



INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COOPERATION COUNCIL

Greenfield Mayor Michael Neitzke, Chair & Secretary, 7325 West Forest Home Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53220; (414) 329-5208  
West Allis Mayor Dan Devine, Vice-Chair, 7525 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214; (414) 302-8290  
Glendale Mayor Bryan Kennedy, Treasurer, 5909 N. Milwaukee River Parkway, Glendale, WI 53209; (414) 228-1700

October 5, 2018

Dear Governor Walker and Superintendent Evers:

We, the Mayors and Village Presidents of the cities and villages of Milwaukee County, ask you to commit to closing the Dark Store and Walgreens Loopholes as a part of the next state budget. This is the only way to avoid having even more of the property tax burden shifted from commercial and manufacturing properties to homeowners and small businesses.

For the last ten years growing numbers of commercial and manufacturing properties have been using property tax avoidance strategies known as the Dark Store and Walgreens loopholes to push their fair share of paying for the cost of critical local services onto homeowners and small businesses.

Local governments across the state have fought to defend their assessments against the Dark Store and Walgreens Loopholes strategies, but the fight is expensive. For example, the City of Wauwatosa expects to spend more money defending against these tax avoidance efforts than it will receive in state shared revenue. This is a waste of public resources.

Like all cities and villages statewide, we are in the midst of preparing our 2019 municipal budgets and are deeply focused on the need to fairly share the cost of municipal services among all property owners. We know you both can agree that homeowners should not and cannot bear more of the tax burden than they already do, which is nearly 70% of the total state levy.

Well drafted legislation closing the Dark Store and Walgreens Loopholes already exists. That legislation has broad bipartisan support and would pass both houses of the legislature easily if put to a vote. We need your leadership to make that vote happen. Please include both of the Dark Store and Walgreens Loophole bills in your biennial state budget. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael Neitzke, City of Greenfield  
Chair, Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

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Mayor Dan Devine, City of West Allis  
Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

President Carl Krueger, Village of Brown Deer

Mayor John Hohenfeldt, City of Cudahy

President Douglas Frazer, Village of Fox Point

Mayor Steve Olson, City of Franklin

Mayor Bryan Kennedy, City of Glendale

President James Birmingham, Village of Greendale

President Dan Besson, Village of Hales Corners

Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee

County Executive Chris Abele, Milwaukee County

Mayor Daniel Bukiewicz, City of Oak Creek

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President Steve Anderson, Village of River Hills

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