



## **Milwaukee County Board Votes on Plan to Slash Pension Benefits and Pardon the Misappropriation of \$121,800,000**

**For Immediate Release, March 21, 2019  
Press Contact - Dennis Hughes, 262-455-1542**

**Milwaukee, WI** - Today, at its monthly meeting starting at 9:30 AM at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, the County Board will consider a proposal sponsored by County Executive Chris Abele that would codify years of lawless attacks on retirees by his administration and legalize the misappropriation of at least \$121,800,000 million since 2010.

[Live Stream Available Here](#)

The [public](#) has made the Milwaukee County Board aware of these concerns, [elderly retirees](#) have explained the abuse that has already been caused, and [county supervisors](#) have long-advocated for cost-neutral solutions to minimize undue harm to both retirees and taxpayers; but the Milwaukee County Board may instead vote to support County Executive Abele's draconian proposal to resolve pension errors created by his staff and consultants.

The County Executive's plan (Agenda Item #18, File [#18-802](#)) would allow the Milwaukee Public Museum to steal millions of dollars worth of retirement benefits that were owed to veteran employees who were inexplicably [laid off](#) in recent years.

If approved, the Milwaukee County Board's action would effectively pardon the elected Comptroller's [misappropriation of at least \\$121,800,000](#) worth of public funds, excuse his [fraudulent accounting](#), and allow the \$72 million appropriated by the County Board for its 2019 pension contribution to be used for something other than a payment to the ERS pension fund.

**By legalizing the Comptroller's misappropriation, the State of Wisconsin's Department of Revenue (now led by former Democratic leader, Peter Barca),**

**could be forced to pay the Milwaukee County pension fund millions of dollars pursuant to [Wisconsin Statutes section 59.85\(2m\)](#).**

Concurrently, the Milwaukee County Board's Capital Improvements Committee, which is coincidentally chaired by the Comptroller, approved a plan this month to consider new criteria for the prioritization of capital improvements projects. The current criteria overwhelmingly distributes capital resources in order to protect public safety, but proposed changes could make it possible for the \$72 million budgeted for Milwaukee County's 2019 pension contribution to be distributed to capital projects based on criteria other than public safety, like giving higher priority to projects located in a district of a County Supervisor who supports the County Executive's pension theft scheme.

**Comptroller Manske has [publicly questioned](#) his own ability to do [basic math](#), so the Milwaukee County Board needs to step in and do the right thing for taxpayers -- (1) reject County Executive Abele's pension theft scheme (File #18-802) and (2) hold Comptroller Manske accountable for the fraudulent accounting of pension funds.**

More information about the County Executive's plan can be found in the Shepherd Express [here](#) and [here](#).

###