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A resolution by Supervisor Alexander, requesting the Wisconsin State Legislature to grant Milwaukee County the authority to have the public independently elect a Countywide Supervisor to serve as the Chairperson of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board), in addition to the district County Supervisors, the total of which shall constitute the County Board, by recommending **REJECTION** of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there are currently 18 Milwaukee County (the County) supervisory districts, each represented by an individually elected County Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, each supervisory district is made up of approximately 53,000 constituents who elect their respective Milwaukee County Board of Supervisor’s (County Board) representative for two-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Sections 1.02(a) and (b) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (the Code) outline the rules of the County Board, which state that the Chairperson of the County Board is to be elected by the majority vote of his or her fellow elected County Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Section 59.12 of the Wisconsin State Statutes (State Statutes) dictate that for counties in Wisconsin, the county board shall elect a member chairperson at its first meeting after the regular election, and State Statutes also contain an annotation from the State Attorney General stating that a county board cannot adopt a resolution that infringes upon the power of a succeeding board to elect its chairperson and vice chairperson; and

WHEREAS, other elected leadership officials, such as the County Executive, the Comptroller, the County Clerk, the Register of Deeds, and judges are individually voted on by the public; and

WHEREAS, the County has a diverse population of residents that are all equal stakeholders in the performance of County government, and should therefore be able to choose the leadership of their policymaking body; and

WHEREAS, it is common in many counties and municipalities across the United States of America (U.S.) for an elected body to be composed of both district-elected and at-large elected seats; and

WHEREAS, the County’s current population of approximately 957,735 residents should have the opportunity to decide who shall preside over the policymaking body they have elected; and

47 WHEREAS, in the State of Illinois, for counties with populations greater than
48 300,000 residents, but fewer than 3 million, the voters elect their respective county
49 board chairperson; and
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51 WHEREAS, in Fairfax County, Virginia, resident voters also elect the county's
52 board chairperson; and
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54 WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the County Board functions as a department
55 director and a voice for all residents of the County, similar to the offices of other elected
56 leadership officials, such as the County Executive, the Comptroller, the County Clerk,
57 the Register of Deeds, the County Treasurer, and judges; positions which are each
58 elected on a countywide basis by the public; and
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60 WHEREAS, Chapter 17.98 of the Code, consistent with Section 59.22(1)(a) of
61 the State Statutes related to the County, provides that except for supervisors and circuit
62 court judges, the County Board establishes the total annual compensation for
63 constitutional officers; and
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65 WHEREAS, for other countywide, publicly elected constitutional officers such as
66 the County Clerk, the Register of Deeds, and the County Treasurer, the current annual
67 salary is \$87,964.75; and
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69 WHEREAS, the salary earned by the Chairperson of the County Board is
70 substantially less than the salary earned by peer department directors in the County;
71 and
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73 WHEREAS, the salary of the Chairperson of the County Board is set by Section
74 59.10(2)(c) of the State Statutes at an amount of up to 150 percent of the salary of a
75 County Supervisor, and a County Supervisor's salary may not exceed the annual per
76 capita income of the County, as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau; and
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78 WHEREAS, while each of the 18 current supervisory districts elect their
79 respective representative, it would be beneficial for the County as a whole to elect one
80 separate County Board Supervisor that would automatically serve as the County Board
81 Chairperson and be more equal in status to that of peer elected department directors
82 which are all elected on a countywide basis; and
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84 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
85 September 22, 2017, recommended **rejection** of File No. 17-609 (vote 3-1) now,
86 therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) hereby requests and supports the creation and passage of State of Wisconsin (the State) legislation to establish that Milwaukee County (the County) residents shall elect an at-large, independent County Board Supervisor who will serve as the County Board Chairperson, in addition to the district-elected County Supervisors, the total of which shall constitute the County Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if any State legislation is created to establish an at-large County Board Chairperson for the County, the position shall serve a four-year term and be held to the same esteem as other constitutional and statutory officers, consistent with Section 59.22(1)(a) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, and shall be compensated at a comparable range of constitutional officers as defined in Chapter 17.98 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and directs Office of Government Affairs staff to seek State legislation to effectuate this change in State Statutes for the County, and to send a copy of this resolution to State Legislators and the Governor.

jmj
09/22/17
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