

1 By Supervisor Johnson, Jr.

File No. 14-529

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3 **A RESOLUTION**
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5 Supporting an advisory referendum on the November 2014 ballot asking Milwaukee
6 County voters whether the State should amend its statutes to allow Milwaukee County to
7 transition its management and administrative functions from an elected County Executive
8 to a professional County Administrator
9

10 WHEREAS, since 1960, the state has mandated Milwaukee County to have a county
11 executive; and
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13 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is the only county in the State of Wisconsin without
14 self-determination in deciding whether to have a county executive or county administrator;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, in every other county, by resolution of its board or by petition and
18 referendum, the county may create or abolish the office of county executive; and
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20 WHEREAS, ending the requirement that counties with a population of at least
21 500,000 must elect a county executive will give all counties the same rights in determining
22 their form of governance; and
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24 WHEREAS, in 2001 the Wisconsin State Assembly approved Assembly Bill 865,
25 authored by now-Governor Scott Walker, which eliminated the requirement for counties
26 with populations over 500,000 to elect a county executive – the bill was not taken up by
27 the Senate; and
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29 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters deserve an opportunity to voice their opinion
30 on matters of local governance structure; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County,
33 Wisconsin, as follows:
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35 Section 1. Referendum Election. The County Clerk is hereby directed to call an
36 advisory referendum election to be held in the County at the regularly scheduled election
37 to be held on November 4, 2014, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of
38 the county whether they want the Wisconsin Statutes amended to allow Milwaukee County
39 to transition from an elected County Executive to a professional County Administrator. The
40 referendum shall be held, noticed, and conducted following the procedures set forth in
41 Section 59.52(25) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
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43 Section 2. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the
44 referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections

45 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the
46 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 Wisconsin Statutes be amended to allow Milwaukee County to transition its management and administrative functions from an elected County Executive to a professional County Administrator?

YES

NO