



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## Senator LaTonya Johnson and Representative Evan Goyke Introduce the “Move Forward Milwaukee Initiative”

September 10, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MILWAUKEE** — Following yesterday’s coalition launch, Rep. Goyke and Sen. Johnson are introducing a new proposal to help move Milwaukee forward. Milwaukee is the source of the state’s largest employers, visitors and events. Like many large cities across the Midwest, it anchors the economy of the state. However, in other states, local governments are allowed more control over the revenue streams they depend on. By allowing a binding referendum to decide whether local governments can increase revenues, LRB \_\_\_ allows for the City of Milwaukee to better fund its priorities without relying on property taxes.

Because of a stagnant sales tax, Milwaukee has been forced to raise property taxes to cover essential services like police, fire and public works. LRB \_\_\_ allows the electors of Milwaukee County to authorize an increase of Sales tax by 1%, bringing the total sales tax up to 6.5%, which is still lower than Chicago (10.25%) , Minneapolis (8.025%) or Des Moines (7%). While property taxes are born exclusively by the owners or renters of property, sales taxes are generated by both residents and visitors. Local governments make investments in areas that impact our quality of life. State law should empower Milwaukee to Move Forward by holding a referendum on a local sales tax.

"It's time to Move Forward Milwaukee. Our local governments need the opportunity to realize a portion of the return on investment they've made in building strong communities. This legislation empowers the people of Milwaukee County to decide their future by shifting away from an over reliance on property taxes and uniting communities throughout the County by capturing the benefit of our shared economic success," commented Rep. Goyke.

“A strong Milwaukee means a strong Wisconsin. I’m proud to be part of this initiative that will allow Milwaukee to be better partners with the state by ensuring our communities have the tools they need to thrive. I’m excited and ready to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to move this proposal forward.” stated Sen. Johnson.

The legislation is currently circulating among legislators for co-sponsorship.

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