

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., Johnson, Jr., Moore Omokunde, Taylor, Schmitt, Haas, Cullen, and Wasserman, in support of State of Wisconsin (the State) legislative changes to require State shared revenue payments to counties be indexed for inflation in every biennial budget, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties are an arm of the State of Wisconsin (the State), fulfilling many vital State-mandated services such as ensuring health and human services, judicial due process, public safety, and highway maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the State restricts the ability of counties to raise revenues primarily from the property and sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Policy Forum wrote in its February 2019 report, *Dollars and Sense*, that “in past generations, large state aid payments helped hold down property taxes in Wisconsin while also providing funding for local services. Yet, with state aid payments stagnant for years and municipalities now under tight state-imposed caps on property taxes, questions are mounting about whether local officials can sustain appropriate service levels in areas such as public safety, streets, libraries, and parks”; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the nonpartisan State Legislative Fiscal Bureau report, *Shared Revenue Program: Informational Paper 18*, total shared revenue for counties from 2009 to 2019 has declined from \$216.8 million in 2018 (inflation-adjusted) dollars to \$158.4 million, a decline of approximately 27 percent in real dollars; and

WHEREAS, according to Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the dollar on average 1.6 percent per year since 2009, therefore the State has cut county budgets by inflation every biennium; and

WHEREAS, costs to continue the basic services Wisconsin citizens expect and deserve continue to rise while counties’ ability to pay for them continues to decline from State restrictions and underfunding; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance and Audit, at its meeting of June 13, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-559 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County supports the State of Wisconsin (the State) indexing shared revenue payments to Wisconsin counties to the rate of inflation in each State biennial budget; and

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff are authorized
47 and directed to provide this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association for
48 consideration in their 2020 Legislative Platform.

49

50

51

srb

52

06/13/19

53

S:\Committees\2019\June\F&A\Resolutions\19-559 Lipscomb - Shared Revenue Payments.docx