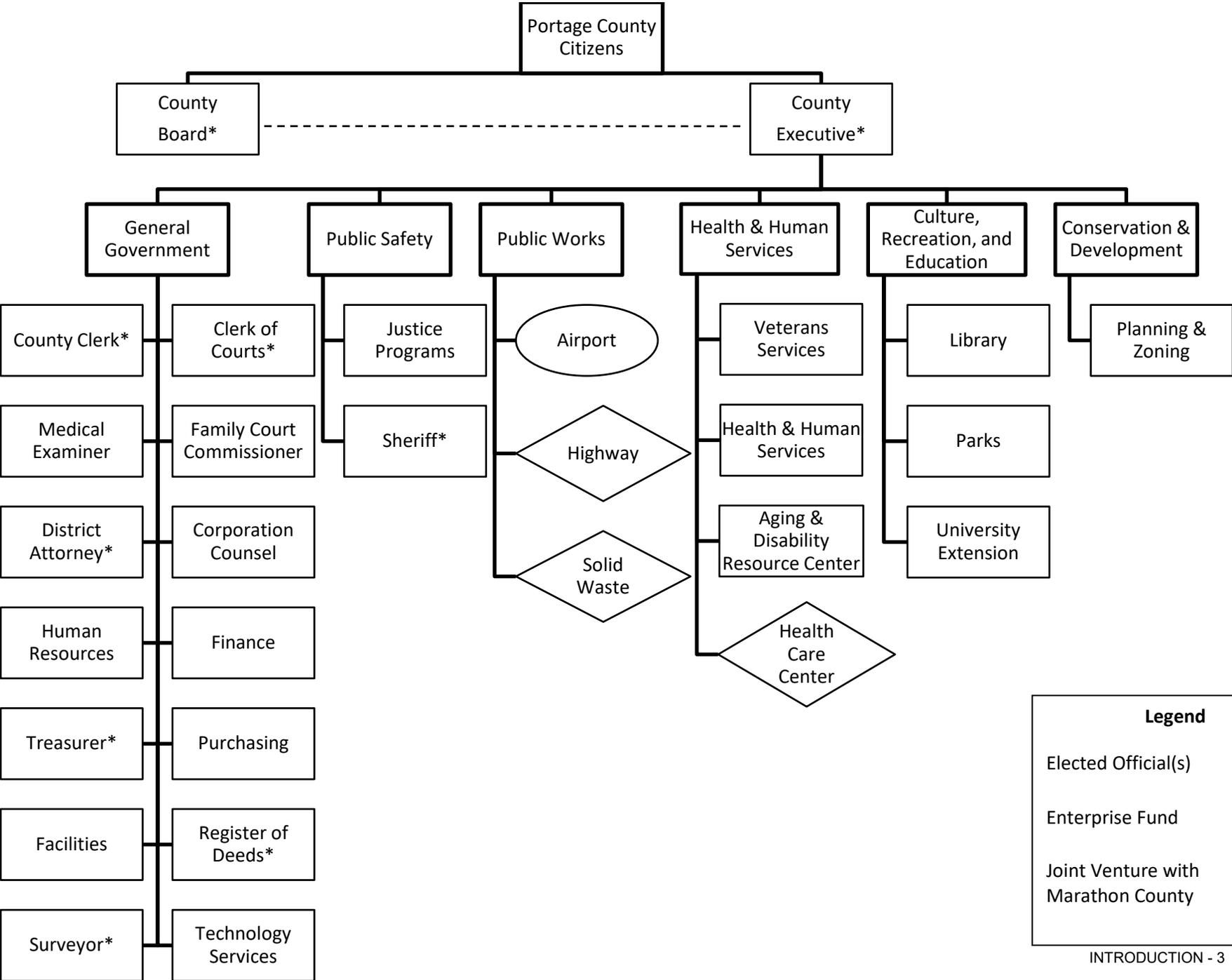
Per Capita Income	\$28,363	Civilian Labor Force	39,099
Median Family Income	\$72,828	Portage County 2018 Annual Unemployment Rate	3.0%
Median Non-Family Income	\$30,056	Wisconsin 2018 Annual Unemployment Rate	3.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Education:

Elementary/Secondary	
Almond-Bancroft	Pacelli Catholic – St. Bronislava and St. Stephen
Saint Adalbert Catholic School	
Rosholt	St. Paul Lutheran
Stevens Point – Bannach, Jefferson, Kennedy, Madison, McDill, McKinley, Plover-Whiting, Roosevelt & Washington	Amherst & Tomorrow River CC
	Sacred Heart Elementary
	Wisconsin Rapids – Grant
Middle School/Junior High/High School	
Almond-Bancroft	Pacelli Catholic
Ben Franklin Junior High	Point of Discovery School
PJ Jacobs Junior High	Stevens Point Area Senior High
Rosholt	Amherst
Charles F. Fernandez Center for Alternative Learning	Tomorrow River CC Middle
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 2019 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2020

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue establishes the Equalized Value for Portage County for the 2019 apportionment which is set at \$6,024,746,800; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has duly formulated his 2020 budget proposal and presented it to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, to fund and operate the County, a tax levy of \$31,161,525 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 2.043%, 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, 2019 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2020 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 4, 2019.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution establishes the tax levy for the 2020 Portage County Budget to be apportioned to Portage County municipalities. The total levy is \$31,161,525 for the 2020 Budget as follows:

	Amount
Operating Levy – General	\$24,330,662
Operating Levy – Referendum	859,559
County Wide EMS	2,379,842
Bridge & Culvert Aid	50,000
Debt Service Levy	<u>3,541,462</u>
TOTAL Levy	\$31,161,525

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 \$31,161,525 in support of the 2020 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 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: October 21, 2019

Jeanne Dodge, Chair

Dennis Raabe

James Gifford, Vice Chair

Larry Raikowski

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 2020 PORTAGE COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Executive and Finance Committee have conducted numerous budget meetings in formulating the 2020 budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget proposed by the County Executive has been presented and detailed to the County Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were formally noticed on Monday, October 7, 2019 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2020 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 4, 2019, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the annual budget of \$109,776,455 at its annual fall meeting on November 4, 2019 to fund and operate the County.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution adopts the 2020 Portage County Budget of \$109,776,455 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 2020 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 \$109,776,455 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020.

DATED THIS 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

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