

# KENOSHA NEWS

## HONORING OUR VETERANS



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### 2022 COUNTY BUDGET

## Tax levy to increase above 3%

### Decrease still expected per individual

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The 2022 Kenosha County Budget comes with a tax levy increase above 3 percent for the first time since Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser took office in 2008.

Kreuser, who is serving his last term, said the increase is for good reason.

"In my years as county executive, we've never adopted a budget with a levy increase above 3 percent," Kreuser said. "The funds that the County Board added this year to bring (the increase) to 3.03% will help to protect vulnerable children in our community, and that is a most worthwhile investment."

After discussions with District Attorney Michael Gravely, the Finance and Administration Committee added \$28,300 to fund assistance in the DA's office to help advance termination of parental rights cases through the system more quickly.

That, combined with the restoration of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator to the budget the night of its adoption, brought the levy increase above 3%. The levy, or the amount needed from local taxpayers, will increase by \$2.14 million, from \$70,601,619 in support of the 2021 Budget to \$72,740,907 in support of the 2022 Budget.

However, taxes are still expected to decrease for the average homeowner, Kreuser said. Taxes on a median-valued property, which increased in value from \$224,414 to \$234,000 in 2021, will decrease \$4.23, from \$982.23 to \$978. The tax rate is \$4.18 per \$1,000 of equalized property value.

"This budget makes many investments to keep our county moving forward, while decreasing county taxes on the average home and keeping us in a good position to maintain our top-rate AAA bond rating," Kreuser said. "I'm appreciative of the County Board supervisors who supported important projects like the relocation of the Human Services Building, the restoration of the Pike River South Branch and other enhancements to our infrastructure and our quality of life."

Operating and capital expenditures will increase \$27.3 million, or 9.9%, from \$275,344,293, as adopted and later amended in June 2021, to \$302,615,925 as budgeted for 2022.

Of the these expenditures, \$240,326,925 are classified as operating expenditures and \$62,289,000 are classified as capital expenses.

### Budgeted projects

One of the largest capital projects slated for funding in the 2022 budget proposal is the restoration of the South Branch of the Pike River. Outside funding in the form of a recent \$10 million award from the Army Corps of Engineers is budgeted to begin the process of this major public works project.

The project will leverage outside funding to construct a multi-use trail alongside the river that would connect several west-side city and Somers neighborhoods

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### EIGHTH DAY OF TRIAL



SEAN KRAJACIC PHOTOS, KENOSHA NEWS

Kyle Rittenhouse breaks down on the stand as he testifies Wednesday about his encounter with Joseph Rosenbaum, who Rittenhouse shot and killed on Aug. 25, 2020.

# Rittenhouse testifies

## Judge scolds prosecutor during questioning of defendant

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Kyle Rittenhouse's attorneys filed a motion asking for a mistrial Wednesday afternoon, arguing the prosecution had twice improperly questioned Rittenhouse during cross examination.

The move came after a dramatic morning during the eighth day of the trial, when Rittenhouse took the stand in his own defense, stating that he shot three people on the night of Aug. 25, 2020, during civil unrest in Kenosha to protect himself. Rittenhouse was called to the stand Wednesday at 9:35 a.m. and testified until after 4 p.m.

"I did what I had to do to stop the people," Rittenhouse said during his testimony. "I stopped (them) from attacking me."

But Rittenhouse's much-anticipated testimony was later



Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Bruce Schroeder sharply reprimands Assistant District Attorney Thomas Binger regarding Binger's conduct in a line of questioning while cross-examining Kyle Rittenhouse during Rittenhouse's trial Wednesday at the Kenosha County Courthouse.

overshadowed by the move by the defense to request a mistrial with prejudice — meaning that charges against Rittenhouse could not be refiled — because of two lines of questioning Kenosha County As-

stant District Attorney Thomas Binger pursued while cross-examining Rittenhouse.

When he first began questioning Rittenhouse, Binger made reference to Rittenhouse telling

his story for the first time after having the opportunity to watch video and read stories about the night in question, and after listening to more than a week of testimony at his trial. Defense attorney Mark Richards objected, and the jury was sent out of the room.

"This is a grave constitutional violation for you to talk about the defendant's right to silence," Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Bruce Schroeder admonished Binger. "You are right on the borderline and you might be over, but this has got to stop."

After the jury returned and Binger resumed questioning, he asked Rittenhouse repeatedly whether it was appropriate to use deadly force to protect property. When Rittenhouse answered that it was not appropriate, Binger began to question him about an incident that happened weeks before the shootings when Rittenhouse could be heard on video talking about wishing he had his

Please see **RITTENHOUSE**, Page A5

### KENOSHA INNOVATION NEIGHBORHOOD

# LakeView Tech to anchor site



TERRY FLORES, KENOSHA NEWS

Mayor John Antaramian announces that LakeView Technology Academy will be the high school to anchor the educational space in Phase One of the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood project during an information session held at the former Brown Bank building in Uptown on Tuesday night.

## Mayor announces school will relocate into project

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LakeView Technology Academy will be anchoring the educational space in the proposed Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood, the ambitious \$1 billion future development that aims to transform the way residents in the heart of the city live, work and play.

"I was given permission tonight to actually make the announcement that LakeView (Technology) Academy will be the school that will be coming to the site," said Mayor John An-



Antaramian

taramian in making the formal announcement Tuesday night to applause from about 30 people who attended the city's third information session on the Innovation Neighborhood, held at the former Brown Bank Building in Uptown.

"This could not happen without all of you, and I do appreciate that."

The mayor especially thanked his "old friend" Leo Chiappetta, a local educator, who urged him to include a tech school in the project.

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