

A Citizen's Guide to the Polk County Budget



Calendar Year 2016

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About Polk County

Located in northwestern Wisconsin, Polk County contains an incredible variety of natural beauty in its lakes and rivers, small towns, rolling hills, farms and forests. The county is bordered on the west by the St. Croix River, a federally designated wild and scenic river, with the magnificent St. Croix dalles forming the heart of Interstate State Park. Peacefully rural in nature, the county has no city with a population over 3,000.

Polk County was organized in 1853, and over the past decade has been one of the fastest-growing counties in Wisconsin. It has a diverse economy with a mix of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and services. Its proximity to a large metropolitan area has served to provide a ready market for goods produced here as well as a demand for recreational activities including boating, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, biking and skiing.

Quick facts:

Land area: 956 square miles

Number of lakes: 437

Population (2015 estimate): 44,259

Real GDP 2015 ('09 dollars): \$1.5 billion

Per capita personal income: (2014) \$38,907

Unemployment rate (Oct. 2015): 3.7%



Polk County D.D. Kennedy Park

County Organization and Services

Polk County provides services to its citizens in law enforcement, child support collection and child protection, transportation and nutrition for older citizens, maintains a 515 mile highway system, provides public health services including immunization and restaurant inspections, works to protect our natural resources including our groundwater and lakes, ensures orderly development through planning and zoning, operates the county detention center and court system, provides assistance to veterans, the elderly and disabled, operates a long-term care and rehabilitation facility, 6 county parks, a recycling center, and manages 17,144 acres of county forest. The county does so through the efforts of 561 employees organized into 23 departments and funded by a \$52 million annual budget.

Mission:

To serve and represent the public with integrity

Vision:

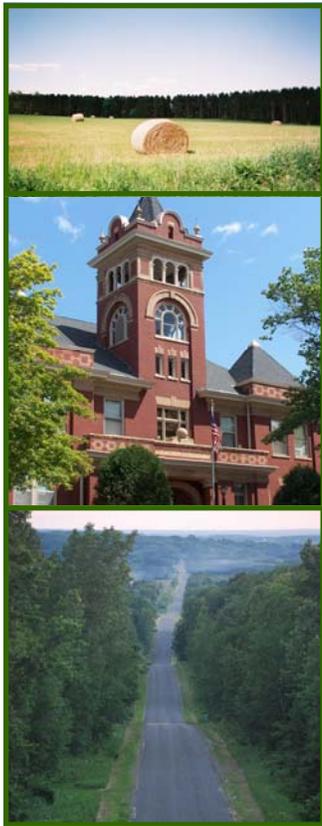
Improved quality of life for all who live, work, and play in Polk County

Strategic Priorities:

- Foster a diverse economic base
- Promote quality education for all
- Design good land use practices that recognize distinctions
- Preserve and enhance the environment
- Maintain a responsive transportation system

How Have We Progressed?

Selected Key Performance Indicators:



Area	Goal	Indicator	2015 plan	2015 actual	2016 plan
Economic development	Promote the agricultural industry	Demand for agricultural lime products, dollar	621,000	592,000	657,000
	Encourage and develop tourism and local business	Sales tax collections in Polk County	\$2.90m	\$2.91m	\$2.95m
Quality education	Provide educational opportunities to preserve links to the past	Schools participating in the Polk County Museum program	5 of 8	5 of 8	5 of 8
Land use practices	Support land uses that grow a strong economy	Percentage of parcel map completed	95%	86%	95%
Environmental pro-	Safeguard public and environmental health	Number of public beaches monitored	5	5	5
Transportation	Recreational trail development and maintenance	Miles of recreational trails	488	488	488
	Maintain and improve the road system	Pavement quality index (7 = isolated cracks)	7.0	7.0	7.0
Quality of life	Safeguard public and environmental health	High school students who smoke	12.0%	12.0%	11.6%
	Quality long-term care at Golden Age Manor	Occupancy rate	94%	92%	92%

The 2016 Budget: Where Your Tax Dollar Goes

All Other Services
\$0.06

Highways
\$0.15

Law Enforcement & Courts
\$0.41



Debt Service
\$0.14



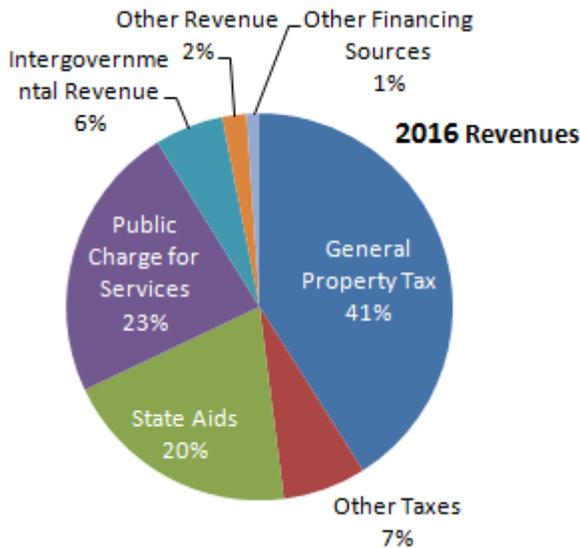
Health & Human Services
\$0.24



Did you know?
Polk County maintains 343 miles of snowmobile trails, 32 miles of ATV trails, and 41 miles of bicycle trails?

The measures reported on this page are based on input from the citizens of the county. What measures would you like to see reported? Let us know by contacting us at the address on the last page.

Budget in Brief: Revenues and Expenditures



Revenues	2015 Prelim	2016 Budget
General Property Tax	21,170,122	21,468,017
Other Taxes	3,336,170	3,646,145
State Aids	10,150,596	10,450,239
Public Charge for Services	12,085,067	12,141,088
Intergovernmental Revenue	2,787,832	3,005,901
Other Revenue	1,099,167	1,054,476
Other Financing Sources	2,632,719	573,168
Total Resources	53,261,673	52,339,034

Examples of Resources:

Other Taxes: Sales tax

State Aids: State general revenue sharing funds and grants

Public Charge for Services: Permit fees

Other Revenue: Interest income

Other Financing Sources: Internal fund transfers

Expenditures	2015 Prelim	2016 Budget
Personnel	29,793,958	30,276,642
Professional Services	7,704,099	8,454,570
Supplies & Expenses	5,764,346	5,965,915
Fixed Charges	1,522,423	1,577,191
Debt Service	5,551,651	3,327,152
Capital Outlay	1,257,687	1,203,989
Other	2,834,418	1,536,562
Total Expenditures	54,428,581	52,342,021

Did you know?

In 2015, the Polk County Highway Department logged 5,504 hours on snow and ice control.– that’s almost three person/years!

Examples of Expenditures:

Professional Services: Medical services for clients

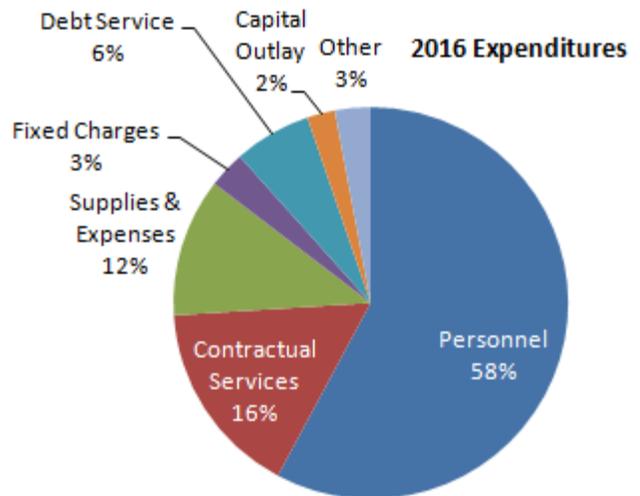
Supplies & Expenses: Road salt, gasoline for patrol cars

Fixed Charges: Insurance premiums

Debt Service: Bond repayments

Capital Outlay: Road grader for Highway Department

Other: Grants, cost reallocations



Note: 2015 expenditures were artificially higher due to an early payoff of a bond issue; revenues and expenditures also adjusted to avoid double-counting health insurance costs.

An independent audit is conducted every year, resulting in a clean audit opinion. These results, and additional financial information, may be found on our website: <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/Admin/budget-reports.asp>

Looking To The Future

Polk County enjoys a strong competitive advantage due to its location adjacent to a major metropolitan area, skilled workforce, and natural resources. The local economy continues to show substantial improvement: in housing values, retail sales and employment. Health care has become a major and growing industry in Polk County, now accounting for over one-fourth of the total payroll and one-fifth of total employment, up from one-sixth just a few years ago. However, manufacturing continues to dominate the County's economy, accounting for 33 percent of total payroll.

Like much of rural America, the greatest demographic challenge the county faces is the rapid aging of its population and the need to assure adequate services are available to them. Our rural character makes this a more difficult as most of our residents live outside of our cities and villages, many around one of our 400 lakes. Our lakes themselves, a key to our tourist industry and quality of life, are also an increasing priority due to invasive species and protection of water quality. Limited revenues will force reprioritization of county services to meet these challenges.

Despite these issues, Polk County has and will continue to be financially responsible, with balanced budgets and realistic reserves. We are in the midst of a conscious transition to a smaller, more flexible and efficient government, one planning its own future. Citizen participation in helping our government determine priorities is essential; this document is intended to be both a source of information and a request for input. Let us know what you think!

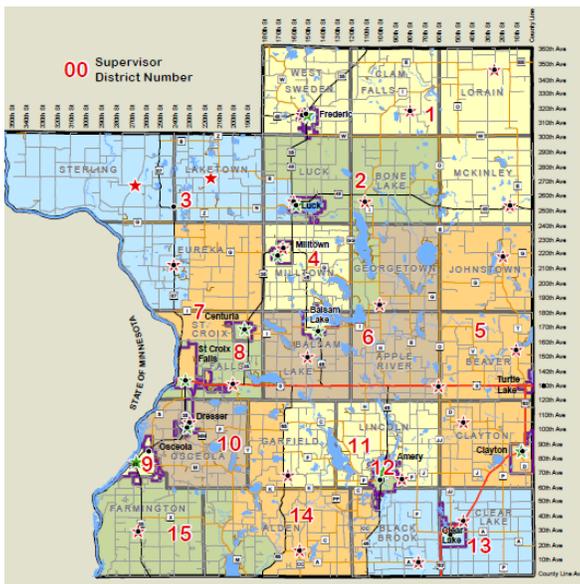
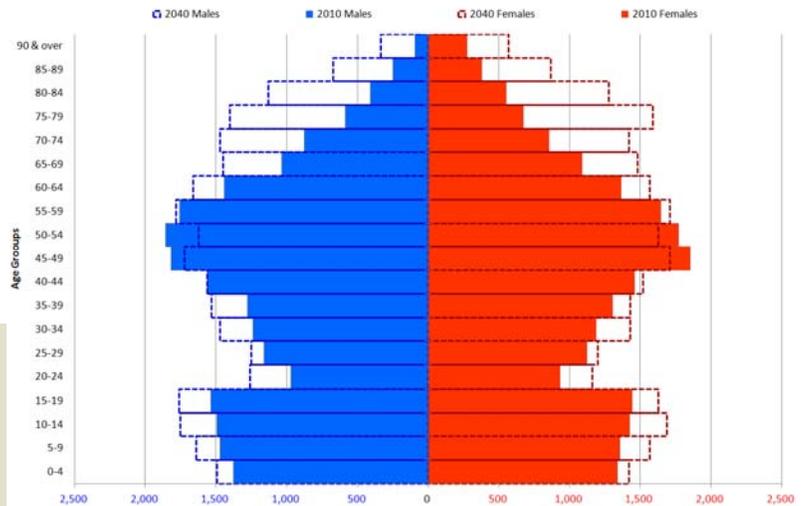
Did you know?

According to the US Census Bureau, Polk County ranked eighth highest among Wisconsin counties in in per capita personal income increase for 2014



Polk County is proud to have received a Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-centric Reporting from the Association of Government Accountants.

Polk County Age-Sex Pyramid 2010 and 2040



Polk County Board of Supervisors

District	Supervisor	District	Supervisor
1.	William F. Johnson IV	9.	Kim A. O'Connell
2.	Patricia M. Schmidt	10.	Larry Jepsen
3.	Dean K. Johansen	11.	Jay Luke
4.	Josh Hallberg	12.	Warren Nelson
5.	Craig Moriak	13.	Russell E. Arcand
6.	Ken Sample	14.	John Bonneprise
7.	Marvin Caspersen	15.	Joseph Demulling
8.	James S. Edgell		

Dana Frey, County Administrator