

Milwaukee Notes

WALKER, BARRETT PLEDGE COOPERATION

Tom Barrett and Scott Walker admit they haven't always been in agreement on joint city-county issues. But they say the governor's race won't mean a breakdown in city-state relations.

Walker said he doesn't see the governor's race having much of an impact on Milwaukee County staff or their contact with the city of Milwaukee.

"Tom and I have always gotten along personally, but politically, we've always been at odds," Walker said, insisting he's always had a good working relationship with Barrett.

For example, Walker said he and Barrett have cooperated to support better housing for people with mental illness and said it will be important to continue working together on that issue during the gubernatorial campaign.

"We can't suddenly stop now," Walker said.

Barrett said he's had a good working relationship with Walker since being elected mayor and doesn't expect that to change, either.

"There's been a number of issues where we've worked closely together, like housing for people with mental disabilities and physical handicaps," Barrett said. "We've recently merged our Web sites, ironically, and our IT operations have a good communication. There have been places on policy grounds where we've disagreed, for example, on the 91.5 million federal dollars that have been available.

"But overall, we've had a good working relationship and there are dozens of people from the city and dozens of people from the county who are working together so I don't see that as having a negative impact whatsoever."

*-- By Kay Nolan
For Milwaukee Notes*

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