2
3   From the Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Workgroup, offering proposed
4   recommendations, by recommending adoption of the following:
5
6   **A RESOLUTION**
7
8   WHEREAS, the Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Workgroup (the Workgroup) was
9   created by Adopted File No. 18-751, jointly sponsored by Chairman Theodore
10   Lipscomb, Sr., Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) and Milwaukee
11   County Executive (County Executive) Chris Abele, and was adopted by the County
12   Board on October 29, 2018, and immediately signed by the County Executive; and
13
14   WHEREAS, the objectives of the Workgroup are to identify viable solutions for
15   Milwaukee County (the County) and local governments to work in partnership with the
16   State of Wisconsin (the State) to deliver critical public services and programs; and
17
18   WHEREAS, the Workgroup is composed of seventeen members across a
19   diverse spectrum representing government, business, labor, philanthropy, civic, and
20   community interests; and
21
22   WHEREAS, the Workgroup recognizes that the current array of revenue options,
23   revenue sharing formulas, unfunded State mandates, and other limitations left
24   unchanged will lead to deterioration of public services and quality of life for citizens of
25   the County; and
26
27   WHEREAS, the fiscal challenges of the County are well documented; some
28   examples include:
29
30   • Projected structural deficits that total nearly $80 million cumulative through 2023
31   due to revenue sources that do not keep up with inflation and other adjustments
32   • Average annual cost to continue existing levels of service increases nearly $13
33   million
34   • Increasing pension costs that are projected to rise for at least the next 20 years
35   • Deferred maintenance of more than $200 million in the County Parks system
36   alone
37   • Extensive capital needs of $500 million to $1 billion, for items such as a new
38   criminal courthouse, Milwaukee Public Museum, Mitchell Park Domes, Medical
39   Examiner's Office, modernized replacement buses, cultural assets (e.g. Zoo,
40   Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, etc.), bridges and roads
41
42   ; and

43
44   WHEREAS, the Workgroup understands that the fiscal constraints faced by the
45 County are not unique to Milwaukee County, but are experienced by counties and
46 municipalities throughout the State; and
47
48   WHEREAS, the Workgroup recognizes that many voices are louder than one
49 voice, and recommends partnering with citizens, other governments, public policy
50 organizations, businesses, labor, and advocacy groups to approach our State
51 Legislature and Governor with a unified voice; and
52
53   WHEREAS, for the County to fully realize its potential as the economic driver of
54 the region, the County will need a fair share of the economic growth and prosperity
55 realized by the State as a result of the commerce, tourism, and investments made by
56 County residents; and
57
58   WHEREAS, because the County exports $11 billion of personal income by
59 residents who work in the County but reside in surrounding counties, the County is the
60 only net exporter of personal income in southeast Wisconsin; and
61
62   WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
63 January 24, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-161 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
64
65   BE IT RESOLVED, the Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Workgroup (the
66 Workgroup) recommends to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of Milwaukee
67 County (the County) a platform for legislative change including:
68
69 •   An opportunity to provide County government with additional options for local
70   control over their own financial destiny, with new, additional revenue, and a
71   reduction in the reliance on property taxes, through enabling legislation and a
72   binding County-wide referendum.
73
74 •   Increased, fair, contributions from the State of Wisconsin (the State) toward the
75   provision of current and new State-mandated services provided by local
76   governments.
77
78   o   State shared revenue payments and other State aids should, at a
79   minimum, match the rate of inflation required to provide cost-effective
80   public programs and services.
81
82 •   Full reimbursement of the tax levy costs incurred by the Office of the Sheriff to
83   provide expressway patrol services. Milwaukee County is the only county
84   mandated by the State to patrol the expressways that are vital arteries in the
85   State's economic engine.
86

87 • An equal split of Circuit Court and Register of Deed fees collected by the County
88   and, currently, disproportionately remitted to the State.
89
90 • Acceptance of Federal funds to expand Medicaid coverage for 80,000 State
91   residents, help reduce local government health care costs, and provide $190
92   million per year of additional revenue to the State.
93
94 • Ensure that 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 (relating to juvenile correctional facilities,
95   youth aids, etc.) provides adequate funding by the State to avoid a funding gap
96   for counties operating said facilities.
97
98 • Rejection of any reduction or offset for existing funding in the above
99   recommendations below the amounts received in the 2019 Adopted Budget or
100   future budgets.
101
102 ; and
103
104   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Workgroup recommends that legislative and
105 lobbying activity by the Wisconsin Counties Association, League of Wisconsin
106 Municipalities, and any other groups, which embody the criteria set forth be fully
107 supported by the County during review and adoption of the State's 2019-2021 biennial
108 budget bill; and
109
110   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a joint meeting to discuss the contents of this
111 resolution and "next steps" shall be convened by the Chairpersons to include
112 Workgroup members, State Legislative members representing the County, and other
113 interested local government officials.
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115
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117 01/24/19
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