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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Calling upon the State of Wisconsin to remove statutorily mandated property tax levies
7 toward regional planning commissions from county property tax levy limits
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10 WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 59.60 uniquely micromanages only Milwaukee County's
11 budgetary process and the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau's 2019 informational
12 report titled, "Local Government Expenditure and Revenue Limits" explains how the
13 State of Wisconsin in Wis. Stat. § 59.605 places strict limits and penalties on the ability
14 of counties to increase their property tax levy every year; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Taskforce, gathering information
17 from County departments, the Wisconsin Policy Forum, and the Southeastern
18 Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, noted the State-imposed local government
19 finance regime has created a structural deficit for Milwaukee County (File Nos. 18-944
20 and 19-161); and
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22 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County continues to seek a fair deal and partnership with
23 the State of Wisconsin to Move Forward MKE by allowing Milwaukee County and its
24 local municipalities to pass a binding referendum to allow local control of the County's
25 financial destiny (File No. 19-831); and
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27 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has imbalanced the County budget to an
28 estimated \$66 million in 2020 non-airport revenues based on Office of Performance,
29 Strategy and Budget's May 21, 2020 projection (File No. 20-26), resulting in the County
30 to request federal support to make the County's finances whole (File No. 20-379); and
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32 WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 United State Code §§ 134-135 and Wis. Stat. §
33 66.0309, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is the
34 official metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and regional planning commission for
35 the seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin; and
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37 WHEREAS, since its inception in 1960, SEWRPC has distributed federal
38 transportation dollars between member localities and provided objective information for
39 regional planning relating to highways, transit, sewerage, water supply, parks, flood
40 mitigation, air and water pollution, and land use generally; and SEWRPC has
41 specifically benefited Milwaukee County by crafting studies and plans such as:

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- A North-South Transit Enhancement Feasibility Study for 27th Street (ongoing)
- VISION 2050, a 30-year regional land use and transportation plan (File No. 19-434)
- A memo regarding regional transit and workforce development to connect Milwaukee, Racine, and the Foxconn manufacturing complex (File No. 18-255)
- Providing technical support for Milwaukee County's East-West Bus Rapid Transit Project (File No. 16-148)

; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14) imposes an unfunded mandate on local communities to provide basic financial support for regional planning commissions via a regional property tax levy apportioned to each county proportionately based on equalized assessed property valuation but limits the maximum tax a regional planning commission may levy to 0.003 percent of a regional's equalized assessed property valuation; and

WHEREAS, SEWRPC's regional property tax levy for its 2021 budget is \$2,251,735 based on the January 1, 2019 regional assessed valuation, of which \$738,310 is assessed to the taxpayers of Milwaukee County via the taxing authority of Milwaukee County (File No. 20-603); and

WHEREAS, the State simultaneously mandates expenditures to regional planning commissions, among other things, and limits counties' ability to pay for those mandates and other vital services their residents expect and deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of September 17, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-611 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby calls upon the State of Wisconsin to amend statutes relating to levy limits (§ 59.605) and regional planning commissions (§ 66.0309) to exempt the mandated property tax levy on behalf of regional planning commissions from county property tax levy limits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Wisconsin Governor, state policymakers, and Wisconsin Counties Association, and support legislation that achieves the criteria outlined in this resolution; and

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County requests the County Clerk
83 provide this resolution to State policymakers who represent any part of Milwaukee
84 County and to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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