

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FIRST

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Scott Walker announces non-listening sessions for 2011 Milwaukee County budget

It is being reported that Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker has announced his "[listening sessions](#)" for the 2011 Milwaukee County Budget. The times of these three hearings, which start in less than a week, are all during the day when most people in Milwaukee County are at work and would be unable to attend, especially on such short notice:

The meetings will be at noon next Monday at the Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave.; at 1 p.m. May 6 at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.; and at 10 a.m. May 10 at Elks Lodge No. 46, 5555 W. Good Hope Road. All sessions are scheduled to last 90 minutes.

County ordinance requires that Walker holds these sessions, but apparently they don't require he listens, or, given his track record, even attend them himself.

His refusal to listen to the people of Milwaukee County is alarmingly hypocritical when one considers how he repeatedly advocated on the radio and at special rallies that voters contact members of the County Board during last fall's budgetary process, telling them how to vote on parts of the budget.

In the past, Walker's budgets have led to tens of thousands of people being out of work due to transit cuts, the parks having nearly \$300,000 in deferred repairs and maintenance, and people unable to access financial help during one of the worst economic crises in the country's history.

"It is disappointing, but not surprising, that Scott Walker doesn't want to face the people of Milwaukee County," said Chris Liebenthal, Chair of Milwaukee County First. "Since he's taken office, he has continuously lowered the quality of life in Milwaukee County. And despite all of these cuts, he hasn't saved the tax payers a single dime."

"With it being an election year, he is already promising even steeper cuts into these vital services" continued Liebenthal. "I call on Scott Walker to change the times of these meetings, or better yet, schedule more meetings, having them at times when the

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working tax payer can attend and have their voices heard, even if he doesn't like what they might have to say."

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