



Calendar Year 2019

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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.



Photo by Corby Stark

Quick facts:

- Land area: 956 square miles*
- Number of lakes: 437*
- Population (2017 estimate): 44,450*
- Real GDP 2015 ('09 dollars): \$1.5 billion*
- Per capita personal income: (2017) \$33,104*
- Unemployment rate (Feb, 2018): 4.0%*

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 437 full time employees organized into 23 departments and funded by a \$55 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

Budget Quick View

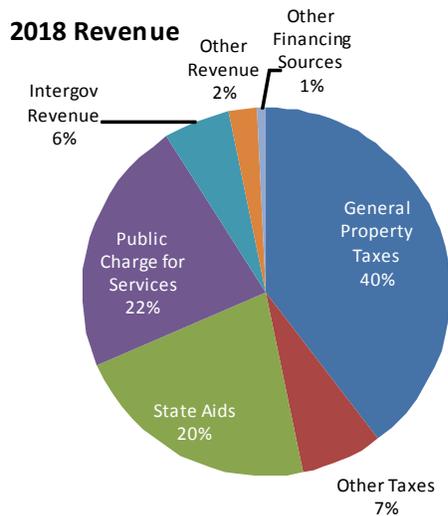


Area	Goal	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
General Government	Administration	7,179,699	8,604,854	8,631,759
	Employee Relations			
	County Clerk			
	Corporation Counsel			
	Information Tech.			
	Treasurer			
	Buildings/ Solid Waste Debt	9,146,745	2,823,126	2,823,414
Public Safety & Highway	Sheriff & EM	8,130,808	8,398,769	8,958,956
	Highway	12,499,161	8,983,387	8,579,826
	Clerk of Courts District Attorney			
Health and Human Services	Community Services	22,228,766	22,290,676	23,507,947
	Public Health			
	Golden Age Manor			
	Child Support Veteran Service Office			
Environmental Services	Land Information	4,535,950	3,215,237	3,785,299
	Land & Water			
	Lime Quarry			
	Register of Deeds			
	Parks & Forestry UW Extension			

The 2019 Budget: Where Your Tax Dollar Goes



Budget in Brief: Revenues and Expenditures



Revenues	2018	2019 Budget
General Property Tax	21,854,342	21,961,981
Other Taxes	3,736,145	3,941,600
State Aids	10,961,051	12,045,827
Public Charge for Services	12,053,445	12,385,409
Intergovernmental Revenue	3,080,715	3,178,952
Other Revenue	1,331,434	1,349,531
Other Financing Sources	359,340	499,977
Total Resources	53,376,472	55,363,277

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

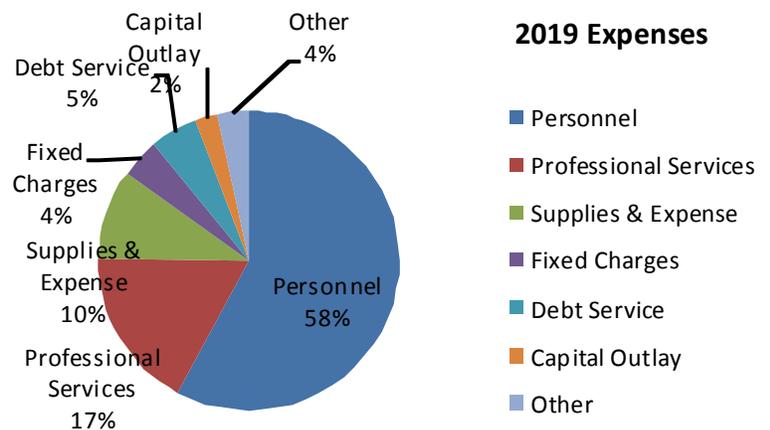
Other Financing Sources: Internal fund transfers

Expenditures	2018	2019 Budget
Personnel	30,705,150	32,323,268
Professional Services	8,506,215	9,559,677
Supplies & Expenses	6,563,963	5,483,028
Fixed Charges	1,577,743	2,395,468
Debt Service	2,823,126	2,823,414
Capital Outlay	2,449,631	1,272,804
Other	1,690,222	1,920,064
Total Expenditures	54,316,050	55,777,723

Did you know?

Polk County has introduced three year budgeting with accountability and measurement by reporting key performance indicators in every annual report

2019 Expenses



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: 2019 expenditures were artificially lower due to a refinancing which lowers our debt payment; 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

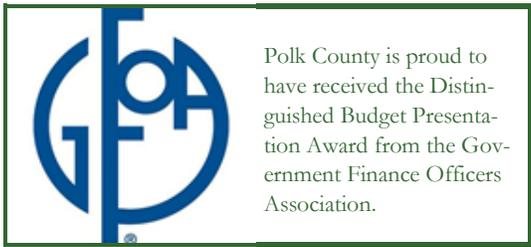
Polk County enjoys a strong competitive advantage due to its location adjacent to a major metropolitan area, skilled workforce, and natural resources. The local economy continues to show substantial improvement: in housing values, retail sales and employment. Health care has become a major and growing 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.

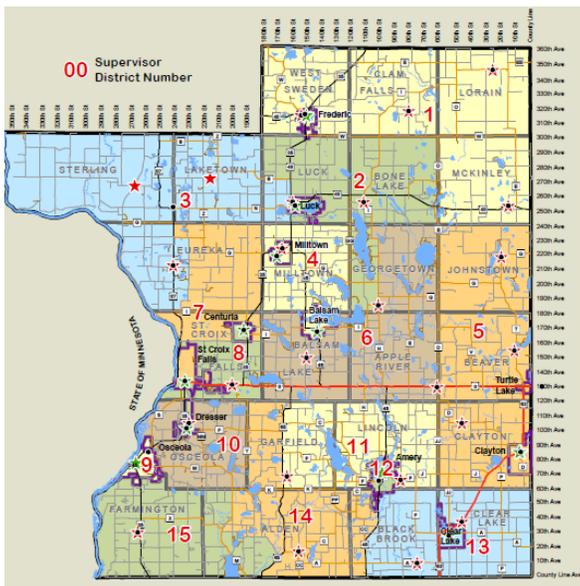
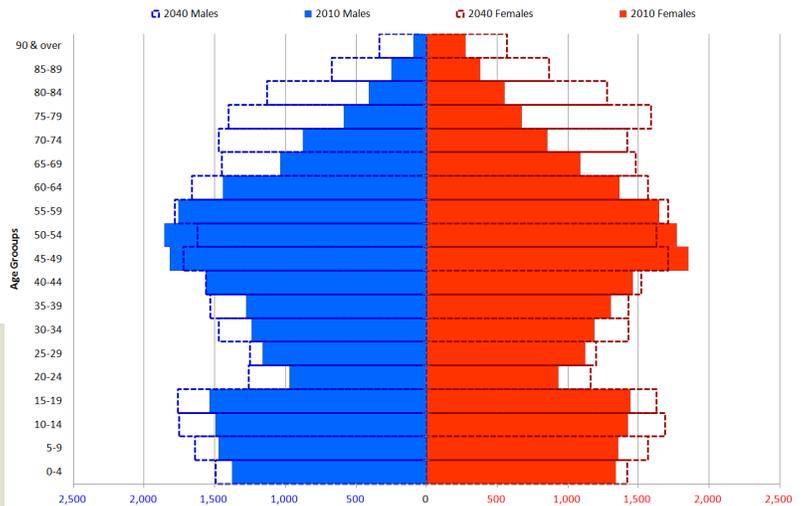
Did you know?

According to the US Census Bureau, Polk County ranked thirty first highest among Wisconsin counties in per capita personal income.

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!



Polk County Age-Sex Pyramid 2010 and 2040



Polk County Board of Supervisors

District	Supervisor	District	Supervisor
1.	Brad Olson	9.	Kim A. O'Connell
2.	Doug Route	10.	Larry Jepsen
3.	Dean Johansen	11.	Jay Luke
4.	Chris Nelson	12.	Michael Larsen
5.	Tracy LaBlanc	13.	Russell Arcand
6.	Brian Masters	14.	John Bonneprise
7.	Michael Prichard	15.	Joseph Demulling
8.	James Edgell		

Jeff Fuge
Interim County Administrator

Questions? Comments? See: www.co.polk.wi.us or email deptadmin@co.polk.wi.us

Mail: Administration, 100 Polk Plaza Suite 220, Balsam Lake WI 54810

Call: Maggie Wickre 715-485-9122