



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi

County Executive



Newsletter Column – 302 Words

DATE: December 5, 2011

Contacts: Office of the County Executive (608) 267-8823 or cell (608) 843-8858

Preserving Your Priorities Despite Challenging Times

A Column by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

When I first took office in April, the county was facing an 8 million dollar deficit heading into the 2012 budget due to deep cuts from the state. These cuts posed a severe threat to the county's core services.

Despite these challenges, through innovation, efficiencies, and new partnerships, the county budget I recently signed into law preserves these services you expect and deserve - - despite difficult budget challenges.

The 2012 budget increases funds to our human services safety net more than \$4.4 million dollars to a total of more than \$238 million dollars. Included in this amount is a new contingency fund to protect the elderly, children, and people with disabilities in the event of further state cuts to county human services.

Through the shared sacrifice and ideas of our county workforce, Dane County employees contributed more than \$2 million in savings.

In addition, I developed an innovative new partnership between workers in our parks and highway departments that will help put 11 more snow plow operators on the roads this winter while saving taxpayers over \$400,000.

I also worked with Sheriff Mahoney to secure over \$1.8 million in efficiencies in our criminal justice system while protecting public safety.

I ensured my first budget placed a priority on economic development as well. Through my new Office of Jobs and Prosperity, we'll collaborate with our private and public sector partners to retain and create family-supporting jobs in Dane County. And we'll expand exciting sectors of our economy, such as clean energy jobs and sustainable agriculture.

And because of partnerships with groups like the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Clean Lakes Alliance, we have new dollars for our work to clean up the lakes.

I'm proud to report that through working together, we navigated this budget challenge and protected your priorities.