

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-__

**Conducting an Advisory Referendum to Create
an Independent Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission**

Executive Summary

Under current law, the district boundaries for congressional and state legislative districts must be redrawn every 10 years after a census in a process known as redistricting. The method by which redistricting occurs is governed by state law. In most states, these district lines are drawn by the state legislatures. This creates a serious conflict of interest, whereby legislators can draw the districts in such a way so as to give an unfair partisan advantage to both themselves and to the controlling political party, commonly referred to as “gerrymandering”. This can have a chilling effect on democracy as one political party can grant itself an artificial level of dominance over the political system.

Some states have addressed gerrymandering by creating independent nonpartisan commissions for redistricting. Wisconsin can adopt a similar method, but such a change can only be made by the state legislature.

This Resolution authorizes Jefferson County to conduct a county-wide advisory referendum to be held at the November 2020 general election. The Executive Committee considered this resolution at its _____ meeting and voted to forward to the County Board for approval. This will allow voters to communicate directly to the state legislature about their views on the subject.

WHEREAS, the Executive Summary is hereby incorporated by reference into this resolution, and

WHEREAS, current state law entrusts the power of redistricting to the state legislature, and

WHEREAS, the current redistricting process creates a heightened risk of legislators “choosing their voters” instead of voters choosing their legislators, and

WHEREAS, several other states have reduced gerrymandering by removing redistricting from the partisan political process, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin could similarly benefit from such an independent nonpartisan solution, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute 59.52(25) allows for a county board to conduct a county-wide referendum for advisory purposes, and

WHEREAS, a county-wide advisory referendum on the issue of creating an independent nonpartisan redistricting commission would provide guidance to the state legislature as to the will of the County electorate on this issue, and

WHEREAS, this resolution seeks to conduct such a county-wide advisory referendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors that a county-wide advisory referendum be conducted at the November 2020 general election with the question stated as follows:

Should the state legislature pass a constitutional amendment that entrusts the redistricting process to an independent nonpartisan commission?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation Counsel prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Jefferson County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation Counsel draft an Explanatory Statement to be approved by the Executive Committee and published by the Jefferson County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with the Jefferson County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the election at which the question will appear on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, upon passage, be forwarded to Governor Tony Evers, the Wisconsin Counties Association and Jefferson County's Legislative Representatives with the request that they assist in this endeavor.

Fiscal Note: This advisory referendum will cost an estimated \$1,000.

Ayes_____ Noes_____ Abstain_____ Absent_____ Vacant_____

Amendment to the Partnership Agreement Between Dodge County, the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium, and Glacial Heritage Development Partnership (now known as “ThriveED”)

This **Amendment** to the Partnership Agreement is made by and between the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium (the JCEDC), Glacial Heritage Development Partnership (GHDP now known as “ThriveED”), and Dodge County, Wisconsin, (the County), and shall modify the Partnership Agreement as follows:

WHEREAS, in February of 2017, Dodge County entered into an agreement with the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium (hereinafter the “JCEDC”) and Glacial Heritage Development Partnership (“GHDP” now known as “ThriveED”), titled *Partnership Agreement Between Dodge County, the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium, and Glacial Heritage Development Partnership* (hereinafter the “Partnership Agreement”); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Dodge County Resolution No. 19-08, Dodge County will increase its financial contribution to the JCEDC from the current amount of \$85,000 annually to an amount equal to \$1.50 per capita based on the population of Dodge County commencing by payment of a prorated amount on July 1, 2019 of \$24,961.75, with payment being made on July 1 annually, as adjusted based on the previous year’s Dodge County population, under the terms and conditions set forth in said Partnership Agreement referenced above, and

WHEREAS, the parties to this agreement will consult annually to establish performance objectives for the following year and to review the performance objectives established for the previous year, and

WHEREAS, the Partnership Agreement shall further be amended to continue indefinitely with the parties having the right to terminate this agreement in accordance with the Termination provision in the Partnership Agreement.

WHEREAS, as consideration for increasing its contribution, Dodge County will be provided with additional economic development services from ThriveED in the form of a ¾ time on-site Business Development staff and will be permitted to appoint 1 voting member to the JCEDC Board.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the Parties, that the Partnership Agreement is amended as stated above and all provisions of the Partnership Agreement not addressed in this Amendment shall remain in full force and effect.

Dated this _____ day of April, 2019.

ThriveED

By: _____
Nate Salas, Chair

ThriveED

Date: _____

Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium

By: _____
_____, Chair
Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium

Date: _____

Jefferson County, Wisconsin

By: _____
James Schroeder, Chairperson
Jefferson County Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

Dodge County, Wisconsin

By: _____
Russell Kottke, Chairman
Dodge County Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

By: _____
Karen Gibson
Dodge County Clerk

Date: _____

Jefferson County Goals for 2019 – 2027

March 2019

GOAL 1: JEFFERSON COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO GROWTH THAT IS BEYOND STATE AVERAGES AND HELPS TO ENHANCE A POSITIVE FISCAL POSITION.

BUSINESS

- Build a process that will attract new business (and ultimately workers and residents) to the County
 - Attract, retain and develop new business
 - Business markets focus on research, technology and advanced manufacturing
 - Create an economic environment that allows for strong income levels
 - Keep pace with advancing technologies
- Develop broadband to ensure/improve coverage of digital data county wide
 - Expand access to and choices for broadband Internet throughout the county by pursuing funding options and collaborations with business, Internet service providers and other local governments

AGRICULTURE

- Support and sustain our agricultural economy, including ag-tourism, farm-to-table initiatives and emerging farm markets, keeping current with agricultural technologies and production trends and create a balance between preserving AG lands and development.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Assess the overall housing market in Jefferson
- Work with local cities, municipalities and developers to develop more affordable housing in Jefferson.
- Work with municipalities and developers to encourage the maintenance, development and re-development of housing, county wide.

WORKFORCE

- Work to create jobs that pay at a minimum, a living wage
- Engage with workforce development to attract workers to Jefferson County

BALANCED GROWTH

- Develop methods for conservation, sustainability and resource preservation
- A balanced approach to rural and urban development

GOAL 2: JEFFERSON COUNTY HAS DEVELOPED A TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN:

TRANSPORTATION

- Develop a plan for transportation that develops a reliable and connected system of highways, roads, trails and sidewalks:
 - Takes advantage of County Hwy 26, a major north/south corridor and its location along 1-94 between Milwaukee and Madison
 - Develops inter-county transportation – busses, taxi's/Uber that supports business, parks and open spaces
 - Creates a countywide system of trails
 - Works with housing and business developers to ensure good access to businesses in the county and supports residential areas including sidewalks
 - Encourage and support tele-commuting through expansion of Broadband internet availability and affordability.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- A plan to:
 - Create a timeline and budget to update build county facilities
 - Preserves historically significant buildings
 - Supports attraction of new business and cultural, restaurant and retail facilities
 - Infrastructure that supports commerce and agricultural

GOAL 3: ENSURE SAFETY, PUBLIC SERVICE AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

SAFETY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

- Define and develop opportunities for shared services with public and private partners
- On going public education on safety issues for all residents
- Ensures that all residents are safe, have shelter and food needs are met

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Encourage and support the physical and mental health of residents by providing and promoting quality outdoor recreational opportunities, essential health services and access to health care information.

Goal 4: EXPAND COMMUNICATION ABOUT JEFFERSON COUNTY TO IMPROVE PERCEPTION, INCREASE TOURISM AND ATTRACT WORKERS AND NEW RESIDENTS

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Develop a marketing plan that:
 - Informs people in the county, state and nationally about the many offerings in Jefferson both county wide and within cities, municipalities and rural and park lands – by market sector
 - Defines information for tourists wanting to visit the county
 - Update website

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

- Create a process for countywide collaboration through ingoing and consistent communication with cities and municipalities throughout the county
- Cooperate with surrounding counties in development along transportation routes and define ways to do this in a consistent and productive manner
- Planning and zoning teams across the county work together to improve coordination of plans, economic development
- Ensure that all cities and municipalities have growth plan or goals that align with County strategic plan
- Work together on the County strategic plan

GOAL 6: JEFFERSON COUNTY IS KNOWN FOR ITS NATURAL RESOURCES AND PARKS AND IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE WORK AND PLAY.

Focus on maintaining a high quality of life through support of:

- A wide variety of entertainment, restaurant, shopping and cultural opportunities.
- Inclusive social interactions and community events.
- Safe cities and country sides.
- Top-notch school systems.
- High quality outdoor recreational opportunities.
- A vibrant small-town atmosphere.

WORK

- Create a workforce development plan that includes:
 - Working with local universities and tech colleges in developing workforce program
 - Engage with statewide workforce boards to participate in workforce initiatives and programs
 - Engage businesses county wide to participate in workforce initiatives
 - Work in conjunction with JCEDC

PLAY

- Focus is on a high quality of life through:
 - Diverse Entertainment and cultural experiences
 - Outstanding Parks and network of open space
 - Recreational Activities

Live

- Understand and explore housing development
- Work with developers to create a realistic housing plan

EDUCATE

- Foster an educational atmosphere that provides a sound foundation for all children and life-long-learning opportunities for adults.
- Work with adjacent universities and technical schools on workforce growth and retraining initiatives.
- A school system that attracts families and helps to build Jefferson Counties perception and maintain property values
- Foster an educational atmosphere that benefits both our youngest and oldest residents

Jefferson County – The Future

Jefferson County Interstate 94 (I-94) makes up 25 miles of the nearly 78 miles between Milwaukee and Madison. This is one of the most important economic corridors in Wisconsin, and is part of the larger I-Q Corridor from Chicago to the Twin Cities. Furthermore, Jefferson County HWY 26 is quickly becoming a major north/south corridor in the State. This is projected to be a strong development area and constitutes 30 of the 95 miles along the Janesville to Fox River Valley corridor.



Jefferson County is projected to have substantial population growth over the next 30-50 years, with specific pressures from the east and west as well as additional pressures from the south. Jefferson County will have a relatively large percentage of the population at working age compared to the rest of the state.

The location of Jefferson County lends itself to a role in the integration of the economies of the Madison and Milwaukee Metropolitan Areas, which in turn could dramatically improve and change the County's economy. The debate has sometimes been framed in absolutes between those who support development versus those who support farmland preservation. It is believed through proper planning and visioning the County can balance both while respecting the municipalities' autonomy and fiscal constraints.



Overall, we strive for prosperity with a high quality of life for our citizens. We recognize the need for diverse entertainment and cultural experiences for all ages. We have an outstanding network of parks and open space as well as recreational opportunities. Our location, and to some degree our demographics, make possible an emphasis on research, technology, advanced manufacturing as well as appropriate agricultural technologies as potential building blocks for prosperity.

Committee Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Committee/Board Name: Co. Executive Committee

Date of Meeting: April 24, 2019

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