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3 **A RESOLUTION**

4  
5 Supporting an advisory referendum question on the November 2014 ballot asking if  
6 Milwaukee County voters support increasing the State minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour

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

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

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

19  
20 WHEREAS, in Milwaukee County the current monthly costs for a family with one  
21 parent and one child, calculated by the Economic Policy Institute, is \$51,695 annually, and  
22 includes only items to ensure a secure, yet modest living standard, including such basic  
23 necessities as health care and child care; and

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

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30 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, in 2012 the state poverty  
31 rate was 13.2 percent while in Milwaukee County the rate was much higher at 22.3  
32 percent and even more disturbingly the child poverty rate in Milwaukee County was 32.4  
33 percent; and

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

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39 WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2014, twenty-one states and the District of Columbia  
40 have minimum wage rates above the federally mandated minimum wage, while dozens of  
41 states and cities are considering increasing their minimum wage rate to \$10.10 per hour,  
42 \$11.50 per hour, \$12.25 per hour, and as high as \$15 per hour, and some states and cities  
43 already have done so since the start of the calendar year; and

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

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

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

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

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66 BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County,  
67 Wisconsin, as follows:

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

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76 Section 2. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the  
77 referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections  
78 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the  
79 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.

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**ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

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

YES

NO

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