



Waukesha County

Office of the County Executive

Contact: Hillary Mintz
Phone: 262-548-7902
Email: hmintz@waukeshacounty.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026

COUNTY EXECUTIVE PAUL FARROW LOSES BATTLE WITH CANCER

(Waukesha, WI) – It is with great sadness that we share Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow has lost his battle with cancer. Farrow, 61, fought bravely and with a smile since being diagnosed in 2024 with mucinous adenocarcinoma, a rare type of cancer. Throughout his journey, Paul chose to publicly document his treatment to help others battling cancer. His family, friends and staff all stood by his side along the way hoping for a better outcome.

Since being elected County Executive in 2015, Farrow led Waukesha County with courage and grace, building on a distinguished record of public service at both the state and local levels. Before becoming County Executive, he served in the Wisconsin Assembly, the State Senate, and as Senate Assistant Majority Leader. He was reelected in 2019 and 2023 and served as Chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin from 2021 to 2022.

In 2025, Paul had the honor of receiving the Tommy G. Thompson Distinguished Public Leadership Award which recognizes Wisconsin leaders who have devoted themselves to public service, worked to promote responsible public policy and demonstrated exceptional leadership. Farrow's political lineage stems from his mother, former Lieutenant Governor Margaret Farrow.

"I am heartbroken by the passing of County Executive Farrow. Paul was a devoted public servant, a steady leader, and a proud champion for Waukesha County. He led with conviction and cared deeply about this community. On behalf of the County Board, I extend our deepest condolences to his wife Amy and the Farrow family, his friends, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him," County Board Chairman Jim Heinrich said.

Following a process outlined in state statute, Chairman Heinrich will serve as Acting County Executive and assume Executive Farrow's duties. Within 30 days, the County Board will confirm the appointment of an Interim Executive. A countywide special election will be held to determine who will serve out the remaining months of Farrow's term.

At this time, details of a celebration of life have not been announced.

