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4 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

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6 In support of State legislative changes to require State shared revenue and transit
7 operating assistance payments to Counties be indexed for inflation in every biennial
8 budget
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11 WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties are an arm of the State of Wisconsin, fulfilling
12 many vital State-mandated services such as ensuring health and human services,
13 judicial due process, public safety, and highway maintenance; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State restricts the ability of Counties to raise revenues primarily
16 from the property and sales taxes; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Policy Forum wrote in its February 2019 report,
19 “Dollars and Sense,” that “in past generations, large state aid payments helped hold
20 down property taxes in Wisconsin while also providing funding for local services. Yet,
21 with state aid payments stagnant for years and municipalities now under tight state-
22 imposed caps on property taxes, questions are mounting about whether local officials
23 can sustain appropriate service levels in areas such as public safety, streets, libraries,
24 and parks”; and
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26 WHEREAS, according to data from the nonpartisan State Legislative Fiscal
27 Bureau 2019 report, “Shared Revenue Program: Informational Paper 18”, and 2021
28 report, “Shared Revenue Program: County and Municipal Aid and Utility Aid,” total
29 shared revenue for Counties from 2009 to 2020 has declined from \$217.5 million in
30 2020 (inflation-adjusted) dollars to \$160.4 million, a decline of approximately 27 percent
31 in real dollars; and
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33 WHEREAS, according to written testimony the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional
34 Planning Commission submitted to Milwaukee County in File No. 20-396, transit
35 operating assistance, had it increased with inflation, would be approximately \$100
36 million, or approximately \$25 million more than it is in the current biennium, resulting in
37 local transit agencies finding it more difficult to connect workers with jobs for those who
38 cannot operate a vehicle; and
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40 WHEREAS, according to federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data, inflation has
41 eroded the purchasing power of the dollar on average 1.6 percent per year since 2009,

42 therefore the State has effectively cut Wisconsin Counties' budgets by inflation every
43 biennium; and

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45 WHEREAS costs to continue the basic services Wisconsin citizens expect and
46 deserve continue to rise while counties' abilities to pay for them continue to decline from
47 State restrictions and underfunding; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
50 June 10, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-546 as amended (vote 4-0); now,
51 therefore,

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53 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby supports the State of Wisconsin
54 indexing shared revenue, **general transportation and transit, children and family**
55 **aids, youth aids, and other direct aid** payments ~~and transit operating assistance~~ to
56 Wisconsin Counties to the rate of inflation at a minimum in each State biennial budget;
57 and

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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is
60 authorized and directed to provide this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association
61 for consideration in their 2021 Legislative Platform.

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06/10/21

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