

1 Supervisor Jason Haas, Chairperson,
2 From the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, reporting on:

3
4 File No. 15-118

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6 (ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Rainey, Dimitrijevic, Broderick, and Romo
7 West requesting that the Wisconsin Legislature amend State law to permit residents
8 who are 16 years of age or older to vote in school board elections and preregister to
9 vote prior to reaching 18 years of age, by recommending adoption of the following:

10
11 **A RESOLUTION**

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13 WHEREAS, individuals who are 16 to 18 years of age already have adult
14 responsibilities such as paying taxes and operating motor vehicles; and

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16 WHEREAS, residents of Wisconsin, regardless of age, are equally impacted by
17 policy decisions made by their elected officials; and

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19 WHEREAS, young adults are especially affected by decisions on education
20 policy, but do not have the right to elect school board officials who develop and
21 implement that policy; and

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23 WHEREAS, young adults have valuable insight towards necessary education
24 reforms and deserve an opportunity to participate in the electoral process; and

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26 WHEREAS, lowering the voting age will enable young adults to form a habit of
27 voting that can continue throughout their lives; and

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29 WHEREAS, more than 20 states currently allow young adults to register to vote
30 prior to turning 18 years of age; and

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32 WHEREAS, preregistration policies in other states have resulted in preregistered
33 individuals voting at higher rates than individuals who registered later in life; and

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35 WHEREAS, voters between 18 and 24 years of age consistently have lower
36 voter turnout rates than other age groups; and

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38 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin can implement policies that encourage young
39 adults to vote by making registration more accessible and by engaging young adults in
40 the electoral process earlier in life; now, therefore,

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42 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
43 requests the Wisconsin Legislature to amend state law to enable Wisconsin residents
44 who are 16 years of age or older on election day to vote in local school board elections;
45 and
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47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board requests the Wisconsin
48 Legislature to amend state law to allow state residents who are 16 and 17 years of age
49 to register to vote; and

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51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board requests the Wisconsin
52 Legislature to create opportunities for 16- and 17-year-old residents to register to vote at
53 places such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or in high school civics courses; and

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55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, staff of the Office of Government Affairs is
56 authorized and directed to seek State legislation to extend youth voting rights in
57 Wisconsin and to communicate the contents of this resolution to all parties necessary to
58 effectuate the passage of such legislation.

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