

Scott Walker's Incompetence

Scott Walker's privatization of services at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex led to disaster.

Walker's privatization of jobs and overall mismanagement of the Mental Health Complex was marked by multiple [reports](#) of [patient deaths](#), the [sexual assault](#) of mentally handicapped patients and the findings of a federal investigation, which Walker [suppressed](#) during his campaign for governor, that the county failed to manage the complex and protect patients.

Scott Walker's attempt to privatize security at the Milwaukee County Courthouse was a costly abuse of power that potentially endangered citizens.

Walker also saw a series of failures in his attempt to outsource security at the Milwaukee County Courthouse as a fix for an alleged budgetary emergency. In addition to putting a [sex criminal in charge of security at the courthouse](#), Walker's sell-off of county services [ultimately cost Milwaukee County money](#) when an arbitrator ruled that Walker had overstepped his authority, there existed [no budget crisis](#) to justify laying off 26 county workers in favor of a contract with the ethically-challenged Wackenhut private security firm, and that Walker had significantly overstated the proposed annual savings.

Scott Walker's mismanagement of public assistance programs in Milwaukee County led to an unprecedented state takeover of the administration of these programs.

As Milwaukee County Executive, Scott Walker was tasked to administer food aid, childcare assistance and medical care programs designed to help the needy, some of the very programs he now seeks to privatize as Governor. However, in an unprecedented move following years of Scott Walker's failure to provide adequate services, the state was forced to [take over](#) Milwaukee County's public assistance program. Walker's mismanagement, under-funding and ineptitude, despite millions of dollars and thousands of hours in resources from the state, led to thousands deserving applicants being denied assistance for food and health care for weeks or months, if they received help at all.

As reported by the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#),

- The county's poor performance in the programs includes answering only 5% of the hundreds of thousands of phone calls to the county's public assistance call center every month.
- The county fails to process 30% of its benefit applications within the required seven days, with some families waiting weeks or months for food or health care.
- In 2007, 60% of county decisions to deny food or health care benefits were overturned within two months. That resulted in benefit delays and forced families to go through time-consuming appeals or a second round of applications.
- The county's high food assistance error rate means nearly one in five deserving applicants were cut off from the program in fiscal 2008.

Scott Walker Failed to Manage Milwaukee County Transit System

Walker's gross mismanagement of Milwaukee County's transit system ultimately required federal stimulus funds to address massive fiscal problems. ["Milwaukee County bus system to get one-third of stimulus transportation funds," [River Falls Journal](#), 3/9/2009]

Because of Walker's failure to control transit costs, Milwaukee County residents were forced to shoulder huge fee hikes, reduced routes and fewer services, all while faced with fare increases, including fares for seniors, students and the disabled, with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel noting in 2010 that, "County officials have cut service, raised fares or both every year for 10 straight years." ["County transit ridership falls 9%," [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), 3/7/2010]

Scott Walker Left Milwaukee County on the Verge of Bankruptcy

Eight years of Walker's feckless money mismanagement left Milwaukee County on the verge of bankruptcy, according to a report by the Greater Milwaukee Committee with the structural deficit expected to climb to nearly \$100 million by 2014. Walker's historic soaring budget deficits and his series of short term fixes that passed the buck to future generations and amounted to nothing more than putting a band-aid over a bullet wound. ["County finances on, report says," [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), 10/9/2010] [2011 Milwaukee County Budget Preview, [Public Policy Forum](#), July 2010]

Scott Walker's Failed Budget "Solutions"

Many of Walker's "solutions" to budget problems have actually cost the county and state money in legal fees and corrective actions.

- Scott Walker slashed custodial jobs at the courthouse resulting in [cockroach infestation](#).
- Scott Walker implemented a 35 hour workweek for county employees, which the Wisconsin Court of Appeals recently [declared](#) an overstep of his authority.