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A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., Alexander, Shea, and Taylor, supporting the State of Wisconsin enabling local governments to enact a biennial budgeting process by local ordinance, and maintaining provisions which ensure fiscal controls, public review, and oversight of public monies, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, State of Wisconsin draft legislation, Legislative Reference Bureau 19-1135/P8, would allow local governments to adopt a biennial budget process, which may yield staff time savings by redeploying workhours from an annual budget process toward long-term strategic fiscal planning; and

WHEREAS, biennial budgeting can be a valuable tool for local governments if the proper procedures for review and approval are in place, including adequate public time for review of a two-year spending plan, and fiscal controls allowing for expenditure and revenue budget line-item approval by the legislative branch; and

WHEREAS, fiscal controls include proper review and approval of appropriation transfers by the legislative branch, to adjusted revenues and expenditures due to factors that were not anticipated when the budget was originally adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of April 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-410 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) hereby supports State of Wisconsin (the State) draft legislation, which would grant the County authority to adopt a biennial budgeting process, and if later approved by policymakers, the ability to return to an annual budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that any State legislation providing local governments with the authority to adopt a biennial budget should include the following:

1. Focus solely on provisions relating to a local biennial budget option, without the inclusion of various power transfers that disrupt the checks and balances between local legislative and executive branches
2. Enable local executive and legislative branches to jointly adopt a biennial budget process via adoption of an ordinance which establishes the process and schedule per biennium, subject to State regulations
3. Address fundamental technical questions, such as adjusting relevant statutes on levy limits, so a local government could set and/or adjust their levy for the second year of a biennial budget

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4. Align the timing of State and local biennial budget processes so local governments may better estimate revenues per each 24-month period
5. Provide for longer legislative and public review of a recommended budget when a local government opts for a biennial budget process
6. Require public disclosure and legislative approval of appropriation and revenue transfers, or other budget line-item changes, during the adopted biennial budget

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to State policymakers, and support legislation that achieves the criteria outlined in this resolution.

kae
04/11/19
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