

JOB LOSS & ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

In 2009 Milwaukee County lost over 30,000 jobs – the unemployment rate jumped from 5.5% to 9.2% in just one year.

[Bureau of Labor Statistics, bls.gov]

Failed to market job-creating financial aid and take advantage of federal lending programs

Milwaukee County supervisors faulted County Executive Scott Walker on Monday, saying he hadn't developed a plan or designated staff to promote financing aid that could boost local economic development.

Two major federal lending programs could be tapped by the county to assist private developers by lowering borrowing costs, but the county has been slow to market the aid, supervisors said.

Tim Russell, Walker's deputy chief of staff, said the county executive's staff had discussed the lending programs with developers in recent months. Contacts are made when news of potential developments is reported in local newspapers, Russell said.

Walker shares concerns about the potential loss of \$18 million in lending authority earmarked for the county under proposed legislation, Russell said.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. 1/26/10]

