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(ITEM ) A resolution/ordinance by Supervisor Alexander, amending Section 1.02 (a) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, to require a secret ballot for the election of officers of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, per Section 19.88(1), Wisconsin Statutes, “[u]nless otherwise specifically provided by statute, no secret ballot may be utilized to determine any election or other decision of a governmental body except the election of the officers of such body in any meeting”; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, ballot voting, such as in the presidential election, is seen as a way to preserve democracy and guarantee that electors’ votes are not bought or coerced; and

WHEREAS, similar arguments are made in favor of ballot voting in smaller settings such as academia, unions, or local government as a way to prevent corruption, stop favor trading, and limit coercive tactics by the majority party or leaders; and

WHEREAS, secret ballots will preserve the democracy of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and ensure that Supervisors are free to cast their vote for the officer of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit, at its meeting of May 19, 2016, recommended REJECTION of this resolution/ordinance (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, it is the policy of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) to elect its officers by secret ballot to guarantee the freedom of Supervisors to vote for the candidate of their choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby amends Section 1.02(a) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances by adopting the following:

**AN ORDINANCE**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Milwaukee does ordain as follows:

**Section 1.** Section 1.02(a) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

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**1.02. - Meeting organization.**

(a) *Election of officers at first meeting.* The first meeting of the county board, after the election of supervisors, shall be for the purpose of organizing the county board and is a special meeting to be called as such. The county board, at such meeting, shall be called to order by the county clerk. If a majority of the supervisors, duly elected and qualified, answer to their names as called, they shall proceed by secret ballot to elect one (1) of their number as chairperson, one (1) of their number as first vice-chairperson and may further, in their discretion, elect one (1) of their number as second vice-chairperson. Upon election of a chairperson, the chairperson shall immediately preside over the remainder of the meeting.

**Section 2.**

The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication.

jmj  
05/19/16  
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