

1 By Supervisors Martinez, Shea, Rolland,
2 Bielinski, Gómez-Tom, Capriolo, O'Connor,
3 and Coggs-Jones
4

File No. 25-610

5 **A RESOLUTION**
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7 Supporting state legislation that would prohibit the release of 10 or more Mylar balloons
8 into the atmosphere to protect the environment and public safety, and recommending
9 public education on the detrimental impact of balloon releases on County Parks
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12 WHEREAS, balloon releases are a popular way to observe the passing of a
13 loved one or to celebrate a milestone, but they pose significant environmental and
14 safety risks; and
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16 WHEREAS, the release of large numbers of balloons into the atmosphere
17 contributes to litter and environmental pollution, as deflated or burst balloons fall to the
18 ground or into water, posing a danger to wildlife that ingest or become entangled in the
19 debris; and
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21 WHEREAS, Mylar balloons are particularly hazardous because their metallic
22 coating conducts electricity and may cause outages when they make contact with power
23 lines, threatening people's health, safety, and comfort; and
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25 WHEREAS, discarded Mylar balloons break down into microplastics that can
26 further pollute water sources and harm marine life; and
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28 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's parks, rivers, and coastline are all vulnerable to
29 the environmental concerns raised by balloon releases; and
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31 WHEREAS, education and regulation are necessary to ensure consistent policies
32 that address the environmental and safety impacts of balloon releases; and
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34 WHEREAS, the growing awareness of these environmental and safety concerns
35 has compelled lawmakers in ten states to ban or limit balloon releases; and
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37 WHEREAS, Wisconsin state legislators introduced 2025 Assembly Bill 352 and
38 its companion, Senate Bill 360, which would prohibit the release of 10 or more Mylar
39 balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gas into the atmosphere and impose a fine of \$500
40 for violating this prohibition; and
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42 WHEREAS, this prohibition does not apply to balloons that are released indoors,
43 released for scientific or meteorological purposes, or released by or on behalf of any
44 government agency for scientific or meteorological purposes; and

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46 WHEREAS, this legislation aligns with the values and goals of the Milwaukee
47 County Board to promote sustainable environmental practices, reduce waste, and
48 protect our natural resources for future generations; and

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50 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
51 September 5, 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-610 (vote 4-0); now,
52 therefore,

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54 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors strongly
55 supports Assembly Bill 352 and its companion, Senate Bill 360, which would regulate
56 the release of Mylar balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gas; and

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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that community education on the environmental
59 and safety impact of balloon releases is a crucial component in mitigating their negative
60 effects; and

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62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Parks Department is encouraged to provide
63 information to the public through its newsletters and educational programs about the
64 detrimental impact of balloon releases on Milwaukee County's parks; and

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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Office of Government
67 Affairs is requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Governor,
68 members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the Wisconsin Counties Association
69 to encourage statewide support for this crucial environmental safety measure.

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