



DANE COUNTY

Kathleen M. Falk
County Executive

Statement on DOR Countywide Assessment Proposal
Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk
November 30, 2009, 3:00-4:30 PM
Dept. of Revenue Town Hall Meeting
Madison, WI

Currently, towns, villages and cities are responsible for conducting property assessments, not counties. The Department of Revenue proposal to abandon this long history and instead impose this burden on county governments is a huge new unfunded mandate for counties.

Under the DOR proposal, five years from now counties will be required to conduct all property assessment statewide (except for manufacturing). The estimated cost to Dane County is well over \$2-3 million a year, not including capital outlay for software upgrades. This month, Dane County adopted a 2010 County Budget that was incredibly challenging due to cuts by the state and federal governments, on top of decreased revenue sources. The economic climate being faced by all local governments is the worst since the Great Depression.

The DOR says counties will be granted an exemption to the levy limits in order to fund countywide assessment but in reality the exemption will jeopardize our commitment to maintain public safety and human service programs. I do not believe that Dane County residents will support higher property taxes in order for the County to take over assessment duties.

Thank you.