

2009 STATEMENT TO POLK COUNTY

For 88 years, the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association's philosophy has been based on the principle that good government is the business of every citizen. The Association promotes sound fiscal policies that are tied to effective and efficient government. The Association strives to promote taxpayer awareness and foster intergovernmental cooperation.

The purpose of a budget is to provide a statement expressed in financial terms, which serves as the primary tool for planning and controlling operations. To achieve this basic purpose, a comprehensive budget must be developed, and then approved, to insure that the objectives of planning, coordinating, evaluation, and control are obtained.

The Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association voted to SUPPORT Polk County's proposed FY2009/2010 budget. Polk County is in good financial condition. It has earned an AAA bond rating from S & P. The Association is confident in the abilities of the County Manager and his staff.

All local governments are concerned with the national, state, and local economy. Each government has reacted to the recession in their own way, as no two circumstances are exactly the same. Polk County has chosen not to do across-the-board cuts as a way to match Expenditures with Revenues. That was a good decision, as while it may be politically acceptable to handle the situation in that manner, it is poor administration. Instead, you decided to not to approve anything new, spend Reserves to maintain service levels, and also to shift one-time expenditures out of the Departmental Operating budgets and fund those expenditures using Gaming funds. The Association concurs with these steps.

Data-driven decision making and budgeting is a staple of modern public administration and is used by many of the surrounding communities. The Association is pleased that the Sheriff's Department recently hired a statistician to help understand the makeup of the jail population. This should aid in controlling costs at the new jail. The Association requests that those Departments under the Supervisors also start collecting multiple performance measures and establish benchmarks to help Department Heads, not only in the delivery of the services that they provide, but also help you and the County Manager in budgeting and other decision-making. Data, and not "feelings", politics, or guesses, should drive expenditure decisions. The performance measures and benchmarks should become a part of each budget presentation. The Association requests that all Elected Officials adopt this process.

The Association's staff noticed that during the budget process, the Supervisors hear presentations that contain both Operating expenditures and Capital expenditures. This makes it hard for the public to compare apples to apples across various fiscal years. It would be helpful to the public if the documents prepared for the budget workshops and the presentation themselves, would reflect these two separate types of expenditures.

The Supervisor's decision to hire Global Spectrum to operate the 'Well and Hy Vee Hall continues to pay dividends. They provide both a terrific product and a sound bottom line. That decision and the quick repayment of Debt associated with the Arena project earns the Association's appreciation.

The Taxpayers would like to thank Supervisor Brownell, County Manager Olson, and Ms. Anderson for meeting with us. We believe that the discussion was a good one. Both parties share a concern with the future on the economy and the need for contingency planning. We agreed that that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee not only COULD be, but MUST be a positive source of change to contain costs and improve the system. Both realize that Polk County is very fortunate for the revenue that comes from Prairie Meadows, and the need to use those funds for Economic Development projects as you've done in the past.

**POLK COUNTY
BUDGET SUMMARY**

	ACTUAL FY05/06	ACTUAL FY06/07	% OF CHANGE	ACTUAL FY07/08	% OF CHANGE	RE-EST FY08/09	% OF CHANGE	PROPOSED FY09/10	AMOUNT CHANGE	% OF CHANGE
100% VALUATION	\$ 22,227,988,166	\$ 24,833,999,239	11.7%	\$ 25,929,680,753	4.4%	\$ 27,048,598,042	4.3%	\$ 30,896,973,162	\$ 1,118,917,289	4.3%
TAXABLE VALUATION	13,991,872,178	14,996,069,732	7.2%	15,569,066,512	3.8%	\$16,411,749,613	5.4%	\$17,228,943,607	842,683,101	5.4%
LEVY RATES:										
CITIES	6.34845	6.34845	0.0%	6.84207	7.8%	6.84207	0.0%	6.83696	(0.0051)	-0.1%
TOWNSHIPS	10.94207	10.94207	0.0%	11.43569	4.5%	11.43569	0.0%	11.38855	(0.0471)	-0.4%
PROPERTY TAX LEVY:	91,360,000	98,107,703	7.4%	109,731,765	11.8%	115,828,105	5.6%	122,080,748	6,252,643	5.4%
% OF TOTAL REVENUE	48.7%	37.2%	-23.7%	53.3%	43.3%	52.0%	-2.4%	55.8%	3.8%	7.3%
UTILITY REPLACEMENT EXCISE TAX	3,601,509	3,698,640	2.7%	3,936,202	6.4%	4,176,052	6.1%	4,223,294	47,242	1.1%
PROP. TAX REVENUES W/ UTILITY TAX	94,961,509	95,027,678	0.1%	106,612,981	12.2%	113,017,827	6.0%	118,550,908	5,533,081	4.9%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 187,476,912	\$ 263,824,897	40.7%	\$ 205,909,818	-22.0%	\$ 222,619,203	8.1%	\$ 218,684,576	\$ (3,934,627)	-1.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	201,320,943	232,067,024	15.3%	248,092,669	6.9%	252,427,516	1.7%	231,882,781	(20,544,735)	-8.1%
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	11,523,230	6,563,701	-43.0%	8,440,616	-26.8%	12,911,948	53.0%	13,832,230	\$ 920,282	7.1%
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(2,320,801)	38,321,574	-1751.2%	(33,742,235)	-188.1%	(16,896,365)	-49.9%	634,025	\$ 17,530,390	-103.8%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	60,614,710	98,936,284	63.2%	65,194,049	-34.1%	48,297,684	-25.9%	48,931,709	634,025	1.3%
FUND BALANCE RESERVE	30.1%	42.6%	41.6%	26.3%	-38.4%	19.1%	-27.2%	21.1%	2.0%	10.3%
GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$ 108,445,598	\$ 117,362,526	8.2%	\$ 128,080,623	9.1%	\$ 129,280,003	0.9%	\$ 133,387,770	\$ 4,107,767	3.2%
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE	106,863,402	112,780,378	5.5%	118,303,666	4.9%	132,521,771	12.0%	131,886,989	(634,782)	-0.5%
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	803,051	(947,984)	-218.0%	(6,730,460)	0.0%	(4,854,232)	0.0%	(1,729,533)	3,124,699	-64.4%
NET GAIN (LOSS)	2,385,247	3,634,164	52.4%	3,046,497	-16.2%	(8,096,000)	-365.7%	(228,752)	7,867,248	-97.2%
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	34,371,998	38,006,162	10.6%	41,052,659	8.0%	32,956,659	-19.7%	32,727,907	(228,752)	-0.7%
FUND BALANCE RESERVE	32.2%	33.7%	4.8%	34.7%	3.0%	24.9%	-28.3%	24.8%	-0.1%	-0.2%
POPULATION ESTIMATES	401,006	404,860	1.0%	408,714	1.0%	408,888	0.0%	408,888	-	0.0%
TAX REVENUE (per capita)	\$ 228	\$ 242	6.4%	\$ 268	10.8%	\$ 283	5.5%	\$ 299	\$ 15	5.4%
SALARIES & BENEFITS:	\$ 75,082,232	\$ 77,675,480	3.5%	\$ 80,918,673	4.2%	\$ 92,023,996	13.7%	\$ 96,386,914	\$ 4,362,918	4.7%
% OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES	41.5%	43.1%	3.9%	42.0%	-2.5%	43.6%	3.7%	46.5%	3.0%	6.8%
EMPLOYEES (FTE's)	1,054.0	1,072.6	1.8%	1,083.1	1.0%	1,176.0	8.6%	1,190.0	14.0	1.2%
ENTERPRISE FUND (VETS, CONV CTR)	28.1	26.5	-5.7%	25.5	-3.8%	12.0	-52.9%	11.0	-1.0	-8.3%
PART-TIME (FTE's)	39.3	42.4	7.9%	45.6	7.5%	58.3	27.9%	65.1	6.8	11.7%
AVERAGE PER FTE	\$ 68,675	\$ 69,664	1.4%	\$ 71,692	2.9%	\$ 74,556	4.0%	\$ 76,796	\$ 2,241	3.0%
LONG-TERM BONDED DEBT:										
LEGAL LIMIT	\$ 1,111,399,408	\$ 1,241,699,962	11.7%	\$ 1,296,484,038	4.4%	\$ 1,352,429,902	4.3%	\$ 1,544,848,658	\$ 192,418,756	14.2%
DEBT OUTSTANDING	244,162,200	173,953,890	-28.8%	241,561,870	38.9%	230,395,925	-4.6%	214,364,205	(16,031,720)	-7.0%
% OF LEGAL LIMIT	22.0%	14.0%	-36.2%	18.6%	33.0%	17.0%	-8.6%	13.9%	-3.2%	-18.5%