



REGISTER OF DEEDS

# Milwaukee County

JOHN LA FAVE • Register of Deeds

## PRESS RELEASE

### Register of Deeds John La Fave announces retirement

Technological improvements, greater efficiency, improved customer service mark his 16 years as Register.

*By John La Fave, April 9, 2019*

MILWAUKEE - John La Fave announced that he will be retiring effective April 12th after serving as the Register of Deeds of Milwaukee County since 2003. Previously, he served in the Wisconsin legislature for ten years.

“It was always my intention to retire before my 70th birthday, and as that date approaches, I feel a great deal of satisfaction that our goals for improvements in the Register of Deeds department have been accomplished,” said La Fave.

- The Milwaukee Register of Deeds has led the state in the electronic recording (over 80%) of real estate documents, which increases efficiency for the submitter and the county. This office was one of the first 20 recording offices in the nation to accept electronic documents.
- Millions of deeds have been digitized all the way back to 1835, the year Milwaukee County was organized. These high-quality images are available online.
- Millions of dollars have been saved by cutting the number of positions in half through improved use of technology and cross-training of employees.
- The Register of Deeds has returned a surplus of \$23.7 million since La Fave took office in 2003. La Fave also noted that non-tax dollars were used to fund many major projects and improvements.

The vacancy in the office as of April 12th will allow Governor Tony Evers to appoint La Fave’s replacement to fill out the remainder of the term. The next scheduled election for Milwaukee County Register of Deeds will occur November 3, 2020.