

Gov. Walker: Milwaukee state office building plan offers savings for taxpayers

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Sale of current office will spur economic development

MILWAUKEE – Governor Scott Walker joined city and county leaders in Milwaukee today to announce plans for a new state office building in Milwaukee. The current office building at 6th and Wells Street will be sold for private development.

“Building a new state office building in Milwaukee is a win-win for taxpayers and economic development,” said Governor Walker. “Offering this prime real estate for sale will open the door for new businesses that will help fuel the revival of downtown Milwaukee, and taxpayers will have greater access to services, in a modern facility, and at a lower cost.”

The existing Milwaukee state office building was built in 1963 and is approaching the end of its useful life. The building is in an area of strategic economic development significance to downtown Milwaukee. Earlier this week Foxconn announced the purchase of a downtown office building to serve as the headquarters for its operations in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Valley Innovation Center. Other recent construction in the Park East and the new Bucks arena have made this location desirable for private development. The state will sell the building and land to offset the cost of a new Milwaukee State Office building.

The sale of the Milwaukee state office building is part of the state’s real estate strategy to reduce operational costs, the use of private leases, and spur economic

development.

In Milwaukee, the state will eliminate 5 private leases and consolidate multiple agencies saving taxpayers an estimated \$1.2 million a year in rent, maintenance, and energy costs. The state will ultimately occupy 111,786 less square feet of office space in Milwaukee. RFP begins today, February 9, 2018 and it ends Friday, March 9, 2018. Target date for site selection is Monday, May 28, 2018.

The Department of Administration request for proposal (RFP) to acquire land for a new state-owned Milwaukee office building is located <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/DoingBusiness/Current-Real-Estate-RFPs-and-RFIs.aspx> . Once land is acquired, the project will be recommended for enumeration in the next biennial budget and is estimated to cost \$50 million. The current building will remain operational until a new building is completed. The location and design of the new Milwaukee state office building will:

- Achieve operational savings
- Consolidate agencies into one location to provide efficiencies and share back office operations
- Provide accessibility, efficient and modernized mechanical systems, employ modern information technology and e-connectivity;
- Provide updated space needs for agencies with similar customer service functions
- Greater accessibility and customer parking

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