



GEORGE L. CHRISTENSON
MILWAUKEE COUNTY CLERK

DATE: October 16, 2017
TO: Supervisor Peggy West, Chairwoman, Committee on Finance and Audit
FROM: George L. Christenson, County Clerk
SUBJECT: Requested Information from the Finance and Audit Committee Members

Chairwoman West:

Thank you for the opportunity to have my Election Director Julietta Henry and I appear before your honorable body to discuss my 2018 departmental budget.

During the course of our testimony there were two requests for information by Committee Members.

Please find responses to those requests below:

1. Supervisor Mayo, Sr. asked whether it is possible for the Clerk's Office to increase the Marriage License Waiting Period Waiver Fee.

The Marriage License Waiting Period Waiver Fee is regulated by Wisc. Stat. 765.08 (2): "The county clerk may, at his or her discretion, issue a marriage license within less than 5 days after application if the applicant pays an additional fee of not more than \$25 to cover any increased processing cost incurred by the county". My office currently charges the maximum fee of \$25. Therefore, the Clerk's Office is unable to increase the Marriage License Waiting Period Waiver Fee due to statutory limitation.

2. Supervisor Wasserman inquired as to which county in the State of Wisconsin charges the lowest fee for issuing a marriage license.

According to the information we received from the Wisconsin County Clerk's Association, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Juneau, Oconto and Trempealeau counties charge the lowest fee in the state. That fee is \$60.

I hope this information is helpful. Feel free to contact me with any further questions.