

A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., Johnson, Jr., Moore Omokunde, Taylor, Schmitt, Haas, Cullen, and Wasserman, in support of State of Wisconsin legislative changes that would permit county governments to generate new revenue, and reduce the reliance on property taxes through a binding referendum process, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, Milwaukee County (the County) voters approved an advisory referendum that asked the following question:

Shall the State of Wisconsin grant Milwaukee County the authority to provide property tax relief of at least \$67 million by levying a one percent county sales and use tax to be used to remove the following three items from the property tax levy: parks, recreation and culture, transit and emergency medical services?

; and

WHEREAS, a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* editorial on November 5, 2008, was headlined: *People Have Spoken: It's time to move forward on a Milwaukee County sales tax increase to protect parks, transit and other key services and to offer property tax relief*; and

WHEREAS, despite the action by the voters, the Wisconsin State Legislature has not provided the County the authority to generate new revenue, and reduce the reliance on property taxes through a binding referendum process; and

WHEREAS, since the 2008 referendum, the State of Wisconsin (the State) has enacted strict tax levy limits on local governments and, for most major State aids, not provided even inflationary increases; and

WHEREAS, counties are limited in the options to fund critical services, and maintain public infrastructure, many of which are mandated by the State; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2019, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 19-161, the recommendations of the Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Workgroup, whose objectives were to identify viable solutions for the County and local governments, to work in partnership with the State to deliver public services and programs; and

43 WHEREAS, one of the adopted recommendations of the Fair Deal for Milwaukee
44 County Workgroup is to provide County government with additional options for local
45 control over their own financial destiny, with new, additional revenue, and a reduction in
46 the reliance on property taxes, through enabling legislation and a binding county-wide
47 referendum; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance and Audit, at its meeting of June 13,
50 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-556 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

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52 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County supports an opportunity to provide county
53 governments with additional options for local control over their own financial destiny,
54 with new, additional revenue, and a reduction in the reliance on property taxes, through
55 enabling legislation and a binding county-wide referendum; and

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57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff are authorized
58 and directed to provide this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association for
59 consideration in their 2020 Legislative Platform.

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