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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Weishan, Jr., Broderick, and Rainey providing for an advisory referendum on the November 4, 2014, election ballot on whether tax revenue should be used to help pay for the renovation or construction of a new sports and entertainment arena to replace the BMO Harris Bradley Center in the City of Milwaukee and to build a major expansion to the Wisconsin Center Convention Center, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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 thus far has raised approximately \$267.7 million for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County 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:

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 three items from the property tax levy: parks, recreation and culture, transit and

46 *emergency medical services (EMS)?*

47

48 ; and

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50 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters approved the advisory referendum on

51 November 4, 2008, by a vote of 52 to 48 percent; and

52

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

57

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

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

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

69

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

74

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

82

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

86

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

89

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 election
92 to be held on November 4, 2014, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of
93 the County the proposition of whether tax dollars should be allocated to pay for the
94 construction of a new sports and entertainment arena in the City of Milwaukee. The
95 referendum shall be held, noticed, and conducted following the procedures set forth in
96 Section 59.52(25) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

97
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 the
101 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.

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.

ADVISORY REFERENDUM

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?

YES

NO

ag
04/10/2014
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