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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Rainey, Dimitrijevic, Broderick, and Johnson, Jr., providing for an advisory referendum on the November 4, 2014, election ballot on whether Milwaukee County voters support increasing the State minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the challenge of income inequality defines our times, as noted by public figures ranging from Pope Francis to President Obama; and

WHEREAS, average wage levels for American workers have been stagnant for decades and wage levels for the lowest-paid workers declined, while economists predict that by the year 2020, nearly half of all employment in America will be found in low-wage sector jobs that do not pay a living wage; and

WHEREAS, the current minimum wage in Wisconsin is \$7.25 per hour and a person making minimum wage, working forty hours a week, earns only \$290 per week or \$15,080 per year, but the current Federal Poverty Level Guideline for a family of four is \$23,850 per year; and

WHEREAS, in Milwaukee County the current costs for a family with one parent and one child, calculated by the Economic Policy Institute, are \$51,695 annually, and include only items to ensure a secure, yet modest living standard, including such basic necessities as health care and child care; and

WHEREAS, the annual report from the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Institute for Research on Poverty found that many of the jobs being created do not pay a living wage and in Milwaukee County the poverty level rose from 17.8 percent in 2011 to 18.8 percent in 2012; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, in 2012 the State of Wisconsin poverty rate was 13.2 percent while in Milwaukee County the rate was much higher at 22.3 percent and, even more disturbingly, the child poverty rate in Milwaukee County was 32.4 percent; and

WHEREAS, had the minimum wage increased with inflation since 1968, it would be nearly \$11 per hour today, and had it grown with increases in productivity, or the ability of our economy to generate greater wealth, it would be roughly \$20 per hour; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2014, twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have minimum wage rates above the federally mandated minimum wage, while dozens of states and cities are considering increasing their minimum wage rate to \$10.10 per hour,

45 \$11.50 per hour, \$12.25 per hour, and as high as \$15 per hour, and some states and cities
46 already have done so since the start of the calendar year; and

47

48 WHEREAS, the minimum wage sets a basic standard for income from work, setting
49 public policy in line with the basic values that anyone who works should be able to
50 support themselves and their families without being forced to rely on public assistance
51 programs, and that business profits should not rely upon public subsidies for firms that pay
52 workers poverty-level wages; and

53

54 WHEREAS, as reported by the Economic Policy Institute, more than 600
55 economists, including Nobel laureates, signed a letter to the President and other political
56 figures stating that there is little to no effect on joblessness of minimum wage workers
57 when the minimum wage is raised, and in fact, many times there is a small stimulative
58 effect on the economy as low-wage earners go out and spend their extra earnings on
59 everyday necessities; and

60

61 WHEREAS, on March 20, 2014, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
62 adopted Resolution File No. 13-955 (vote 12-6), a living wage ordinance requiring many
63 businesses contracting with Milwaukee County to pay a minimum hourly wage rate equal
64 to 100 percent of the poverty income level for a family of four, currently \$11.47 an hour;
65 and

66

67 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters should have the opportunity to be heard on
68 whether they support raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour; now, therefore,

69

70 BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County,
71 Wisconsin, as follows:

72

73 Section 1. Referendum Election. The County Clerk is hereby directed to call an
74 advisory referendum election to be held in the County at the regularly scheduled election
75 to be held on November 4, 2014, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of
76 the County the proposition of whether the State of Wisconsin should raise the minimum
77 wage to \$10.10 per hour. The referendum shall be held, noticed, and conducted following
78 the procedures set forth in Section 59.52(25) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

79

80 Section 2. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the
81 referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections
82 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the
83 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

Should the State of Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour?

YES

NO

ag
06/17/2014
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