

2022  
Resolutions  
of the  
Wisconsin Counties  
Association

Presented by the  
2022 WCA Resolutions Committee

August 8, 2022

Holiday Inn Madison at The American Center

Madison, Wisconsin

## 2022 WCA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

<b>WCA District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>WCA Second Vice Chair (Committee Chair)</b>	Jonathan Delagrave	Racine County Executive
<b>North Central</b>	William Clendenning	Wood County Supervisor
	Don Friske	Lincoln County Board Chair
<b>Northwest</b>	Thomas Mackie	Washburn County Board Chair
	Tweed Shuman	Sawyer County Board Chair
<b>Southeast</b>	Felesia A Martin	Milwaukee County Supervisor
	Jeffrey Schleif	Washington County Board Chair
<b>Southern</b>	Kriss Marion	Lafayette County Supervisor
	Robert Keeney	Grant County Board Chair
<b>West Central</b>	Louie Okey	Barron County Board Chair
	Wayne Hendrickson	Clark County Board Chair
<b>East Central</b>	Vernon Koch	Sheboygan County Board Chair
	Jeff Nooyen	Outagamie County Board Chair
<b>Western</b>	Dennis Bork	Buffalo County Board Chair
	Monica Kruse	La Crosse County Board Chair
<b>Health and Human Services Steering Committee Chair</b>	Kari Ives	Chippewa County Supervisor
<b>Personnel, Finance, and County Organization Steering Committee Chair</b>	David Frohling	Dodge County Board 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair
<b>Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use Steering Committee Chair</b>	Charles Farrey	Winnebago County Supervisor
<b>Judicial and Public Safety Steering Committee Chair</b>	Vern Koch	Sheboygan County Board Chair
<b>Transportation and Public Works Steering Committee Chair</b>	Kenneth Depperman	Fond du Lac County Supervisor

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 1

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Outagamie County

Relating to

## Opposing Pending Legislation That Would Make Changes to the State Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program

WHEREAS, the State Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP), fully funded by a surcharge on hunting licenses, is a voluntary Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program to assist a person who owns, leases, or controls land on which certain wild animals cause damage to crops or livestock the ability to apply to the county for wildlife damage claim payments and for wildlife damage abatement assistance; and

WHEREAS, wildlife damage payments include damage caused by deer, bears, geese and cougars, as well as elk and sandhill cranes if hunting those animals is authorized; and

WHEREAS, the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department currently contracts with a representative from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the Wildlife Damage Program, with said claims reviewed by the Land Conservation Committee; and

WHEREAS, there is pending legislation that would make changes to the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program by eliminating the administration and oversight of these programs from the Land Conservation Committee and moving the administration of these programs to the DNR; and

WHEREAS, if local authority is eliminated and landowners have issues and appeals concerning harvest objectives or management of the program, they will no longer contact the Land Conservation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation will require that they travel to Madison in order to appear before the DNR officials who may not have local considerations in mind when rendering a decision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby oppose pending legislation that would make changes to the

## 2022 Conference Resolution 1

State Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program by eliminating the administration and oversight of these programs from the Land Conservation Committee and moving the administration of these programs to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Clendenning, second by Okey, to adopt.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- II.J.2.g. Oppose legislation that makes changes to the State Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program by eliminating the administration and oversight of these programs from county Land Conservation Committees and moving the administration of these programs to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 2

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Encouraging Changes to State Legislation Allowing for an Increased Number of State Meat Processors

WHEREAS, farmers across Wisconsin are struggling to secure a harvest date for the livestock they raise at local meat processors; currently producers are having to secure harvest dates 2-3 years in advance, well before animals are even bred. This creates a challenge for producers as they then may need to change their management systems or procedures to finish an animal to fit the harvest date vs harvesting when an animal has reached harvest weight/age; and

WHEREAS, four processing firms handle 85% of the beef market, 54% of the poultry market, and 70% of the pork market; and

WHEREAS, the lack of state and federal meat inspectors severely limits options, especially for smaller producers, as well as those hoping to sell across state lines due to federal inspection certification requirements; and

WHEREAS, due to high state demand, most processors only have state inspectors, severely limiting a smaller processor's ability to sell across state lines; and

WHEREAS, current harvest delays adds feed costs to producers if animals are not harvested efficiently, and reduce animal prices due to packer discounts, negatively impacting businesses bottom lines; and

WHEREAS, many older processors are starting to shut down, and few of these have succession plans in place; this will result in even more limited processing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a lack of educational opportunities for potential meat processors, young people are not exposed to meat science or butchery as part of current curriculums; in addition, very limited peer learning and butcher apprentice programs are in place; and

WHEREAS, support for local processing alternatives is important to Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, counties sincerely appreciate funding included in the state budget and the pandemic recovery funds towards livestock processors.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the state legislature to make necessary legislative changes that would increase the number of state inspectors that will be available to assist smaller, rural processors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association encourages the state legislature and DATCP to advocate for and facilitate federal inspectors in Wisconsin's processor facilities and encourage consideration of new federal rules allowing for state inspection certificates to be valid in adjacent states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association works with the state legislature and UW Extension Madison to prioritize funding for succession planning at current Wisconsin meat processors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association works with the state legislature, the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Education to help fund costly animal science harvest center educational facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports the promotion and growth of the Wisconsin meat industry by encouraging legislative changes, funding, and regulatory amendments.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Indefinitely postpone.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Schleif, second by Frohling, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Indefinitely postpone.

**2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

**Caption:**

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 3

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Enacting Stronger Regulations to Limit the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of cervids which threatens to cause significant economic, cultural and ecological damage to Wisconsin's deer and elk populations; and

WHEREAS, since its discovery in Wisconsin in a deer harvested in 2001 it has now spread to wild deer in 36 counties and has been found in over 25 captive cervid farms; and

WHEREAS, there are 60 counties that are 'CWD affected', either having CWD detected in the county or are within 10 miles of CWD detection; and

WHEREAS, in the most highly infected areas of Dane and Iowa counties the prevalence rate in adult males is about 50 percent and in adult females is about 35 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization all recommend that cervid meat only be eaten after the animal harvested has tested negative for CWD; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 over 800,000 gun and archery deer hunting licenses were sold in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, according to a study, hunters in Wisconsin spent \$2.5 billion in 2011. Eighty-eight percent of the hunters in Wisconsin participated in deer hunting, making it the most popular form of hunting in the state; and

WHEREAS, with no known cure or preventative vaccine, the only option currently available to manage CWD is to aggressively limit the transmission and spread of CWD; and

WHEREAS, current regulations do not adequately limit the human assisted transmission of CWD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State Legislature to make the following changes to state statutes and supporting administrative rules:

## 2022 Conference Resolution 3

- Change ATPC 10.56(1) to eliminate the exceptions that allow the transport of live cervids without a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
- ~~Change NR 10.105(7) to prohibit the export of cervid carcasses which have any part of the spinal column or head attached from CWD affected areas in which wild or captive cervids have tested positive for CWD within the last 10 years.~~
- Enact new rules to require the disposal of harvested cervid carcasses in approved landfills, rendering, or composting facilities capable of managing the carcasses safely.
- Enact new rules to prohibit the export of live cervids from areas within 10 miles of a known positive CWD detection within the last 5 years.
- Enact new rules to require all captive cervid operation to install either solid perimeter or double fencing.
- Once a reliable live animal CWD test has been developed, enact rules to prohibit the transport of live cervids unless the animal tests negative for CWD.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Mackie, second by Koch, to adopt.

Motion by Schleif, second by Friske, to amend the resolved clause to remove the second bullet point and modify the third bullet point to delete the word “approved” and add after “facilities” “capable of managing the carcasses safely.” Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as amended by the Resolutions Committee.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- II.J.2.f. Urge the State Legislature to make the following changes to state statutes and concordant administrative rules related to chronic wasting disease:
- Change ATPC 10.56(1) to eliminate the exceptions that allow the transport of live cervids without a Certification of Veterinary Inspection.
  - Enact new rules to require the disposal of harvested cervid carcasses in landfills, rendering, or composting facilities capable of managing the carcasses safely.
  - Enact new rules to prohibit the export of live cervid animals from areas within 10 miles of a known positive CWD detection within the last five years.
  - Enact new rules to require all captive cervid operations to install solid perimeter or double fencing.
  - Once a reliable live animal CWD test has been developed, enact rules to prohibit the transport of live cervids unless the animal tests negative for CWD.



# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 4

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Polk County

Relating to

## Concerning Wisconsin Wolf Population and Requesting Revision to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Wolf Management Plan

WHEREAS, the WDNR established a wolf population goal of 350 animals in 1999 and reaffirmed this population goal in 2007, based upon prey availability and human population density and nothing has happened to increase prey availability or decrease human density in the intervening years; and

WHEREAS, the WDNR plans to review and revise the previous wolf management plans; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau have officially approved a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Spring Hearings (2011 & 2013) overwhelmingly supported a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less (confirmed by the Executive Committee of the WCC in 2021); and

WHEREAS, thirty-six (36) county boards from northern to southern Wisconsin have passed resolutions that recommend a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's residents have experienced depredations and threatening incidents involving wolves, including 104 incidents in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the high predator population, wolves in particular, has reduced the deer population, diminished hunting opportunities, curtailed livestock and pleasure horse activities, and caused danger to pets and people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge Wisconsin to approve a wolf population goal of 350 or less in the next revision of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Towns Association be encouraged to work with the WDNR to place an elected official from one of the counties with the largest wolf depredation claims to the DNR Wolf

## 2022 Conference Resolution 4

Advisory Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association requests that the WDNR and other partners implement meaningful population controls in the next Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan to bring the wolf population to goal levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association encourages the expired chair position of the Natural Resources Board to the WDNR step down and let the currently appointed chair resume duties.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Indefinitely postpone.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Clendenning, second by Okey, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Indefinitely postpone.

**2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

**Caption:**

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 5

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Eau Claire County

Relating to

## Authorizing a Countywide Advisory Referendum on Clean Water Now for Wisconsin

WHEREAS, there are numerous indicators that the citizens of Eau Claire County are concerned about clean drinking water and clean lakes because of the health of its people and the economic impact(s) on its people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Ground Water Advisory Committee, under the Planning and Development Standing Committee, is directly involved with local and regional discussions focusing on surface water and ground water issues; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors has passed resolutions asking the State of Wisconsin to pursue initiatives related to surface water and ground water issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the following advisory referendum question:

**Question:** Should the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect the following: human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Depperman, second by Koch, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

### Caption:

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 6

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Polk County

Relating to

## Urging the State of Wisconsin to Adequately Fund State Agencies Regarding CAFO Regulations to Protect Groundwater and Air Quality

WHEREAS, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have the potential to negatively impact groundwater and air quality if they do not comply with strict business practices; and

WHEREAS, some swine CAFOs, both within Wisconsin and outside of this state, have created significant fear in the community about the potential negative impact of new and expanding CAFOs; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of Supervisors is dedicated to protecting our groundwater and air quality from all types of potential contaminants, including, but not limited to, CAFOs; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Clean Wisconsin Inc. v. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources* recently (July 8, 2021) decided that the WDNR has broad regulatory authority to establish targeted and specific enhanced conditions when issuing and/or renewing Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, such as animal unit maximums and off-site groundwater monitoring; and

WHEREAS, local governmental units, particularly counties, are statutorily limited in their ability to regulate CAFOs; and

WHEREAS, Polk County has previously enacted conditional use permit zoning regulations to provide some level of local control of the locations and requirements of future or expanded swine CAFOs; however, the public continues to express concerns that the CUP process is not sufficient, despite the limitations on the county's underlying authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to adequately fund the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection so they can vigorously monitor and regulate all of the existing and future CAFOs to the fullest extent of its authority; and

## 2022 Conference Resolution 6

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state legislature and governor to fully fund the various regulatory agencies (WDNR; WDATCP, etc.) so that they have the resources they need to adequately monitor and regulate CAFOs.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Amend to add to the first resolved clause “and support efforts to utilize CAFO waste generation for onsite renewable energy.” Adopt as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Marion, second by Nooyen, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- II.G.2.o. Urge the State of Wisconsin to adequately fund the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection so they can vigorously monitor and regulate all of the existing and future CAFOs to the fullest extent of its authority.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 7

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Supporting a Change in State Regulations and Legislation to Require Meaningful Local Input in the Siting of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

WHEREAS, Bayfield County recognizes and values the role of agriculture to Wisconsin and Bayfield County and our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Bayfield County supports our agricultural history, culture and way of life; and

WHEREAS, Bayfield County supports sustainable agriculture; and

WHEREAS, CAFOs, because of their size, can change the character and culture of our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, CAFOs can diminish adjacent property values because of strong odors, noise and traffic; and

WHEREAS, CAFOs may contaminate community water resources even when following best management practices; and

WHEREAS, the unique geographic and water resources throughout Wisconsin make it necessary to assess the environmental impacts of CAFOs on a county-by-county basis; and

WHEREAS, the decision on siting CAFO's is predominately made by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection [Livestock Siting Law ATPCP 51] with very little local input; and

WHEREAS, state law preempts local governments from regulating CAFOs in a more stringent, and safer manner and with a standard more protective of the local community; and

WHEREAS, Bayfield County supports the long held value of meaningful local control which supports local resident's and the community's ability to participate and provide input into local land uses, including the siting and permitting of CAFOs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the efforts and ability of local residents and local

## 2022 Conference Resolution 7

governing bodies to participate in and provide meaningful authoritative and fact-based input into the siting, permitting and development of CAFOs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports and urges the state to make the necessary changes to the laws and regulations to allow the maximum amount of input by local communities who are most impacted by the siting and development of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations thus providing rural residential consistency and environmental certainty.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Amend to add the words “and fact-based” after authoritative in the first resolved clause. Adopt as amended.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Kruse, second by Marion, to adopt.

Motion by Jacowski, second by Bork, to amend to add the words “and fact-based” after authoritative in the first resolved clause. Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as amended by the Resolutions Committee.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- II.D.2.x. Support the efforts and ability of local residents and local governing bodies to participate in and provide meaningful authoritative and fact-based input into the siting, permitting, and development of CAFOs; support and urge the state to make the necessary changes to the laws and regulations to allow the maximum amount of input by local communities who are most impacted by the siting and development of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 8

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Ashland County

Relating to

## Supporting Increased County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS, Ashland County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Ashland County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS, our children's well-being, economic security, and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$935 million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County's Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents to reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS, the economic security and social service programs provided by the Ashland County Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with the county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for collecting current support to 5<sup>th</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between calendar year 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, a federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and



## 2022 Conference Resolution 8

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding results in less funding for Ashland County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS, new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby respectfully request that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Amend to replace "\$4 million" with "\$5 million" and replace "2021-23 Wisconsin state budget" with "2023-25 Wisconsin state budget." Delete language after "Wisconsin state budget." Adopt as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Mackie, second by Depperman, to adopt. Motion by Frohling, second by Clendenning, to amend to replace "\$4 million" with "\$5 million" and replace "2021-23 Wisconsin state budget" with "2023-25 Wisconsin state budget" and delete language after "Wisconsin state budget." Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as amended by the Resolutions Committee.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

III.F.5. Increase child support funding to meet increased service demands.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 9

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Sawyer County

Relating to

## Restructuring of Community Support Programs (CSP) for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are tasked with primary responsibilities to address the needs of persons with mental illness and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, this includes providing direct care or contracting for care with providers to deliver mental health services and substance abuse services that meet the needs of individual constituents; and

WHEREAS, counties are required to provide a number of human service programs for persons in crisis-regardless of their county of residence- including 24-hour telephone and in-person service, mobile crisis for in-person response, walk-in services, and short-term voluntary and involuntary hospital care; and

WHEREAS, the costs of operating these programs for counties has increased significantly but state aids supporting them have not kept up; and

WHEREAS, counties are experiencing a growing tax levy burden to support these programs and provide matching dollars for state and federal program funds; and

WHEREAS, the burden of these increasing costs has a detrimental effect on county budgets already limited by other mandates and levy caps; and

WHEREAS, counties use existing mental health programs including:

Community Recovery Services (CRS) - helps teens or adults with mental illness through outpatient services for their unique recovery needs.

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) – all ages support by addressing individual's unique needs related to mental health and substance abuse outside of an inpatient setting, but if unaddressed could result in in-patient stay during crisis.

Community Support Programs (CSP) – programs for adults that are living with a serious mental illness, minimal to intensive services, typically most significantly impaired individuals, often through an involuntary Chapter 51 commitment (court ordered); and

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WHEREAS, while the State of Wisconsin elected to fully fund CCS programs in 2013, which greatly expanded access and use of the program, CSP is not fully funded and whose clients typically represent the highest costs and liabilities for counties; and

WHEREAS, Sawyer County consistently has a disproportionately higher number of CSP clients and has incurred high-cost in-patient placements which causes ongoing budget difficulties; and

WHEREAS, if the CRS and CSP programs were to be similarly structured to the CCS program whereby the state funds the non-federal share, counties would be able to add and expand CSP services and have more control over their budgets; and

WHEREAS, a change to the CRS and CSP programs would aid counties with additional funds and tools in responding to mental health and substance abuse crisis needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the Legislature and Wisconsin DHS restructure the Community Recovery Services (CRS) and Community Support Programs (CSP), as well as crisis services, similarly to Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), and fund the non-federal share of the costs of these programs.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Amend to add “ as well as crisis services” following “Community Support Programs (CSP)” in the resolved clause. Adopt as amended.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Kruse, second by Depperman, to adopt. Motion by Mackie, second by Schleif, to amend to add “ as well as crisis services” following “Community Support Programs (CSP)” in the resolved clause. Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as amended by the Resolutions Committee.

### **2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

#### **Caption:**

- III.C.5.q. Support full state funding of the state (non-federal) share of the following programs: the Community Recovery Services (CRS) and Community Support Programs (CSP), as well as crisis services.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 10

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Advocating for County Supervision Options for Public Safety

WHEREAS, many counties in Wisconsin participate in alternatives to incarceration that produce positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has helped support alternatives to incarceration through grant funding, training and other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, these alternatives rely on supervision and case management to ensure compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, through its Division of Community Corrections, supervises many of these cases; and

WHEREAS, additional sentencing discretion in the form of evidenced-based, individually tailored, county supervision initiatives, specifically for misdemeanors and low-level felonies will have positive outcomes and result in safer communities; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of participants and their history with the county enable the county to make solid evidenced-based decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the necessary regulatory and statutory revisions allowing for counties to establish a county supervision process for certain offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association work with the state legislature and Department of Corrections to make these changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association work with the state legislature on a block grant funding program to transfer supervision responsibilities to volunteering counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state legislature to codify deferred entry of judgement agreements.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 10

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Schleif, second by Ives, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- IV.F.14. Support the necessary regulatory and statutory revisions allowing for counties to establish a county supervision process for certain offenders; work with the state legislature on a block grant funding program to transfer supervision responsibilities to volunteering counties.
- IV.F.15. Urge the state legislature to codify deferred entry of judgement agreements.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 11

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Addressing the Statewide District Attorney Staffing Crisis

WHEREAS, Wisconsin district attorney offices are experiencing a staffing crisis; and

WHEREAS, victim-witness professionals are faced with an impossible-to-sustain volume of cases, a huge increase in responsibilities per case, and caseloads where felonies are now outpacing misdemeanors; and

WHEREAS, victim-witness professionals are the only victim service providers obligated by state statute and the Wisconsin Constitution to provide rights and services to crime victims; and

WHEREAS, victim-witness assistance programs are at a crisis point

- The implications for clearing the court backlogs are dire; when victim-witness professionals cannot meet their constitutionally-mandated obligations, and victims' rights are not fulfilled, court hearings must be adjourned
- This has a serious impact on public safety; and

WHEREAS, there are several causes for this crisis including Marsy's Law obligations, severity of crimes and COVID-19 crime rate increase/public defender shortage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the Office of Crime Victim Services with the Department of Justice to assess increased time needs associated with new legislation including Marsy's Law and post COVID-19 crime surges.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Clendenning, second by Okey, to adopt.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

## 2022 Conference Resolution 11

### Caption:

- IV.C.5.e. Urge the Office of Crime Victim Services within the Department of Justice to assess increased time needs associated with new legislation including Marsy's Law and post COVID-19 crime surges.

Judicial and Public Safety

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 12

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Supporting Changes in State Regulations and Legislation to Support Emergency Medical Services in Rural Areas

WHEREAS, many rural areas have primarily volunteer service providers; and

WHEREAS, the aging of rural populations together with declining working populations has further exasperated the situation; and

WHEREAS, increasingly counties are seen as the provider for EMS services; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the location, **more** area providers helps ensure quick lifesaving emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, Bayfield County believes that counties must join with municipalities to ensure a strong EMS network thrives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the Wisconsin Counties Association play an active role in supporting rural EMS initiatives including but not limited to:

- a. Allowing for towns to fund EMS using the same options available to fund fire protection under §60.55(2). This would allow towns to move EMS to a fee across the community. Like with fire, it would need to come with a negative levy limit penalty back to what was spent on EMS in 2013.
- b. Create a definition of Joint EMS District that encompasses how towns collaborate to obtain EMS service. The definition should include when two or more communities engage in: a) joint ownership; b) joint purchase of services from a non-profit corporation; and c) joint contracting with a public or private provider. This would allow use of the 2% + CPI revenue flexibility. This flexibility is afforded to fire and was created for EMS last session; however, due to the differences between how fire and EMS are provided the flexibility remains much greater for fire.
- c. Sparsity Aid. On a per land base basis.
- d. Increase FAP funding (LRB-0719).
- e. Develop a funding source to pay for would-be EMT training and travel associated with obtaining training.
- f. Recalibrate the shared revenue formula to increase funding to rural areas.



## 2022 Conference Resolution 12

- g. Fully fund Length of Service Award.
- h. Providing a \$1,000 income tax credit for volunteer fire/EMS personnel.
- i. Providing a \$400 income tax credit for unreimbursed volunteer fire/EMS expenses.
- j. Providing a college tuition reimbursement for volunteer fire/EMS personnel or their families.
- k. Providing a business tax incentive for those businesses that allow volunteer fire/EMS personnel to leave their job during the workday.
- l. LRB-0720 EMR not required to take NREMT.
- m. LRB-0721 Ambulance Staffing: 1) FAP funding streamlining; 2) interfacility transport staffing; c) clarifies Act 97 from 2017 on flexible staffing; and 4) prohibits career departments from forbidding someone from volunteering.
- n. Investigate a regional joint EMS district. Alternatively, investigate a countywide EMS, including the potential to simply have the county facilitate expenditures to contract with multiple public and private providers as a way to address the hurdle of levy limits.
- o. Change the levy limit law to allow for the levy limit to not apply to both countywide EMS and a joint EMS district encompassing a larger area. The county boundary is an artificial one. For example, in Florence County this means only eight towns whereas in Marathon County it means 61 towns, cities, and villages and a lot more land area. Furthermore, a county boundary does not take into consideration road infrastructure, topography, landscape, etc.
- p. Examine the training requirements, strengths/weaknesses of replacing the National Registry Test, why some states/areas of WI do better or worse on the current test.
- q. Investigate if EMS personnel that are not affiliated with a service are prevented from assisting on a call with another service.
- r. Develop a “reverse TIF” to fund EMS based on the rationale that “but for” EMS investment, property values will decrease.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Refer to the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Keeney, second by Schleif, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 13

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Polk County

Relating to

## Urging State Elected Officials to Use Expected 2021-2023 Budget Surplus to Fund Rural Fire and Ambulance Emergency Services

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is expected to have a budget surplus of \$3.8 billion in fiscal period 21-23 according to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Governor Evers has proposed a \$150 refund to every Wisconsin resident; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of Supervisors recognizes that emergency services in rural areas around our state are struggling to keep up with the costs of rising inputs not just recently but over the last many years; and

WHEREAS, everyone expects that emergency services, such as ambulance and fire response, to show up when needed, but few understand the fiscal struggles many emergency service providers have faced the last number of years in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the current financing structure for public fire service comes from property taxes that includes both residents and out-of-state property owners, while ambulance service is paid for by only residents; and

WHEREAS, the state has no greater responsibility than the safety of its people, and by using a small portion of the surplus funds to supplement these important rural service providers, the state could go a long way in securing the safety of all who live, work, and vacation in our great state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the governor, in conjunction with state legislators, to use a portion of the \$3.8 billion surplus to fund Wisconsin's rural emergency services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association encourages our elected state officials to allocate \$30 per resident to fund all public/government owned and operated ambulance services and \$30 per resident to non-governmental ambulance agencies serving a rural area covering less than 15,000 residents and \$20 per resident to fund volunteer fire departments, both on a pro-rata share based upon population.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 13

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Schleif, second by Marion, to adopt.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- IV.J.3. Support a new state allocation of \$30 per resident to fund all public/government owned and operated ambulance services and \$30 per resident to non-governmental ambulance agencies serving a rural area covering less than 15,000 residents and \$20 per resident to fund volunteer fire departments, both on a pro-rata share based upon population.

Judicial and Public Safety

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 14

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Walworth County

Relating to

## Supporting the Need for Statewide Efforts for Enhanced Regulation and Enforcement Prohibiting Puppy Mills

WHEREAS, the existence of puppy mills, breeding environments in which puppies are bred primarily in pursuit of profit and are cared for only minimally, is unconscionable for reasons including, but not limited to, the way animals are treated and the significant consumer risks related to unhealthy animals; and

WHEREAS, the federal Animal Welfare Act, which governs the humane treatment of animals bred for purposes of sale, is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has been highly ineffective in stopping puppy mills due to limited authority and lax enforcement; and

WHEREAS, 2009 Wisconsin Act 90, which took effect on June 1, 2011, and is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and which was intended to protect dogs and the people who buy or adopt them, also suffers from limited scope and insufficient enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the lack of oversight and enforcement at the federal and state levels has resulted in a rise in advocacy for local ordinances banning pet shops from sourcing puppies from anywhere besides a rescue organization, which ordinances are too narrow in scope and too limited in geographical application to ever dramatically reduce the mistreatment of puppies and dogs involved in the wholesale and retail trade industry; and

WHEREAS, consistent, uniform, statewide application of enhanced animal welfare statutes and significantly increased enforcement of such statutes is essential to effectively address the multitude of negative impacts from puppy mills, the multiple sources of breeders who mistreat animals, and the multiple ways in which bad breeders mistreat animals, which includes, but is not limited to, over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal veterinary care; lack of socialization, exercise, and enrichment; lack of adequate food, water, and shelter; and lack of sanitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the State of Wisconsin to enhance its animal welfare laws related to the regulation of dog breeders, sellers, and facility operators; to significantly increase its enforcement efforts and resources to stop puppy mills in the State of Wisconsin and to stop the inflow of puppies into Wisconsin from puppy mills outside of

## 2022 Conference Resolution 14

Wisconsin; and to create a consistent, uniform, statewide approach for curtailing puppy mills, protecting consumers, and preventing animal abuse and mistreatment related to puppy mills.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Bork, second by Friske, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Judicial and Public Safety

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 15

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Polk County

Relating to

## Supporting the American Police Officer

WHEREAS, the men and women of our nation's law enforcement agencies wear their uniforms with honor, dedication, and integrity as they protect and defend the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving communities across the nation including the men and women of the Polk County Sheriff's Office and local municipal law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded line of duty death occurred in 1791, more than 20,000 officers have made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the communities which they swore to protect; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2021, 295 new names of these fallen heroes and dedicated public servants were engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the uniforms which are worn and earned with hard work, commitment and pride by these officers have in recent times become targets by those who seek to kill or injure law enforcement officers simply because of their profession and their commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of Supervisors stands with the families of the fallen, and the law enforcement officers throughout the United States currently protecting our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of Supervisors supports the men and women of law enforcement throughout Polk County, the State of Wisconsin and the United States, who stand every day as our guardians of peace and order, ready to protect our homes and businesses, to defend the weak and oppressed and our very freedoms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby publicly support law enforcement throughout the State of Wisconsin and the United States and recognize the sacrifices made by those who commit themselves to provide for public safety in our communities; and

## 2022 Conference Resolution 15

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports the continued application of qualified immunity to all law enforcement officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports the expansion of state and federal hate crime laws in order to protect those in law enforcement from those who mean to do them harm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports sum sufficient funding of programs at the state and local level which provide assistance to equip law enforcement with the resources and equipment necessary to provide services to the public, while protecting the men and women providing for those services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association grieves for all law enforcement lives lost in the line of duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association is committed to fostering a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community through productive and responsible communication and mutual respect.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Depperman, second by Okey, to adopt. Motion by Keeney, second by Schleif, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Refer to the Board of Directors.

**2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

**Caption:**

Judicial and Public Safety

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 16

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Vilas County

Relating to

## Requesting that the State Legislature Modify Levy Limits

WHEREAS, in an effort to control and reduce the annual increase in property tax rates, the State of Wisconsin in 2006 imposed property tax levy limits on municipal and county governments; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the state modified the levy limit requirement by allowing local governments an annual increase in the property tax levy based upon a percentage of the value of net new construction; and

WHEREAS, in Vilas County, the allowable increase to the tax levy attributable to the annual percentage increase in the value of net new construction averages out to \$95,182 per year over the last five years, and that amount fails to sufficiently fund annual increases in Vilas County operational costs; and

WHEREAS, 2020 census data indicates that the population of Vilas County increased by 7.55% or 1,617 individuals and estimated 2021 census numbers released by the Wisconsin Department of Administration on October 8, 2021, indicate that an additional number of 658 individuals now reside in Vilas County, resulting in a net gain in county population of 2,275 individuals since the 2010 census; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 – 2020 increase in Wisconsin's consumer price index (CPI) averages out to a 1.57% annual increase, according to data compiled by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission; and

WHEREAS, the upswing in population is causing an increase in demand for additional county services affecting all county departments, most notably the sheriff's office and the highway department; and

WHEREAS, along with all other Wisconsin counties, Vilas County continues to experience annual operational cost increases, led primarily by higher fuel, material, insurance, and labor costs as indicated by the annual rate of increase in the CPI; and

WHEREAS, all other sources of Vilas County revenues, including the annual allowable increase in the property tax levy, have now proven to be insufficient to fund annual operational cost increases; and



## 2022 Conference Resolution 16

WHEREAS, there is no reliable means other than the annual tax levy to fund the demand for services caused by the population increase, and to fund the annual increases in the CPI as experienced by Vilas County; and

WHEREAS, the fifteen municipalities located within Vilas County are also experiencing similar operational cost funding shortfalls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the Wisconsin State Legislature to consider the following modifications to the levy limits imposed upon Wisconsin municipal and county governments:

1. In 2022 for 2023, permit all units of county and municipal government who have experienced an increase in population since the 2010 census a one-time allowable increase to the county's base levy amount of no more than 10% above their adopted 2022 property tax levy.
2. Also in 2022 for 2023, permit an annual allowable increase in the property tax levy based upon the existing formula of a percentage of the annual increase in the value of net new construction plus the annual overall percentage increase in the Wisconsin consumer price index as compiled annually by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Mackie, second by Marion, to adopt.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- VI.G.13. Support levy limit adjustments on an annual basis that adequately reflect the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin counties.
- VI.G.16. Support a permanent one-time levy increase of no more than 10 percent for all local units of government that experienced a population increase since the 2010 census.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 17

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by  
**Richland County**

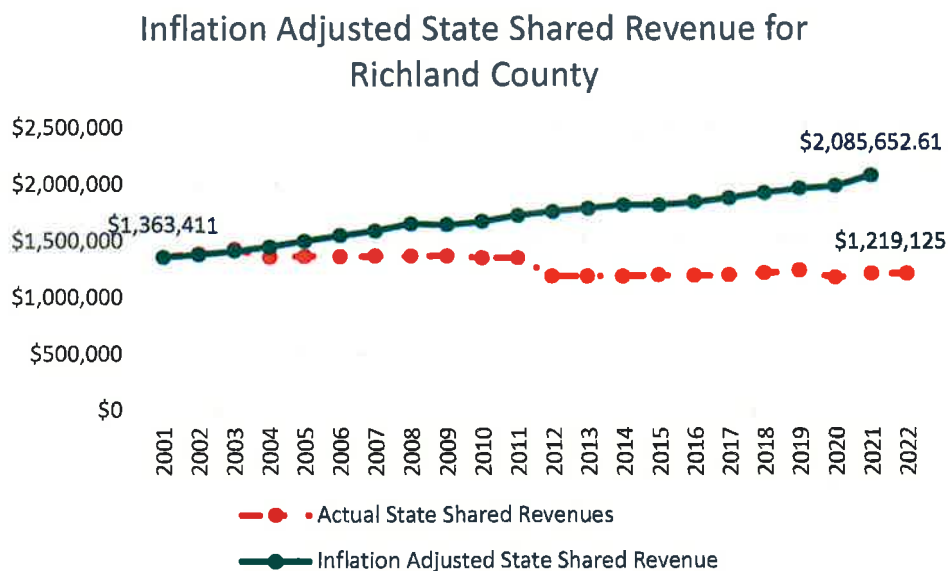
Relating to

### Imploring the State of Wisconsin to Increase State Shared Revenues and State Highway Aids for Richland County

WHEREAS, annual state shared revenues from the State of Wisconsin to Richland County have dropped 10% between 2001 and 2021 from \$1.36 million in 2001 to \$1.22 million in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Price Index shows that prices increased 43% between 2001 and 2021; and

WHEREAS, if Richland County's state shared revenues had kept pace with inflation, the annual amount of state shared revenue in 2021 would have been \$2.1 million; and



WHEREAS, this decrease in state shared revenues has negatively impacted the budgets of the following three Richland County departments in order of most to least impact: 1) Sheriff, 2) Highway, 3) Health & Human Services; and

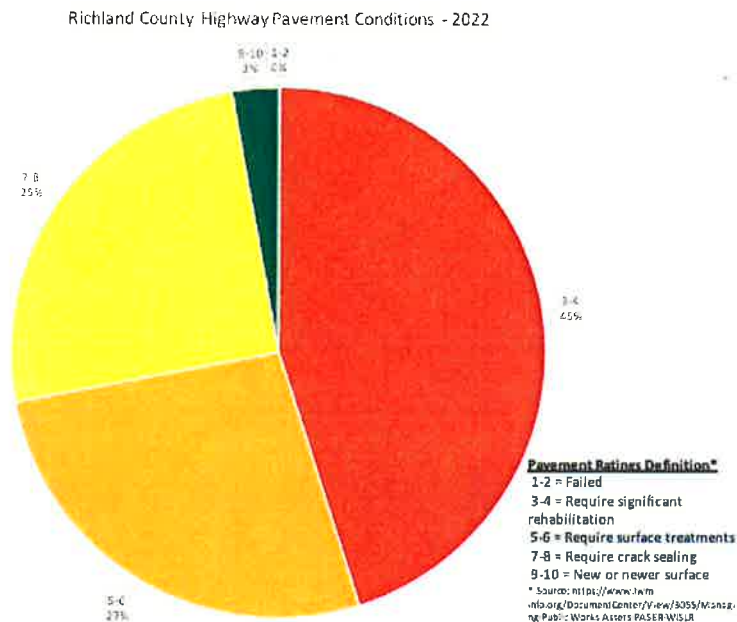
WHEREAS, property tax levy limits imposed by the State of Wisconsin on Richland

## 2022 Conference Resolution 17

County have restricted our ability to raise property taxes to offset losses in state shared revenues, except for borrowing; and

WHEREAS, in a similar fashion, annual state highway aids to Richland County have dropped 22% between 2001 and 2019 from \$757,000 in 2001 to \$592,000 in 2019; and

WHEREAS, 45% (or 137 out of 304 miles) of all county highways in Richland County are in need of significant rehabilitation because of a lack of maintenance funding; and



WHEREAS, due in part to the state's decrease in state shared revenues and state highway aids, Richland County property owners have seen recent increases in property taxes for borrowing to pay for sheriff's patrol vehicles, highway maintenance projects, and health & human services building repairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby implore the State of Wisconsin to increase its state shared revenues and state highway aids to Richland County, to ensure funding for the Sheriff's, Highway, and Health & Human Services Departments.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 17

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Okey, second by Marion, to adopt.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

VI.L.4. Support increases in the shared revenue and highway aids programs.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization  
Transportation and Public Works

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 18

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Supporting Counties During Labor and Housing Shortages

WHEREAS, housing and staffing shortages combined are challenging county governments across the state; and

WHEREAS, counties are at the point of being unable to provide certain services, some of them mandated, due to housing and staffing issues; and

WHEREAS, as agents of the state, counties follow state regulations and statutes; and

WHEREAS, state rules, processes and procedures often dictate the tasks performed by multiple county departments including, but not limited to, human services and the sheriff's office; and

WHEREAS, direction, assistance, recommendation and flexibility from the state will be paramount to county government complying with the intent of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin:

- Encourage regional options in addition to individual county-based staffing solutions.
- Support flexibility of timelines for acquiring job-required certifications.
- Review and update workforce certification and licensure requirements to determine if they are necessary.
- Eliminate unnecessary requirements in state statute and administrative rule to reflect the reality of the workforce shortage and the ability of employers in Wisconsin to recruit and retain qualified staff.
- Consider allowing training certificate extensions, and longer certification and licensure periods prior to renewal.
- Review and remove obsolete language or processes that create barriers to hiring, licensure, or certification.
- Provide financial incentives for recent graduates to accept work in the county government system for difficult to fill positions.
- Provide funding to allow counties to provide hiring incentives for hard to fill positions.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 18

- Partner with counties to develop creative and innovative ways to address workforce shortages.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Refer to the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Friske, second by Clendenning, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 19

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Outagamie County

Relating to

#### Supporting Pending Legislation that Would Allow the University of Wisconsin Missing-in-Action Recovery and Identification Project (MIA Recovery Project) to Request the Joint Committee on Finance to Provide State Funding Allocations

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project (MIA Recovery Project) honors the sacrifice of brave Americans who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, their primary mission is to recover missing U.S. military personnel from past global conflicts; and

WHEREAS, additionally, they educate students and communities on the importance of past national service and help bring closure to the families of the missing; and

WHEREAS, there is pending legislation that would allow the MIA Recovery Project to request the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) to provide \$180,000 in each fiscal year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for missions to recover and identify Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action; and

WHEREAS, with state support, the main focus of the MIA Recovery Project can shift specifically to the recovery and repatriation of Wisconsin Missing-in-Action (MIA) Service Members; and

WHEREAS, since Pearl Harbor, approximately 80,000 U.S. Service members across the globe, including more than 1,500 Wisconsin Service Members, are still reported as MIA; and

WHEREAS, with a multi-year backlog in locating the remains of the MIAs, and many WWII, Korean, and Vietnam-era family members advancing in age, time is of the essence; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that as many Wisconsinites as possible are reunited with their loved ones, the pending legislation funds the recovery, identification, and repatriation specifically of Wisconsin MIA Service Members; and

## 2022 Conference Resolution 19

WHEREAS, with this support, the MIA Recovery Project could immediately begin research and outreach to families that had long ago lost hope of finding their loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support pending legislation that would allow the University of Wisconsin Missing-in-Action Recovery and Identification Project (MIA Recovery Project) to request the Joint Committee on Finance to provide state funding allocations to support the effort to locate Wisconsin veterans which is currently being proposed at \$180,000 in each fiscal year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for missions to recover and identify Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Indefinitely postpone.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Clendenning, second by Friske, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Indefinitely postpone.

**2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

**Caption:**

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization



# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 20

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Richland County

Relating to

## Requesting the State of Wisconsin Support the UW-Colleges to Where it Was Supporting Them in 2015

WHEREAS, thirteen counties and cities in the state all own and maintain campuses utilized by the UW-System in each of their counties; and

WHEREAS, these counties believed in the Wisconsin Idea that the border of the state should be the borders of education; and

WHEREAS, Richland County highly supports and promotes for the residents of the county to have an educational center for students to receive college courses, associate degrees, lectures and classes for the community at large, and educational youth programming; and

WHEREAS, starting in 2016-17 state support for the UW-Richland decreased by 28% (\$822,641) compared to 2015-16 and has decreased incrementally each year since; and

WHEREAS, because of these decreases and reorganization by the state, the Richland campus no longer has staff positions of Dean, five Associate Student Services Coordinators, one custodian, three Financial Specialists, one Library Assistant, one Continuing Education Coordinator, and one First Year Initiative Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015 no new or replaced professors have been hired; and

WHEREAS, because of these financial decreases and position losses have influenced the enrollment in traditional college classes and eliminated enrollment for adult and youth Continuing Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby implore the State of Wisconsin and the UW-System to increase their investment in UWP-Richland and the other 12 UW Colleges, to ensure that a viable educational institute be continued.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

n/a

## 2022 Conference Resolution 20

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nooyen, second by Marion, to adopt.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

Implore the State of Wisconsin and the UW-System to increase their investment in the 13 UW Colleges to ensure that a viable educational institute be continued.

UW-Madison, Division of Extension and Education

**2022 WCA  
CONFERENCE  
RESOLUTIONS 21~29:**

**REAFFIRM CURRENT  
POSITIONS OF THE  
WISCONSIN  
COUNTIES  
ASSOCIATION**

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 21

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Bayfield County

Relating to

## Conducting Additional Research on Chronic Wasting Disease to Improve Testing, Treatment, and Management Options

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of cervids which threatens to cause significant economic, cultural and ecological damage to Wisconsin's deer and elk populations; and

WHEREAS, a better understanding of CWD is needed to develop better management tools; and

WHEREAS, current funding and research levels are not commensurate to the threat posed by CWD; and

WHEREAS, since the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin in 2001 it is now found in wild deer in 36 counties and has been found in over 25 captive cervid farms; and

WHEREAS, in the most highly infected areas of Dane and Iowa counties the prevalence rate in adult males is about 50% and in adult females is about 35%; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization all recommend that cervid meat only be eaten after the animal harvested has tested negative for CWD; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 over 800,000 gun and archery deer hunting licenses were sold in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, according to a study, hunters in Wisconsin spent \$2.5 billion in 2011. Eighty-eight percent of the hunters in Wisconsin participated in deer hunting, making it the most popular form of hunting in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State Legislature to fund and direct state agencies to conduct the following research in order to better manage CWD:

- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be

## 2022 Conference Resolution 21

conducted on live cervids.

- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be implemented in the field on harvested cervids that will provide immediate test results.
- Develop a cervid vaccine for CWD.
- Develop a cure for CWD infected cervids.
- Breed inheritable resistance to CWD in captive cervids such that the cervids do not carry or shed CWD prions.
- Determine CWD prion longevity and virulence in contaminated soil, feed, and crops under a wide range of environmental conditions.
- Develop a better understanding of CWD prion movement in the environment once outside of cervids
- Expand monitoring of wild cervids in CWD endemic zones to better understand the effect of CWD on cervid populations.
- Conduct epidemiological assessment of CWD prions on human health including whether humans are already carriers of CWD prions, the likelihood of CWD prions infecting humans and causing disease, and the impact of eating CWD positive cervids.
- Conduct additional research to determine the viability and methodology for composting CWD infected cervids.

### STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- II.J.2.e. Urge the State Legislature to direct state agencies, and provide funding, to conduct the following research and development in order to better manage chronic wasting disease (CWD):
- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be conducted on live cervids.
  - Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be implemented in the field on harvested cervids that will provide immediate test results.
  - Develop a vaccine for CWD.
  - Develop a cure for CWD in infected cervids.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 21

- Breed inheritable resistance to CWD in captive cervids such that the cervids do not carry or shed CWD prions.
- Determine CWD prion longevity and virulence in contaminated soil, feed, and crops under a wide range of environmental conditions and soil types.
- Develop a better understanding of CWD prion movement in the environment once outside of a cervid.
- Expand monitoring of individual animal and herd health in CWD endemic zones to better understand the effect of CWD on population dynamics.
- Conduct epidemiological assessment of CWD prions on human health including whether humans are already carriers of CWD prions, the likelihood of CWD prions infecting humans and causing disease, and the impact of eating CWD positive deer, if any.
- Conduct additional research to determine the viability and methodology for composting CWD-infected cervids.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 22

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Eau Claire County

Relating to

## Supporting the Continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. Per Wis. Stat. § 23.0915(2c)(d) the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state. Eau Claire County has utilized stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has utilized Stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities as listed below:

- to acquire land for Pinter Pines/Coon Gut,
- the Meteor Timber property,
- the Brown property, and
- Kiwanis Acquisition in the Town of Union; and

WHEREAS, whereas Eau Claire County recognizes the need to balance debt burden with conservation benefits, the county urges the state to renew the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program with funding to perpetuate the program while continuing to retire existing bond debt, with the goal to stabilize debt at current levels or gradually reduce some.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby consider the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat, and water quality while supporting the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic development and enhance quality of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association does recommend and support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 22

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- II.D.6.e. Support long-term reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program provided that local participation in the program is sufficiently preserved as determined by stakeholders.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use



# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 23

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Ashland County

Relating to

## Supporting Increased Funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers

WHEREAS, Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are the first place to go to get accurate unbiased information on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability; and

WHEREAS, ADRC services include providing information and assistance, benefits counseling, coordinating short-term services, conducting functional screens, and enrollment processing and counseling; and

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, there are currently 34 single-county ADRCs, 12 multi-county/tribal ADRCs, and seven tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists that work with an ADRC; and

WHEREAS, ADRCs serve the fastest growing demographic of our state's population; and

WHEREAS, the funding method for ADRCs has not been revised in more than a decade, and funding for ADRCs has not increased since 2006; and

WHEREAS, it has become evident that ADRC funding needs revision for a number of reasons, including:

- The current inequitable distribution of funding among ADRCs.
- The need to increase funding so that all ADRCs may effectively meet their mission, as outlined in the Scope of Services contract addendum; and

WHEREAS, the Office for Resource Center Development (ORCD) within the Department of Health Services (DHS) established a stakeholder advisory group in 2017 to discuss ADRC funding; and

WHEREAS, the stakeholder advisory group identified a number of issues with the current funding formula, such as:

- Dollars are distributed based on the date of ADRC establishment – older ADRCs (Generation One) receive more funding than ADRCs established at a later date (Generation Two and Three ADRCs).

## 2022 Conference Resolution 23

- The current formula does not take into account elements associated with health and social inequity that require a greater need for ADRC services.
- The current formula does not adjust with need – Wisconsin’s aging and disability populations continue to grow and are expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years.
- The current formula does not account for needed cost of living adjustments; and

WHEREAS, a significant state GPR investment is needed to implement the recommendations of the stakeholder advisory group; and

WHEREAS, such a significant state investment would provide consistency in ADRC funding statewide, cover the services required and recommended in the Scope of Services contract addendum, and equalize services among ADRCs; and

WHEREAS, the work of the stakeholder advisory group complements the work of the Governor’s Task Force on Caregiving.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the following increases in the 2021-23 state biennial budget to ensure access to critical services provided by ADRCs to Wisconsin’s aging and disability populations:

- Provide an additional \$27,410,000 GPR in funding to our state’s ADRCs. It is important to note that the proposed change in the ADRC allocation methodology cannot occur unless the full \$27.4 million is allocated.
- Provide additional funding to expand/equalize ADRC services across the state:
  - Expand dementia care specialist funding statewide: \$3,320,000
  - Fully fund elder benefit specialists statewide: \$2,300,000
  - Expand Caregiver Support and Programs: \$3,600,000
  - Expand health promotion services: \$6,000,000
  - Expand care transition services: \$6,000,000
  - Fund aging and disability resources in tribes: \$1,180,000
  - Fully fund aging and disability resource support systems: \$2,650,000.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt.

**2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

## 2022 Conference Resolution 23

### Caption:

III.I.10. Seek funding to equalize state payments to Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Health and Human Services

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 24

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

**Ashland County**

Relating to

### Supporting Medicaid Expansion

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a program of Medicaid expansion, whereby in exchange for increased federal matching funds, states could elect to expand the number of individuals covered under state administered Medicaid programs, but historically the state of Wisconsin has declined Medicaid expansion funds; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin would increase the eligibility income level from 100% of federal poverty level (\$12,880 for a household of one and \$26,500 for a household of four) to 138% federal poverty level (\$17,774 for household of one and \$36,570 for a household of four); and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's population is aging and more seniors will require care and services in the future; and

WHEREAS, current state estimates indicate another 90,000 individuals, including some seniors on fixed incomes, in Wisconsin will qualify for Medicaid if expanded; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid would improve the health, wellbeing, and productivity of thousands of residents in the areas of preventive services, prenatal care, opioid and other drug treatment, behavioral health, crisis intervention, lead poisoning, treatment of chronic disease, dental health, and support for the elderly and people with disabilities thus providing for a healthier population and more productive workforce; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is included in the Governor's 2021-2023 budget and is anticipated to increase the state's revenues by approximately \$1 billion during the biennium; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion dollars will be used to expand healthcare services in the areas of healthcare equity, behavioral health, public health, and long-term care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the expansion of Medicaid and consider adoption of this resolution as part of their policy platform.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 24

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

### 2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

#### Caption:

- III.C.3.e. Support the continuation of Wisconsin's medical assistance program at current or expanded eligibility levels.
- III.C.3.1. Support the expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin provided the increased costs to the county income maintenance consortia is fully funded by the state.

Health and Human Services

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 25

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

**Bayfield County**

Relating to

### Supporting Medicaid Expansion

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a program of Medicaid expansion, whereby in exchange for increased federal matching funds, states could elect to expand the number of individuals covered under state administered Medicaid programs, but historically the state of Wisconsin has declined Medicaid expansion funds; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin would increase the eligibility income level from 100% of federal poverty level (\$12,880 for a household of one and \$26,500 for a household of four) to 138% federal poverty level (\$17,774 for household of one and \$36,570 for a household of four); and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's population is aging and more seniors will require care and services in the future; and

WHEREAS, current state estimates indicate another 90,000 individuals including some seniors on fixed incomes in Wisconsin will qualify for Medicaid if expanded; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid would improve the health, wellbeing, and productivity of thousands of residents in the areas of preventive services, prenatal care, opioid and other drug treatment, behavioral health, crisis intervention, lead poisoning, treatment of chronic disease, dental health, and support for the elderly and people with disabilities thus providing for a healthier population and more productive workforce; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is included in the Governor's 2021-2023 budget and is anticipated to increase the state's revenues by approximately \$1 billion during the biennium; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion dollars will be used to expand healthcare services in the areas of healthcare equity, behavioral health, public health, and long-term care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the expansion of Medicaid and consider adoption of this resolution as part of their policy platform.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 25

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt.

### **2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

#### **Caption:**

- III.C.3.e. Support the continuation of Wisconsin's medical assistance program at current or expanded eligibility levels.
- III.C.3.1. Support the expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin provided the increased costs to the county income maintenance consortia is fully funded by the state.

Health and Human Services

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 26

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Polk County

Relating to

## Supporting the Elimination of the BadgerCare Eligibility Cliff

WHEREAS, in addition to Medicaid, Wisconsin also administers BadgerCare Plus, a similar program for groups of people who need healthcare coverage but who may not qualify for Medicaid or who need different kinds of services. BadgerCare Plus is also sometimes informally referred to as just BadgerCare; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who do qualify for BadgerCare or BadgerCare Plus face a "benefits cliff, defined as "A benefit cliff occurs when a public support program is designed in such a way that, at a certain level of income, a small increase in earnings can result in a significant loss in eligibility for benefits." (Source: Over the Edge: An Analysis of the Implications of Benefit Cliffs Within Wisconsin Public Benefit Programs, Workshop in Public Affairs, Spring 2020, Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison); and

WHEREAS, this benefit cliff, in some cases, becomes a barrier for individuals seeking employment, or seeking better employment; and

WHEREAS, in Polk County, many employers are having a difficult time filling vacancies and recruiting employees; and

WHEREAS, allowing individuals to work productively without harming their health benefits not only reduces the cost of a benefit program but also simultaneously improves the overall economic activity of a region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the governor, in conjunction with state legislators, to work cooperatively to eliminate the aforementioned benefit cliff in the BadgerCare Plus program using a proportionate sliding fee scale so that as individuals and families earn additional income, there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount towards their health benefit coverage.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.



## 2022 Conference Resolution 26

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt.

### **2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

#### **Caption:**

- III.C.3.n. Support the elimination of the BadgerCare eligibility cliff and that this benefit cliff be eliminated based on a proportionate sliding fee scale so that as individuals and families earn additional dollars there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount toward their health insurance coverage.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 27

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

### Barron County

Relating to

## Requesting Elimination of BadgerCare Eligibility Cliff

WHEREAS, in addition to Medicaid, Wisconsin also administers BadgerCare Plus, a similar program for groups of people who need healthcare coverage but who may not qualify for Medicaid or who need different kinds of services. BadgerCare Plus is also sometimes informally referred to as just BadgerCare; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who do qualify for BadgerCare or BadgerCare Plus face a “benefits cliff”, defined as “A benefit cliff occurs, when a public support program is designed in such a way that, at a certain level of income, a small increase in earnings can result in a significant loss in eligibility for benefits.” (Source; *Over the Edge: An Analysis of the implications of Benefit Cliffs Within Wisconsin Public Benefit Programs, Workshop in Public Affairs, Spring 2020*, Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison); and

WHEREAS, this benefit cliff, in some instances, becomes a barrier for individuals seeking employment, or seeking better employment; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Barron County approximately six hundred (600) full-time positions for which workers are needed; and

WHEREAS, allowing individuals to work productively without harming their health benefits not only reduces the cost of a benefit program but also simultaneously improves the overall economic activity of a region; and

WHEREAS, the drafting of this resolution has the support of State Representative David Armstrong and Barron County Health and Human Services Director Stacey Frolik; and

WHEREAS, attached to this resolution are selected pages from the above referenced source which provided additional details; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on May 4, 2022, on a vote of 9 - 0, with Okey, Buchanan, Heinecke, McRoberts, Hanson, Bartlett, Thompson, Heller (alternate) and Nelson (alternate) voting in favor and no members voting against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in

## 2022 Conference Resolution 27

conference assembled, does hereby request that the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor Tony Evers work cooperatively to eliminate the aforementioned benefit cliff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this benefit cliff be eliminated based on a proportionate sliding fee scale so that as individuals and families earn additional dollars there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount toward their health insurance coverage.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:  
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- III.C.3.n. Support the elimination of the BadgerCare eligibility cliff and that this benefit cliff be eliminated based on a proportionate sliding fee scale so that as individuals and families earn additional dollars there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount toward their health insurance coverage.

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 28

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

**Walworth County**

Relating to

### Supporting Legislation to Provide an Increase in Criminal and Ordinance Violation Surcharge Retained by the Clerk of Courts

WHEREAS, county government implements a broad range of essential services, most of which are required by state law; and

WHEREAS, underfunded and unfunded state mandates are continually placing an increasing financial hardship on local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, as the portion of collected court fees retained by the county continues to be insufficient to keep pace with inflation and ever-growing costs associated with the many mandated programs within the county court system; and

WHEREAS, the county's portion of the statutory clerk fees have not increased since at least 1991, and while traffic/forfeiture case fees are set at \$20 and criminal court case fees are set at \$163, the clerk only retains \$9.99 of the total amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support legislation that would increase court costs in the amount of \$20 to be retained by the clerk of court for criminal and ordinance violations to align with a portion of the actual cost for courts to operate. This will ensure services implemented on behalf of the state at the circuit court level will more adequately be provided resources to perform their role in protecting public safety.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt.

**2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:**

## 2022 Conference Resolution 28

### Caption:

IV.C.2.h. Support legislation that would increase court costs in the amount of \$20 to be retained by the clerk of court for criminal and ordinance violations to align with a portion of the actual cost for courts to operate.

Judicial and Public Safety

# Wisconsin Counties Association

## 2022 Conference Resolution 29

Offered for consideration this 18th Day of September 2022 by

**Ashland County**

Relating to

### Requesting the State of Wisconsin Allow Counties to Impose a Sales Tax to Support County Government Services

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are limited in their ability to raise revenue by the general levy limit law; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties must provide state mandated services regardless of the ability to raise revenue to pay for them; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties provide other vital services to the citizens which are funded by property taxes; and

WHEREAS, an additional sales tax would generate money to support county government services from visitors to the county; and

WHEREAS, some counties with very little equalized growth are or will face a shortage of cash to pay for state mandated services and other non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the state government is not willing to provide local state mandated services if a county does not have the revenue to provide them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the State of Wisconsin allowing counties to impose an additional sales tax above what is currently allowed by law in order to fund services in their county via a county board vote.

**STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Adopt.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Motion by Nooyen, second by Martin, to adopt Resolutions 21-29. Motion carried.

## 2022 Conference Resolution 29

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2022 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

VI.J. 13. Allow counties to impose an additional sales tax above what is currently allowed by law in order to fund services in their county via a county board vote.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization