

1 By Supervisor Weishan

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**A RESOLUTION**

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WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (“MMAC”) assembled a task force of elected officials and community leaders to discuss future funding of Milwaukee’s cultural and entertainment facilities, including the potential replacement of the BMO Harris Bradley Center and expansion of the Wisconsin Center Convention Center; and

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WHEREAS, MMAC invited representatives from five counties: Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington and Racine; the same counties that comprise the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District that is charged with oversight of constructing, operating and maintaining Miller Park; and

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WHEREAS, since the implementation of a 0.1% (one-tenth of one-percent) sales and use tax in 1996 in five counties to pay the debt service costs on Baseball Park District issued revenue bonds and facility operation expenses, approximately \$423.5 million has been paid to the Baseball Park District; and

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WHEREAS, based on a recent financial analysis, the Baseball Park District sales tax will most likely sunset between 2017 and 2018; and

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WHEREAS, there was no public referendum on the imposition of the Baseball Park District sales tax; and

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WHEREAS, in contrast, Brown County voters approved a referendum in 2000 to levy a 0.5% (one-half of one percent) sales and use tax to help finance improvements to Lambeau Field that has thus far raised approximately \$267.7 million for the project; and

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WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Board of Supervisors approved File No. 08-217 on June 26, 2008, that established an advisory referendum on November 4, 2008, that asked all County voters the following question:

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*Shall the State of Wisconsin grant Milwaukee County the authority to provide property tax relief of at least sixty-seven million dollars (\$67 million) by levying a one percent (1%) county sales and use tax to be used to remove the following*

44           *three items from the property tax levy: parks, recreation and culture, transit and*  
45           *emergency medical services (EMS)?*

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47 ; and

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49           WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters approved the advisory referendum on  
50 November 4, 2008, by a margin of 52 to 48 percent; and

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52           WHEREAS, a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial on November 5, 2008, was  
53 headlined: *People Have Spoken: It's time to move forward on a Milwaukee County*  
54 *sales tax increase to protect parks, transit and other key services and to offer property*  
55 *tax relief*; and

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57           WHEREAS, despite the support from the voters, media and effort by many  
58 policymakers, the State Legislature and governor have yet to adopt and sign into law  
59 authority to enact the referendum as approved by Milwaukee County voters; and

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61           WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters have already expressed their support for  
62 the imposition of a sales tax to provide property tax relief by removing parks, recreation  
63 and culture, transit and emergency medical services (EMS) from the property tax; and

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65           WHEREAS, conservative initial estimates indicate that it may cost at least \$400  
66 million to build a new sports and entertainment arena and \$300 million to build a major  
67 expansion to the Wisconsin Center Convention Center facility; and

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69           WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters should be given the opportunity to decide  
70 if they want to help pay for the renovation or construction of a new sports and  
71 entertainment arena to replace the BMO Harris Bradley Center in the City of Milwaukee  
72 and the expansion of the Wisconsin Center Convention Center; now, therefore,

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74           BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is hereby  
75 opposed to spending any new tax dollars on the renovation or construction of a new  
76 sports and entertainment arena to replace the BMO Harris Bradley Center in the City of  
77 Milwaukee, or to build a major expansion to the Wisconsin Center Convention Center,  
78 until the sales tax that was supported by the voters in 2008 to provide property tax relief  
79 by removing parks, recreation and culture, transit and emergency medical services  
80 (EMS) from the property tax is authorized; and

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82           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
83 is also opposed to extending the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park  
84 District sales tax of 0.1% for any purposes other than which it was originally authorized;  
85 and

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87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee  
88 County, Wisconsin, as follows:

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90 Section 1. Referendum Election. The County Clerk is hereby directed to call an  
91 advisory referendum election to be held in the County at the regularly scheduled  
92 election to be held on November 4, 2014, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified  
93 electors of the County the proposition of whether tax dollars should be allocated to pay  
94 for the construction of a new sports and entertainment arena in the City of Milwaukee.  
95 The referendum shall be held, noticed and conducted following the procedures set forth  
96 in Section 59.52(25) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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98 Section 2. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the  
99 referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections  
100 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in  
101 the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.  
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**EXHIBIT A**

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM BALLOT

November 4, 2014

NOTICE TO ELECTORS: THIS BALLOT MAY BE INVALID UNLESS INITIALED BY TWO (2) ELECTION INSPECTORS. IF CAST AS AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, THE BALLOT MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK.

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If you desire to vote on the question, make a cross (X) in the square beneath the question after "YES" if in favor of the question or make a cross (X) in the square after "NO" if opposed to the question.

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**ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

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Shall public tax dollars be used to help build a new sports and entertainment arena in the City of Milwaukee and to build a major expansion to the Wisconsin Center Convention Center?

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YES

NO

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