By Supervisor Taylor File No. 18-685

**A RESOLUTION**

Encouraging Election Day turnout in Milwaukee County through the County sponsoring free bus service and paratransit trips to polling places on November 6, 2018

WHEREAS, inscribed on the eastern façade of the Milwaukee County Courthouse are words, “*Vox populi vox Dei*”, Latin for “The voice of the people is the voice of God”; and

WHEREAS, Founding Father Thomas Paine once wrote, “The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which other rights are protected”; and

WHEREAS, the number of voters in Milwaukee County from the 2012 to 2016 General Elections declined by nearly 60,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Dane and Waukesha Counties had voter turnouts of 75% and 80%, respectively, while Milwaukee County only had 61%; and

WHEREAS, for many people, transportation to their polling place can be an impediment to voting, effectively disenfranchising them from the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County wishes to display the importance of voting and encourage all citizens to fulfil their civic duty of voting unencumbered by allowing free access to public transit on Election Day, and providing free paratransit trips to a person’s polling place; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County supports and encourages all eligible electors to vote on Election Day on November 6, 2018, and will sponsor free bus services and paratransit rides to a person’s polling place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Comptroller and Department of Administrative Services are authorized and directed to process an administrative transfer of $63,000 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to Org. Unit 5600-5683 Milwaukee County Transit System to cover costs related to providing free bus service and paratransit trips on November 6, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is not the intent of this resolution to add an additional day or provide any form of reimbursement to weekly or monthly transit passes which have already been purchased.