

JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, August 30, 2019

TIME: 9 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 114, Wood County Courthouse

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Public comments. Now or at the time the item is taken up. Rules may apply.
3. Discuss with legislators any issues that may be pending and relevant
4. Review WCA 2019 Resolutions
5. Consideration of agenda items for next meeting
6. Set date and time of next meeting
7. Adjourn

2019
Resolutions
of the
Wisconsin Counties
Association

Presented by the
2019 WCA Resolutions Committee

August 12, 2019

Holiday Inn Madison at The American Center

Madison, Wisconsin

2019 WCA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

WCA District	Name	Title
North Central	Allen Haga, Jr.	Portage County Board Chair
	Dave Hintz	Oneida County Board Chair
Northwest	Dennis Pocernich	Bayfield County Board Chair
	Donald Taylor	Burnett County Board Chair
Southeast	Marcelia Nicholson	Milwaukee County Board 1 st Vice Chair
	Donald A. Kriefall	Washington County Board Chair
Southern	Tanya Buckingham	Dane County Supervisor
	John M. Meyers	Iowa County Board Chair
West Central	Louie Okey	Barron County Board Chair
	James Tripp	Dunn County Board Vice Chair
East Central	Martin F. Farrell	Fond du Lac County Board Chair
	Troy Streckenbach	Brown County Executive
Western	Tara Johnson	La Crosse County Board Chair
	Mary Anne McMillian Urell	Buffalo County Board Chair
WCA Second Vice Chair (committee chair)	Colleen Bates	Eau Claire County 1 st Vice Chair
Health and Human Services Steering Committee Chair	Alice Connors	Calumet County Board Chair
Personnel, Finance, and County Organization Steering Committee Chair	David Frohling	Dodge County Board 1 st Vice Chair
Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use Steering Committee Chair	Larry Jepsen	Polk County Supervisor
Judicial and Public Safety Steering Committee Chair	Vern Gove	Columbia County Board Chair
Transportation and Public Works Steering Committee Chair	Dave Ostness	St. Croix County Board Vice Chair

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 1

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie 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; and

WHEREAS, Per Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2020; 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; and

WHEREAS, Outagamie County has utilized stewardship grant funds to develop trails and other public outdoor recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, this resolution supports the continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

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 support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Taylor, second by Connors, to adopt Resolutions 1 and 2. Motion carried.

2019 Conference Resolution 1

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

II.D.6. Support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 2

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Supporting Funding Renewal for 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; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2020; 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; and

WHEREAS, Walworth County has utilized stewardship grant funds to develop public outdoor recreation opportunities, most recently acquiring and improving the White River County Park through the program; and

WHEREAS, this resolution supports the continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby consider 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 support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Taylor, second by Connors, to adopt Resolutions 1 and 2. Motion carried.

2019 Conference Resolution 2

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

II.D.6. Support funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 3

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Rock County

Relating to

Support of Reforming Wisconsin's Eminent Domain Laws

WHEREAS, many private property owners in Rock County feel that their private property rights, under current Wisconsin law, are not adequately protected from encroachment by outside entities, be they local, out of state, or international; and

WHEREAS, eminent domain has historically been used sparingly for ensuring the public good with provable need and just compensation; and

WHEREAS, public good cannot be construed to mean promotion of projects for private gain by outside corporate entities; and

WHEREAS, a clearly defined and demonstrated "public good" might be things demonstrating a true community need like roadways, schools, public parks, public housing, and community centers; and

WHEREAS, any other claimed cause for the taking of private property shall be proven to be for a public good in a court of law by jury trial only; and

WHEREAS, eminent domain shall not be used for any taking which is not for public good; and

WHEREAS, a special legislative commission on the use of eminent domain shall be established to allow the public and local communities to voice their concerns over its use and for the State Legislature to explore revisions and amendments to the current eminent domain requirements in Chapter 32 Wisconsin Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin establish a special legislative commission on the use of eminent domain ~~in order to allow the State Legislature to pursue a change of law for the protection of its citizens' private property rights.~~

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Amend to delete "in order to allow the State Legislature to pursue a change of law for the protection of its citizens' private property rights" from the resolved clause. Adopt as amended.

2019 Conference Resolution 3

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Connors, second by McMillian Urell, to adopt. Motion by Farrell, second by Meyers, to delete “in order to allow the State Legislature to pursue a change of law for the protection of its citizens’ private property rights” from the resolved clause. Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

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

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

II.K.20. Support the establishment of a special legislative commission on the use of eminent domain.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 4

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Burnett County

Relating to

Requesting a Change in the Definition of “Forester”

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin and many Wisconsin counties have a long and rich history managing timber; and

WHEREAS, the sustainable management of timber resources greatly contributes to Northern Wisconsin’s industry, commerce, and economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, the state recognizes the important county partnership by providing the County Forest Administration Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant program has been used to fund the Burnett County Forest Assistant Administrator position since 1999; and

WHEREAS, the requirements for funding this position can be found in the definition of forester within NR 47.70(2)(e) NR 1.21(2)(e): *“Forester” means a person other than one employed by the department who has received a bachelor’s or higher degree in forestry from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or/and equivalent degree, as determined by the chief state forester; and*

WHEREAS, it is becoming more and more difficult to find individuals in Northern Wisconsin that fit this definition of a forester; and

WHEREAS, Burnett County has asked, and been denied, multiple requests of the Chief State Forester to consider that our existing forest administrator with a two-year forestry degree and over 20 years of service, qualify for this grant; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin County Forest Association board voted to support our request and the state still denied it.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby seek a change to the “forester” definition within NR 47.70(2)(e) NR 1.21(2)(e) to read, “Forester” means a person other than one employed by the department who has received a bachelor’s degree in forestry from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or an equivalent degree, including a two-year forestry degree with a minimum of 10 years’ experience in a county forestry department, or as determined by the Chief State Forester.

2019 Conference Resolution 4

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- II.I.12. Support a change to the “forester” definition within NR 47.70(2)(e) NR 1.21(2)(e) to read, “Forester” means a person other than one employed by the department who has received a bachelor’s degree in forestry from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or an equivalent degree, including a two-year forestry degree with a minimum of 10 years of experience in a county forestry department, or as determined by the Chief State Forester.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 5

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Supporting a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Designation for Northeast Wisconsin

WHEREAS, the designation of Wisconsin's Lake Superior Estuarine Research Reserve in 2010 provides an outstanding example of broader impacts National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) sites provide to local communities and the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay is currently exploring the feasibility of developing a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) for northeast Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, our region's ecosystem is home to the largest freshwater estuary in the world, the vitality of which is critical to the current and future prosperity of ecological sustainability of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the efforts of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as they seek a letter from NOAA requesting their assistance in exploring the feasibility of a NERR designation for Northeast Wisconsin.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Hintz, second by Meyers, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 6

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 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 serious disease of captive and wild cervids and threatens to cause considerable economic, cultural, and ecological damage to Wisconsin; 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 its discovery in Wisconsin in a wild deer harvested in 2001 it is now been found in wild deer in 26 counties and in 25 captive deer farms; and

WHEREAS, in the most heavily infected areas of Dane and Iowa counties the prevalence rate in adult males is over 35 percent and in adult females is over 15 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization all recommend that meat from cervids only be eaten from cervids that have tested negative for CWD; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the DNR sold over 803,000 gun and archery deer hunting licenses to over 750,000 Wisconsin residents and to over 53,000 non-residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 hunting-related expenditures in Wisconsin totaled \$2.5 billion in 2011. Eighty-eight percent of hunters 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 direct state agencies and provide funding to conduct the following research and development in order to better manage CWD:

- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be conducted on live cervids.

2019 Conference Resolution 6

- Develop a reliable, rapid, and easy to administer CWD test that can be implemented in the field on harvested deer and can provide immediate results.
- Develop a vaccine for CWD for cervids.
- Develop a cure for CWD infected cervids.
- Breed heritable resistance to CWD in captive cervids such that the cervids are both asymptomatic and do not carry and shed prions.
- Determine CWD prion longevity and virulence in contaminated soil, feed, and crops under a 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 viability and methodology for composting CWD infected cervids.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Kriefall, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 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 deer and can provide immediate results.
 - Develop a vaccine for CWD for cervids.
 - Develop a cure for CWD infected cervids.

2019 Conference Resolution 6

- Breed heritable resistance to CWD in captive cervids such that the cervids are both asymptomatic and do not carry and shed prions.
- Determine CWD prion longevity and virulence in contaminated soil, feed, and crops under a 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 viability and methodology for composting CWD infected cervids.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 7

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Enacting Stronger Regulations to Limit the Spread of CWD

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a serious disease of captive and wild cervids and threatens to cause considerable economic, cultural, and ecological damage to Wisconsin. CWD is a fatal, neurological disease of cervids; and

WHEREAS, since its discovery in Wisconsin in a wild deer harvested in 2001 it is now been found in wild deer in 26 counties and in 25 captive deer farms; and

WHEREAS, in the most heavily infected areas of Dane and Iowa counties the prevalence rate in adult males is over 35 percent and in adult females is over 15 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization all recommend that meat from cervids only be eaten from cervids that have tested negative for CWD; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the DNR sold over 803,000 gun and archery deer hunting licenses to over 750,000 Wisconsin residents and to over 53,000 non-residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 hunting-related expenditures in Wisconsin totaled \$2.5 billion in 2011. Eighty-eight percent of hunters participated in deer hunting, making it the most popular form of hunting in the state; and

WHEREAS, with no known cure or 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 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 concordant administrative rules:

- Change ATPC 10.56(1) to eliminate exceptions that allow transport of live cervids without a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

2019 Conference Resolution 7

- 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 a wild or captive cervid tested positive for CWD in the last 10 years.
- Enact new rules to require the disposal of harvested cervid carcasses in approved landfills, rendering, or composting facilities.
- 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.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Ostness, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 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 ATCP 10.56(1) to eliminate exceptions that allow 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 a wild or captive cervid tested positive for CWD in the last 10 years.
 - Enact new rules to require the disposal of harvested cervid carcasses in approved landfills, rendering, or composting facilities.
 - 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

2019 Conference Resolution 8

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Rock County

Relating to

Recommending Modifications of Wisconsin Administrative Rule NR 210 to Improve Surface Water Quality and Address Public Health Concerns when Sewage is not Required to be Disinfected Seasonally

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) allows through administrative rule NR 210.06 that sewage treatment plants in Wisconsin do not have to disinfect sewage wastewater from October 1 through April 30 each year unless dates are modified by an individual site Wastewater Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit; and

WHEREAS, sewage discharged without disinfection can have E. coli levels of around 10,000 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of water which poses a significantly greater public health risk than the maximum 126 units of E. Coli proposed in the NR 210 rule revisions during periods of required disinfection; and

WHEREAS, E. coli is a serious public health concern and efforts to minimize E. coli and other communicable diseases from surface waters used for recreational purposes is a significant step toward improving public health; and

WHEREAS, the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District discharges about 40 million gallons of effluent each day into the Badfish Creek which account for over 50% of the total flow in this water body and this discharge eventually ends up downstream in the Yahara River and the Rock River; and

WHEREAS, winter base flow water testing by the Rock County Public Health Department over several years has consistently indicated high levels of E. coli in the Badfish Creek and Yahara River during periods of non-disinfection of wastewater; and

WHEREAS, the Badfish Creek and Yahara River are popular recreational water bodies that receive significant recreational use that result in potential human exposure to impacted waters during the periods of non-disinfection of sewage wastewater; and

2019 Conference Resolution 8

WHEREAS, the ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technology utilized by many wastewater treatment plants could be utilized for extended periods of time, or year-round, to significantly improve the water quality of the Badfish Creek and Yahara River and reduce potential adverse public health impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Rock County Public Health Department and Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District are cooperating to share data and are mutually interested in improving water quality discharged to Rock County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby approve forwarding recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to make modifications to NR 210 to address potential public health impacts that occur when recreational waters are receiving non-disinfected sewage wastewater, with specific concerns being the Badfish Creek and Yahara River which receive a high ratio of wastewater to normal base flows.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use: Adopt.

Health and Human Services: Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Connors, second by Ostness, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

II.G.2.k. Support modifications to NR 210 to address potential public health impacts that occur when recreational waters are receiving non-disinfected sewage wastewater.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use
Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 9

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Wood County

Relating to

Supporting Provisions in Both SB 137 and AB 21 Which are Beneficial in Combatting the Contamination of Groundwater by Nitrates and Other Sources

WHEREAS, according to the Legislative Reference Bureau analysis of AB 21:

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to administer a program to provide grants to counties, cities, villages, towns, and American Indian tribes and bands (local units of government) for the testing of privately-owned wells. The bill also makes changes to the well compensation grant program currently administered by the DNR.

The bill provides that local units of government may apply for grants once in a fiscal biennium for testing privately owned wells, with an option for a second grant if adequate funding is available. A local unit of government must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant and must provide test results to the DNR within three months of conducting testing. The DNR is required to award grants equitably across the state, giving priority to regions where a significant number of private wells contain nitrate contamination above specified levels and regions where a significant number of wells contain coliform bacteria or other contaminants at a level that exceeds applicable standards for public health.

Under current law, an individual owner or renter of a contaminated private well may apply for a grant from the DNR to cover a portion of the costs to treat the water, reconstruct the well, construct a new well, connect to a public water supply, or fill and seal the well. To be eligible for a grant, the well owner or renter's annual family income may not exceed \$65,000. In addition, if the well owner or renter's annual family income exceeds \$45,000, the amount of the award is reduced by 30 percent of the amount by which the annual family income exceeds \$45,000. The bill increases the family income limit to \$100,000 and increases the amount of annual family income that triggers a reduction of an award to \$65,000.

Under current law, a well that is contaminated only by nitrates is eligible for a grant only if the well is a water supply for livestock, is used at least three months in each year, and contains nitrates in excess of 40 parts per million. The bill eliminates these requirements and requires DNR to prioritize grants for wells with nitrate contamination above specified levels; and

2019 Conference Resolution 9

WHEREAS, the Wood County Board of Supervisors has studied both SB 137 and AB 21 that generally supports legislation that protects groundwater from all sources of contamination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby go on record to:

1. State that it supports enactment of current provisions of both SB 137 and AB 21 and any effort to address groundwater contamination from nitrates and other sources that would be most beneficial to the residents of Wood County.
2. Request legislators of Wood County and central Wisconsin to work together to draft comprehensive legislation to address this issue.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use: Adopt.

Health and Human Services: Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Gove, second by Kriefall, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

II.G.2.1. Support legislation that addresses groundwater contamination from nitrates and other sources.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use
Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 10

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Price County

Relating to

Requesting Additional State Funding for Child Protective Services

WHEREAS, Price County is experiencing a dramatic increase in the need for protective services for children resulting in placing these children in safe environments outside of their homes; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, the number of children placed outside of the home has risen from 25 to 66 children in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of placements related to drug use over the same period has risen from 24% to 47%; and

WHEREAS, the out-of-pocket costs of these placement services has risen from \$308,880 in 2015 to \$1,150,308 in 2018, an increase of 372% in placement costs incurred by Price County from 2015 - 2018; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties have an annual operating levy cap of 0% or the percentage of net new construction, whichever is greater. From 2015 through 2018, the percentage of net new construction in Price County has been .531%, .472% and .610% respectively, generating a cumulative additional levy capacity of \$116,762 for all Price County operating levy needs for three years (2016 - 2018); and

WHEREAS, to pay for these increased costs out of our operating levy, the county has been forced to borrow for highway construction expenditures, which in 2018 amounted to \$700,000 of incremental borrowing, which realistically transferred operating levy from the Highway Department to the Health and Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2019-2021 biennial budget includes an additional \$15 million in each year to address the costs of child protective services; although, the Wisconsin Counties Association requested that amount be \$30 million; and

WHEREAS, both the Governor's budget proposal and the Wisconsin Counties Association's (WCA) request are grossly inadequate in addressing the costs of providing these mandated services; and

2019 Conference Resolution 10

WHEREAS, Price County is rapidly approaching the end of our ability to borrow to pay for these costs. Once the option to borrow is exhausted, the only recourse will be to use money from our fund balance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the Wisconsin State Legislature consider the following, in order for counties in Wisconsin to have some relief from the financial burden of providing state-mandated services that have quickly gotten out of control:

1. Elimination of the operating levy caps imposed on Wisconsin counties, or
2. Excluding the cost of child protective services from the operating levy cap calculation as are bridge and culvert aid, library services and debt, or
3. Having the State of Wisconsin fully fund the entire cost of child protective services (the preferred solution).

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Hintz, second by Okey, to adopt. Motion by Kriefall, second by Pocernich, to amend the resolved clause to delete, "1. Elimination of the operating levy caps imposed on Wisconsin counties." Motion failed. Motion to adopt carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- III.B.1.f. Support legislation that does the following to assist with the burgeoning child protective services caseloads:
1. Elimination of the operating levy caps imposed on Wisconsin counties, or
 2. Excluding the cost of child protective services from the operating levy cap calculation as are bridge and culvert aid, library services and debt, or
 3. Having the State of Wisconsin fully fund the entire cost of child protective services (the preferred solution).

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 11

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Requesting Support for Legislation Aimed at Decreasing the Level of Child Poverty and Racial Disparities in the State of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, policy experts and recent research has led to a consensus that poverty in Wisconsin is a moral crisis that demands action; and

WHEREAS, facts uncovered by a broad-based team show that children are now the poorest Americans and that child poverty is expanding in every region of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities also impact this issue in Eau Claire and across the state. In Wisconsin, compared to white children, African American children are almost five times more likely to be poor; Latino children are three times more likely to be poor; and Native American children four times more likely to be poor. The poverty rate for our African American children is 8% above the national average for black child poverty; and

WHEREAS, the study concurred that high rates of poverty are not a result of individual moral failings, that kids are clearly not responsible for their own plight and that poverty is a result of human-made economic and social structures; and

WHEREAS, 42% of households in Eau Claire County struggle to cover the costs of living and working at the most basic level and 42% of children in the Eau Claire School District qualify for free or reduced-price lunch; and

WHEREAS, childhood poverty contributes to the development of mental illness, substance abuse, incarceration, and chronic disease later in life, which deprives our society of the potential contributions of our citizens and creates significant burdens for our community; and

WHEREAS, the significant social and financial costs of childhood poverty could be decreased by investing in early childhood support; and

WHEREAS, out of these ongoing conversations on poverty emerged bold, but attainable, goals that every person in Wisconsin is invited to endorse.

2019 Conference Resolution 11

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request and support the efforts of the State of Wisconsin to endorse and support bills introduced into the Senate or Assembly that would achieve the following goals:

- Decrease the level of child poverty and racial disparities by 50% over the next 10 years.
- Implement policies and programs at the scale necessary to achieve that goal.
- Establish annual, evidence-based evaluation of progress for accountability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports and encourages ongoing education and opportunity for dialogue about childhood poverty, hunger, and discriminatory economic and social structures in Wisconsin.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nicholson, second by Pocernich, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- III.K.12. Request and support the efforts of the State of Wisconsin to endorse and support bills introduced into the Senate or Assembly that would achieve the following goals:
- Decrease the level of child poverty and racial disparities by 50% over the next 10 years.
 - Implement policies and programs at the scale necessary to achieve that goal.
 - Establish annual, evidence-based evaluation of progress for accountability.
- III.K.13. Support and encourage ongoing education and opportunity for dialogue about childhood poverty, hunger, and discriminatory economic and social structures in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 12

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Florence County

Relating to

Supporting Requiring All Tobacco or Nicotine Products Be Kept Behind the Counter to Protect the Health of Youth

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies that smoking leads to disease and disability and harms nearly every organ of the body. Youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe whether it is smoked, smokeless, or electronic. If smoking continues at the current rate among youth, 5.6 million of today's Americans younger than 18 will die early from a smoking-related illness; and

WHEREAS, most e-cigarettes contain nicotine which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues to develop until about age 25; and

WHEREAS, nicotine in adolescence may also increase the risk of addiction to other drugs; and

WHEREAS, each time a new memory is created, stronger connections or synapses are built between brain cells. Young people's brains build synapses faster than adult brains. Nicotine changes the way these synapses are formed; and

WHEREAS, using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control; and

WHEREAS, restricting the placement of tobacco products in retail stores to behind checkout counters supports a policy to decrease youth exposure to tobacco and decreases the likelihood that youth will start using tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, a policy to restrict the placement of all tobacco products promotes public health by reducing consumer exposure to and impulse purchases of the products and decreases appeal to youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin increase the requirement that all nicotine or tobacco products be kept behind the counter to decrease youth exposure and further protect the youth of Wisconsin.

2019 Conference Resolution 12

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Connors, second by Kriefall, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.E.4.h. Support legislation that increases the requirement that all nicotine or tobacco products be kept behind the counter to decrease youth exposure and further protect the youth of Wisconsin.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 13

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Requesting and Supporting the Efforts of Wisconsin, the Federal Government, Cities and Villages in Eau Claire County to Regulate Conversion Therapy by Mental Health Professionals to Persons Under the Age of 18

WHEREAS, contemporary science recognizes that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is part of the natural spectrum of human identity and is not a disease, disorder, or illness; and;

WHEREAS, "conversion therapy" is defined as any practices or treatments offered or rendered to consumers for a fee, including psychological counseling, that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy does not include counseling that provides assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual-orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy has been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization; including the American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Counselor Association, American School Health Association, National Association of Social Workers, and the Pan American Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the County of Eau Claire, especially the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, and to protect them against the exposure to serious harms caused by conversion therapy; and

2019 Conference Resolution 13

WHEREAS, it is well documented that the prevailing opinion of the medical and psychological community is that conversion therapy has not been shown to be effective and that it creates a potential risk of serious harm to those who experience it; and

WHEREAS, the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act, which bans conversion therapy nationwide, has been introduced in the 114th United States Congress and the 115th United States Congress. Fourteen states and 44 counties, municipalities, and communities, including Madison & Milwaukee in Wisconsin, have passed legislation making the practice of conversion therapy for minors illegal, with six additional states proposing similar legislation which is pending; and

WHEREAS, in the recently completed Wisconsin legislative session, Assembly Bills 349 and 261, seeking to prohibit mental health providers from engaging in conversion therapy of minors in Wisconsin, were introduced. However, neither of these bills made it out of committee and conversion therapy remains unregulated by the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire Healthy Communities has prioritized mental health as a top priority in 2018. Data from Eau Claire County and State of Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) done in 2017 indicates 10% of sample of high school 10th/12th graders that were surveyed from five school districts indicated that they identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Sixty-nine percent of those that identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual indicated that they felt sad/hopeless in the past 12 months vs. 24% of those that identified as heterosexual/straight. State YRBS data (no local data available) indicates that 41% of youth surveyed that are LGBT have considered suicide vs. 16.4% overall; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department has as its mission "Keeping people in all Eau Claire City/County communities safe and healthy." On August 22nd the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health passed a resolution stating, "BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health encourages stakeholders in Eau Claire County and in the State of Wisconsin to explore best practices and regulations related to preventing harm associated with conversion therapy."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request and support the efforts of the State of Wisconsin, the federal government, cities and villages to regulate conversion therapy and support bills or ordinances introduced in the Senate or Assembly and local cities and villages that would regulate and prohibit paid conversion therapy by mental health professionals to persons under the age of 18.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by McMillian Urell, second by Hintz, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

2019 Conference Resolution 13

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 14

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Human Services/Health Services Expansion

WHEREAS, with services comparable to adjacent states an additional 82,000 Wisconsin residents could receive health care coverage who are currently underserved; and

WHEREAS, this service increase would improve the health, well-being, and productivity of thousands of residents in the areas of preventive care, prenatal care, opioid and other drug treatment, behavioral health and crisis intervention, lead poisoning, treatment of chronic disease, dental health, and support for people with disabilities, thus providing for healthier families and a more productive workforce; and

WHEREAS, most states in the country are providing services at this level resulting in improved health care of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has lost an amount exceeding \$800 million over the last eight years. This has not benefitted the health of Wisconsin's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services projects a \$325 million savings from the increased service level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the adoption of increased human services and health services as soon as can be implemented based on humanitarian and economic grounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding from savings in accepting the expansion be designated to the counties as recommended by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association to accommodate a workload increase in economic support/income maintenance consortium.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Connors, second by Pocernich, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 Conference Resolution 14

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

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

2019 Conference Resolution 15

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Supporting the Improvement of Instructional Programs for Nursing Aides

WHEREAS, 2017 Assembly Bill 432 passed the Wisconsin State Assembly with bipartisan support, but failed to pass the State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's classroom hours prerequisite is in excess of the federally mandated 75 hours required under 42 CFR 483.152 (a) for nursing aide training; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, recruitment challenges for nursing aides, in particular certified nursing assistants (CNAs), has resulted in staffing shortages at Samaritan Campus, which has about twenty nursing aide vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the state has implemented Fast Forward and other grants in an attempt to spur the number of people entering nursing aide training programs; and

WHEREAS, future registered nurses are required to obtain a certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificate, yet are not required to work in the role more than eight hours per year to keep their certification; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Congressman Sean Duffy recently introduced the "Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act," which, among other reforms, would limit lockouts of nursing home directed CNA training courses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the State of Wisconsin adopt the federal requirement that a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program consist of no less than seventy-five (75) clock hours of training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports the intent of the Nursing Home Workforce Quality act and requests the State of Wisconsin do the same.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Indefinitely postpone.

2019 Conference Resolution 15

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Tripp, second by Taylor, to indefinitely postpone Resolutions 15-17. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 16

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Opposing 2019 Assembly Bill 76 and 2019 Senate Bill 103 Relative to Hours of Instructional Program for Nurse's Aides

WHEREAS, 2019 Assembly Bill 76 and 2019 Senate Bill 103 prohibit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services from requiring an instructional program for nurse's aides to exceed the federally required minimum total; and

WHEREAS, the federal required minimum training is currently no less than 75 hours of training, with at least 16 of those hours being supervised practical training; and

WHEREAS, the current minimums in Wisconsin are 120 hours of training, with 32 hours of practical training; and

WHEREAS, certified nurse's aides perform critical work, specifically in Walworth County, caring for some of our most vulnerable residents at many facilities in Walworth County, including the Lakeland Health Care Center; and

WHEREAS, it is important that nurse aides receive sufficient training to carry out this important work; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a funding crisis in long-term care because the state and federal governments are providing inadequate funding for skilled nursing care facilities; and

WHEREAS, providing adequate funding, and not reducing the quality of care, is the solution to this crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby express its opposition to 2019 Assembly Bill 76 and 2019 Senate Bill 103, relating to hours of instructional program for nurse's aides.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Tripp, second by Taylor, to indefinitely postpone Resolutions 15-17. Motion carried.

2019 Conference Resolution 16

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 17

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

St. Croix County

Relating to

Certified Nursing Assistant Training Requirements

WHEREAS, certified nursing assistant federal training regulations require no less than 75 hours of training with at least 16 hours being supervised practical training; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin certified nursing assistant training requirements are 120 hours of which 40 are supervised practical training and exceed federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin state training requirements place facilities at a disadvantage when recruiting staff with neighboring states, such as Minnesota, that mirror federal standards; and

WHEREAS, facility providers are mandated through regulation to assure that care is being provided by properly trained and qualified staff and facility-based training requirements should address this need; and

WHEREAS, quality care indicators are impacted by a variety of variables, not just Certified Nursing Assistant training hours.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin amend state statutes to mirror federal requirements for certified nursing assistant training.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Tripp, second by Taylor, to indefinitely postpone Resolutions 15-17. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 18

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Supporting Reforms for Family Care Funding

WHEREAS, the 2017-19 state biennial budget included a provision that required the Department of Health Services, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and the federal government to collaborate on increasing capitation rates to address the direct caregiver workforce challenges in the state; and

WHEREAS, each year of the biennium, the program was budgeted \$12.5 million of state money and about \$18 million in federal money and required federal approval; and

WHEREAS, executive vetoes eliminated Joint Finance Committee and other legislative reviews of the program; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Washington County's Samaritan Campus was awarded approximately \$8,000 in quarterly payments totaling \$32,000; however, the county is on pace to return \$28,000 in potentially unusable money; and

WHEREAS, according to a provider agreement Samaritan Campus signed with the MCO, the awarded money was to be limited to wage increases; retention bonuses; performance bonuses; increased employee paid time off; staff referral bonuses or sign on bonuses with very few county employees qualifying because nursing home staff did not qualify; and

WHEREAS, implementing a cash bonus or referral program for employees at the Fields but not Samaritan Health Center is unfair and detrimental to employee morale and utilizing one-time money could create a budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, LeadingAge Wisconsin and other industry advocates have requested the money in the program's expenditure be placed into a fixed-amount investment into the direct care and services component of the Family Care Program; and

WHEREAS, treating these funds as a block grant would allow for innovation and flexibility at the local level which may include shift incentives, recruitment fairs, or training reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Samaritan Campus is proud to be self-sustaining without relying on property tax dollars.

2019 Conference Resolution 18

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the State of Wisconsin, Managed Care Organizations, and the federal government seek to limit red tape and bureaucracy within the Family Care funding program while ensuring the best care for our Samaritan Campus residents.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Gove, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.A.1.g. Support viable options to ensure dollars allocated to the Family Care program can be used by counties/providers to address direct care workforce shortages.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 19

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Supporting Medicaid Reimbursement for Senior Living Facilities

WHEREAS, Washington County operates Samaritan Campus which includes the Fields assisted living facility and Samaritan Health Center skilled nursing facility and provides care for dozens of residents receiving Medicaid benefits; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin skilled nursing facilities lose between \$70.66 and \$78.58 per day for every Medicaid resident served; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the year, eleven skilled nursing facilities have closed with another thirty entering receivership which leads to longer hospital stays for residents, residents living further from families or residents being sent home; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Medicaid reimbursement losses, long-term care facilities also face a workforce shortage which may cause a limit on resident admissions; and

WHEREAS, continued losses due to low Medicaid rates could lead to a significant property tax outlay by Washington County or other drastic changes to Samaritan Campus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the State of Wisconsin increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for senior living facilities in the 2019-2021 biennial budget.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

2019 Conference Resolution 19

Caption:

- III.A.1.g. Seek and support increased funding from the state and federal governments to adequately fund skilled nursing facilities and other senior living facilities for services provided to residents who are recipients of Medicare and Medicaid to enable nursing homes to provide excellent care for their residents.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 20

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie County

Relating to

Requesting that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Consider an Increase in Reimbursement Rates for the Five Lowest Labor Rate Regions to the Statewide Direct Care Target by Reinvesting Unexpended Medicaid Funds Within the Nursing Home Budget

WHEREAS, currently, there are 16 nursing home labor regions in the state, including one large rural labor region; and

WHEREAS, the region designations were created to reflect differences in labor costs for providing services across different areas of the state, presumably allowing nursing homes in areas with higher labor costs to receive higher levels of Medicaid reimbursement for their direct care; and

WHEREAS, recently, there have been modifications made in state budgets to the region designations that have changed the geographic boundaries of the original labor regions; and

WHEREAS, many of these changes resulted in moving nursing facilities from labor regions that have a low labor factor to regions with a higher labor factor in order to increase rates for those facilities; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of a nursing home's costs relate to labor, and therefore, adjusting reimbursement rates based on the wage levels of the region can have a significant impact on a facility's overall Medicaid reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, various labor region adjustments made over the past decade generally have resulted in a redistribution of Medicaid funds from one region to another, putting facilities in the five regions at a financial disadvantage.

WHEREAS, this can be accomplished by reinvesting unexpended Medicaid funds within the nursing home budget of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

2019 Conference Resolution 20

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby respectfully request that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services consider an increase in reimbursement rates for the five lowest labor rate regions (Appleton/Calumet, Brown/Kewaunee/Oconto Counties, Eau Claire/Chippewa, Fond du Lac County, and rural counties as identified by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services), to the statewide direct care target by reinvesting unexpended Medicaid funds within the nursing home budget.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by McMillian Urell, second by Ostness, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.A.1.f. Support an increase in reimbursement rates for the five lowest labor rate regions (Appleton/Calumet, Brown/Kewaunee/Oconto Counties, Eau Claire/Chippewa, Fond du Lac County, and rural counties as identified by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services) to the statewide direct care target by reinvesting unexpended Medicaid funds within the nursing home budget.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 21

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Milwaukee County

Relating to

Supporting the State of Wisconsin Fully Funding Operating Costs of Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCY)

WHEREAS, 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 published on March 31, 2018 approved the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Juvenile Correction Center by January 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Act 185 creates a new Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Center that will be operated by the Department of Corrections (DOC), Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) that will be operated by counties, and the expansion of the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin authorized \$40 million statewide for the planning and construction of the new SRCCCYs, and counties must submit a grant application to the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee to receive any of the funds; and

WHEREAS, several Wisconsin counties testified at the May 2019 Juvenile Grant Committee meeting that \$40 million is insufficient to construct the facilities, as Racine and Milwaukee counties estimate costs of approximately \$38 million and \$41 million, respectively; and

WHEREAS, counties will be responsible for covering the annual operational costs for the SRCCCY; La Crosse County estimates a SRCCCY would more than double the county's current annual cost; and

WHEREAS, Dane County and Brown County expressed concerns of long-term operational costs and Milwaukee County estimates an annual gap of \$2.7 million along with one-time startup costs of \$1.7 million for its SRCCCY; and

WHEREAS, counties throughout the State of Wisconsin have expressed great concerns over the annual operational cost of the SRCCCYs and the hardship that they are tasked with to close future budget gaps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin fully fund the operational and capital costs of the new SRCCCYs throughout the state.

2019 Conference Resolution 21

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Haga, Jr., second by Nicholson, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.B.4.f. Request that the State of Wisconsin fully fund the operational and capital costs of the new SRCCCYs throughout the state.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 22

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

St. Croix County

Relating to

Regional Emergency Detention Bed Need

WHEREAS, the St. Croix County Community Justice Collaborating Council has established a Mental Health Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Community Justice Collaborating Council established inpatient and residential behavioral health treatment options, including secure inpatient, to serve the region as a work plan priority at the initial meeting held on June 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the inpatient and residential behavioral health treatment options to serve the region priority was adjusted and the subcommittee work plan was focused on secure regional emergency detention bed needs; and

WHEREAS, work of the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Community Justice Collaborating Council included collection of local, regional, and state data related to the availability of emergency detention beds, including Wisconsin counties' utilization of Winnebago Mental Health Institute; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Community Justice Collaborating Council concluded that the trend toward increased usage of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute was mainly due to the loss of local resources (hospital beds) over the years; and

WHEREAS, meetings were conducted with current regional emergency detention providers, Mayo Clinic Health Systems and Hospital Sisters Health Systems, both located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and found that increasing capacity for secure emergency detention services is not part of either of their current planning; and

WHEREAS, after a review of financial information related to the operation of a secure emergency detention facility in a hospital setting it was concluded that Medical Assistance reimbursement rates are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, information the subcommittee reviewed indicate the operational loss for a 10-bed secure emergency detention facility in a hospital setting is approximately one million dollars annually; and

2019 Conference Resolution 22

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that hospitals would develop or expand this service due to the significant financial loss which is largely due to overall low reimbursement rates, including reimbursement rates from Wisconsin Medical Assistance; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee is concerned about any additional closure of hospital secure emergency detention facilities due to the low reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, a meeting with the Division Administrator, Division of Care and Treatment Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services was held to discuss regional needs for emergency detention bed; and

WHEREAS, the Division Administrator, Division of Care and Treatment Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported that the state was in the process of completing a bed need study, but the focus of that study was not on regional emergency detention bed need, but focused on the state mental health institutes, which includes Winnebago Mental Health Institute; and

WHEREAS, increased bed capacity at Winnebago Mental Health Institute would not fully meet regional needs due to the distance from St. Croix County with the round trip estimated to be approximately 9 hours; and

WHEREAS, a trip of this distance not only creates additional expense for law enforcement, but also requires adjustments and challenges for law enforcement to cover community safety while officers are out of county; and

WHEREAS, this extended transport time for an individual with mental health needs only exacerbates the situation as they are handcuffed and transported in a squad car; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of Winnebago Mental Health Institute creates a situation where the individual can feel isolated from their families and support systems due to the distance from home; and

WHEREAS, the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office data analyst identified transportation costs for law enforcement-related trips to Winnebago Mental Health Institute which was shared with local legislators at a meeting in April of 2018; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix County Health and Human Services administration provided an emergency detention data sheet which was shared with local legislators at the same meeting in April of 2018; and

2019 Conference Resolution 22

WHEREAS, members of the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Community Justice Collaborating Council believe the solution to increasing secure regional emergency detention bed access in a hospital requires action from the Legislature to increase Medical Assistance reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, members of the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Community Justice Collaborating Council believe there is support from local legislators to introduce legislation during the next session to address access to secure regional emergency detention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State Legislature to develop and support legislation to fund secure regional emergency detention bed access in a hospital setting to increase regional access, which will provide additional local resources for individuals in need of emergency mental health services.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by McMillian Urell, second by Ostness, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.C.5.k. Support legislation to fund secure regional emergency detention bed access in a hospital setting to increase regional access, which will provide additional local resources for individuals in need of emergency mental health services.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 23

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State Legislature to Change State Law to Allow the Transportation of Individuals Under Protective Custody or Emergency Detention

WHEREAS, under current law, it is necessary for sworn law enforcement personnel to transport individuals placed under protective custody or emergency detention; and

WHEREAS, this requirement is counterproductive in many ways including the fact that it:

- Jeopardizes public safety by removing law enforcement officers from their community for extended periods of time;
- Stigmatizes the individual being transported;
- Is expensive for taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the State of Wisconsin to change laws pertaining to the transport of individuals who are under emergency detention or protective custody to allow the transports to be made by private firms under appropriate standards established by law.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Health and Human Services: Refer to the Board of Directors.

Judicial and Public Safety: Refer to the Board of Directors.

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Health and Human Services
Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 24

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Door County

Relating to

Support for Legalization of Medical Cannabis

WHEREAS, existing (Wisconsin and federal) law criminalizes the possession and use of cannabis (i.e., tetrahydrocannabinols, commonly known as “THC”); and

WHEREAS, as of November 2018, the use of cannabis for medical purposes is legal in 33 states; and

WHEREAS, while there is a dearth of rigorous peer-reviewed studies (clinical trials), the relative benefits and risks of medical cannabis are believed to be reasonably well understood; and

WHEREAS, the Door County Board of Supervisors supports Wisconsin taking steps toward cannabis legalization for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, these steps would include the research, consideration, and development of regulations and rules that will enable persons who are in demonstrated need of cannabis for specified medical purposes to obtain and use cannabis under limited circumstances and address any anticipated negative secondary effects to public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of medical cannabis without appropriate rules and regulations could result in the creation of negative secondary effects to public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby express its support for Wisconsin taking steps toward cannabis legalization for medical purposes.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Health and Human Services: Indefinitely postpone.

Judicial and Public Safety: Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Kriefall, second by Gove, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 Conference Resolution 24

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Health and Human Services
Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 25

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Wood County

Relating to

Opposing the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

WHEREAS, legalizing recreational marijuana for adults normalizes the use of this brain-altering substance, leading to greater exposure via ambient smoke to children from infants through teenagers and access to the substance by teenagers for experimentation, casual use and chronic use; and

WHEREAS, developing brains, especially those of babies in utero, children, and teenagers, are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of marijuana including a reduction in attention, memory, learning function, and behavior problems; and

WHEREAS, occasional use of marijuana causes altered senses and sense of time, changes in mood, impaired body movement, impaired memory, and difficulty with thinking and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports evidence from multiple studies linking heavy marijuana use to memory damage, learning and attention deficits, and an increased risk of anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia, further straining schools and mental health systems; and

WHEREAS, marijuana negatively affects skills needed for safe driving and is the drug most often found in the blood of drivers involved in crashes; and

WHEREAS, since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, it has recorded a substantial increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths, as well as drivers who tested positive for marijuana in non-fatal crashes; and

WHEREAS, national experience with other legal adult substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and vaping has led to youth access, experimentation, some chronic use, and infiltration into America's high schools, causing multiple, costly consequences related to discipline and mental health; and

WHEREAS, marijuana has been identified as a gateway drug and use by teenagers does not promote a safe, efficient school learning environment for all students, meaning school counselors and teachers are challenged to overcome side effects on a user's mood, behavior, motivation, and memory; and

2019 Conference Resolution 25

WHEREAS, adolescent and young adult marijuana use is negatively correlated with high school and post-secondary educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, legalizing marijuana substantially increases the risk of impairment for those working in the manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and other business sectors, as evidenced by data showing employees who test positive for marijuana use had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, and 75% greater absenteeism compared to those who tested negative; and

WHEREAS, retail business establishments identify concerns with verbal and physical altercations involving substance users that can negatively impact business and revenue; and

WHEREAS, states with legalized recreational marijuana have experienced an increase in unintended consequences including increases in motor vehicle crash rates, increases in marijuana addiction among youth and people of color, environmental issues, accidental childhood poisonings from ingesting edibles, and increased criminal behavior including organized crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana in the State of Wisconsin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State of Wisconsin to closely review the statistics and other data available surrounding marijuana use so that Wisconsin can remain a safe and healthy state for residents to enjoy recreational activities, support families and drug-free homes, attract entrepreneurs, provide for the future of our State.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Judicial and Public Safety: Indefinitely postpone.

Health and Human Services: Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Meyers, second by Nicholson, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Judicial and Public Safety
Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 26

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Rock County

Relating to

Supporting Increasing State Funding for and Expanding Access to the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's state prisons are overcrowded, understaffed and, in some cases, very near the end of their physical viability; and

WHEREAS, new OWI laws, the heroin epidemic, and the continuing crisis of methamphetamine addictions are threatening to further increase the population of our prisons; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has many proven, evidence-based, cost-effective alternatives to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Drug Treatment Courts, Veteran's Courts, Family Courts, OWI Courts, and other interventions have all proven to be more effective than incarceration for reducing recidivism; and

WHEREAS, legislatively-mandated evaluations of the programs funded by the Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD) fund show that they save taxpayers almost \$2 for every \$1 the state has invested; and

WHEREAS, Rock County has a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) which advises an Adult Drug Court and an OWI Court. Additionally, we have a Veterans' Treatment Court and a Deferred Prosecution Program. All of these interventions have averted thousands of jail-bed days and improved public health and safety by addressing criminogenic risks and needs; and

WHEREAS, Rock County and all local units of government in Wisconsin are statutorily restricted in their ability to raise revenue to fund local initiatives such as those described above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the Governor and State Legislature to enhance public safety and reduce unnecessary corrections-related expenditures by:

2019 Conference Resolution 26

1. Increasing funding for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually.
2. Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime can be eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature.
3. Focusing the growth in TAD in four main areas:
 - a. Expansion of all forms of treatment courts.
 - b. Expansion of programs that address substance abuse treatment for those in the criminal justice system.
 - c. Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted to the communities that have the state's highest incarceration rates.
 - d. Provide adequate administrative support at the Wisconsin Department of Justice to administer TAD funded programs.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by McMillian Urell, second by Connors, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- IV.F.12. Urge the Governor and State Legislature to enhance public safety and reduce unnecessary corrections-related expenditures by:
1. Increasing funding for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually.
 2. Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime can be eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature.
 3. Focusing the growth in TAD in four main areas:
 - a. Expansion of all forms of treatment courts.
 - b. Expansion of programs that address substance abuse treatment for those in the criminal justice system.
 - c. Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted to the communities that have the state's highest incarceration rates.
 - d. Provide adequate administrative support at the Wisconsin Department of Justice to administer TAD funded programs.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 27

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Polk County

Relating to

Encouraging Wisconsin Counties Association to Work with Wisconsin State Legislature to Provide for Additional Programs and Funding for Combating and Treatment of Methamphetamine Abuse

WHEREAS, methamphetamine has been and continues to be an epidemic level problem in Polk County and throughout much of the state; and

WHEREAS, methamphetamine can be directly linked to approximately 70% of the out of home placements performed by child protective services in Polk County and the issue affects many other areas of human services activities, creating an unprecedented need for services and demonstrating a pronounced lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, the substantial caseload volume of methamphetamine cases has created an unparalleled burden on personnel and resources in law enforcement and the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, methamphetamine has been routinely forgotten when creating new programs or allocating funding for substance abuse at the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, county resources alone are insufficient to tackle a problem of this scope and magnitude.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby call on the State of Wisconsin to establish grants to increase funding for prevention programs, narcotics enforcement equipment and personnel, special prosecutors, and judicial personnel such as court commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Wisconsin consider approving additional funding to expand existing programs such as treatment courts funded by Treatment Alternatives and Diversion; and

2019 Conference Resolution 27

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BadgerCare standards be altered to cover substance abuse services in a jail setting and drug screening determined to be more than medically necessary, but recognized as a methamphetamine treatment best practice and supported by evidence based decision making.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Frohling, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- IV.I.5. Support the following to combat the increased use of methamphetamines across Wisconsin:
- The establishment of a grant program to increase funding for prevention, narcotics enforcement equipment and personnel, special prosecutors, and judicial personnel such as court commissioners.
 - Modifications to the BadgerCare standards to cover substance abuse services in a jail setting and drug screening determined to be more than medically necessary, but recognized as a methamphetamine treatment best practice and supported by evidence based decision making.
 - Increased funding for, and the expansion of, the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 28

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Polk County

Relating to

Supporting a Comprehensive Response to Methamphetamine and Opioid Addiction

WHEREAS, methamphetamine and unlawful opioid use and trafficking continue to be a scourge, presenting significant social and medical problems, and criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, Polk County has more methamphetamine-related crimes than any other Wisconsin county and opioid-related crimes as an epidemic are a fast approaching problem; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice collaborative programs have been and continue to be beneficially impactful to deterring criminal activity related to opioid and methamphetamine usage and, to a certain degree, distribution; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive response involving treatment, more rehabilitative options, community supports, and diversion opportunities, criminal justice collaborative programs, proactive prosecution and adjudication, and legislative solutions is needed to address the devastating impacts of methamphetamine and opioid use, trafficking, and addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to make sweeping changes to our sentencing guidelines to put individuals convicted of the sale and/or distribution of meth and opioids in confinement for long periods of time, to help put a stop to this scourge on our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association work hand in hand with counties to lobby our legislators to pass tougher sentencing guidelines to help all the people of Wisconsin.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 Conference Resolution 28

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 29

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State of Wisconsin to Implement a Comprehensive Communications Infrastructure Solution

WHEREAS, Walworth County's emergency communications infrastructure including, but not limited to, radios, towers, and associated equipment that serves emergency responders is currently reaching the end of its useful life; and

WHEREAS, Walworth County is currently studying its options to comprehensively upgrade its emergency communications infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, last year the State of Wisconsin Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) had developed a request for proposals (RFP) seeking an upgrade of the state's emergency communications infrastructure to support programs like the State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, and Corrections; and

WHEREAS, the OEC had conducted listening sessions in 2018 to gather feedback from local emergency agencies interested in joining a new statewide system; and

WHEREAS, the RFP was withdrawn during the transition between the Walker and Evers administration; and

WHEREAS, the need for a sound communications infrastructure doesn't end at county borders; and

WHEREAS, an expenditure by the State of Wisconsin in a robust emergency communications infrastructure could allow local governments to leverage this investment and eliminate the costly duplication of equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to take the necessary actions to engage Wisconsin counties in developing a comprehensive emergency communications infrastructure project that meets not only the needs of the State of Wisconsin but that also serves local emergency services such as law enforcement, fire, and EMS; and

2019 Conference Resolution 29

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State of Wisconsin to purchase and implement an upgrade of its emergency communications infrastructure that will also serve other units of government to allow for daily operational use of the system.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Taylor, second by Hintz, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- IV.B.3.a. Urge the State of Wisconsin to take the necessary actions to engage Wisconsin counties in developing a comprehensive emergency communications infrastructure project that meets not only the needs of the State of Wisconsin but that also serves local emergency services such as law enforcement, fire, and EMS.
- IV.B.3.b. Urge the State of Wisconsin to purchase and implement an upgrade of its emergency communications infrastructure that will also serve other units of government to allow for daily operational use of the system.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 30

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Requesting an Actuarial Analysis of Creating a “County Jailer” WRS Occupation as Proposed in LRB 0856/1

WHEREAS, county jail employees are essential to Washington County’s goal of ensuring a “Safe and Secure Community;” and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Washington County Board has authorized market pay increases for our county jail staff and will again study compensation in the coming months; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 20 years, legislation has been proposed to create a county jailer designation in the protective class within the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS); and

WHEREAS, LRB 0856/1, which would create an opt-in approach to county jailers’ protective status with the county portion of duty disability premiums and larger WRS contribution rate paid by the jailer, is being circulated for co-sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, Washington County cannot, with certainty, say the bill will hold the county taxpayers harmless and that all of the costs will be in fact paid by jail staff; and

WHEREAS, Washington County estimates nearly a third of our jail staff would be eligible to retire within the first year of the bill taking effect, which could put stress on the WRS contribution rate; and

WHEREAS, should all of the jail staff opt in to become protective class, Washington County’s protective status employee count would nearly double causing an increased opportunity for duty disability claims and Washington County’s duty disability premiums to increase; and

WHEREAS, Employee Trust Fund (ETF) staff, who run the WRS, testified in committee last year that an actuarial analysis should be completed to “develop a more detailed impact analysis and fiscal estimate on premiums for the program;” and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Counties Association has taken the position to support the bill as drafted.

2019 Conference Resolution 30

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that any bill approach for county jailers to receive protective status should not advance.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 31

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State of Wisconsin to Comprehensively Review State Laws Pertaining to the Sale and Use of Fireworks

WHEREAS, Section 167.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes ("State Law") provides regulations for the sale and use of fireworks; and

WHEREAS, under state law, no person may use fireworks unless they have been issued a user's permit from the mayor, village president, or town chair of the town or municipality in which the use is to occur; and

WHEREAS, stores that currently sell fireworks and municipalities and towns in which they are located take advantage of a loophole in the state law which allows the user permits to be issued for a fee; and

WHEREAS, the user permit specifies that the fireworks sold must be used in a particular area of the town or municipality where the store is located; and

WHEREAS, few of the fireworks sold are actually used in the town or municipality that issued the permit and most, in fact, are transported to towns, cities, and villages that ban their use; and

WHEREAS, the current law is essentially unenforceable, imposing increased risks, costs and disruption to the residents of communities that do not want fireworks to be used within their jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to comprehensively review laws pertaining to the sale and use of fireworks with public safety and local community control as priorities.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Farrell, to adopt.
Motion carried.

2019 Conference Resolution 31

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.I.7. Support a comprehensive state review of laws pertaining to the sale and use of fireworks with public safety and local community control as priorities.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 32

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Supporting Legislation Addressing Illegal Activities Associated with Adult Entertainment Establishments

WHEREAS, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors desires to provide its citizens and visitors with safe and healthy communities, a healthy environment, and positive quality of life in which to reside and thrive; and

WHEREAS, adult entertainment establishments can pose a threat to public health, safety, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, adult entertainment establishments provide a fertile environment for human trafficking, illicit drug sales and use, and other criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, combating the associated illegal activities therein is of a statewide concern; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin statutes provide tools to regulate such establishments, such as liquor licensing and certain zoning laws; and

WHEREAS, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors acknowledges that certain activities within adult entertainment establishments may have First Amendment protections; therefore, any legislation must be carefully drafted to address only the ancillary illegal activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, several state legislators recognized the negative impacts on residents, visitors, and the general public when adult entertainment establishments are operating within communities; and

WHEREAS, at that time, state legislators indicated a willingness to introduce legislation to provide additional tools to combat human trafficking and the other illegal activity associated with these establishments.

~~— NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby strongly oppose the illegal activities associated with the operation of adult entertainment establishments; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association hereby urges the Wisconsin Legislature to recognize that the illegal activities occurring within and around adult entertainment establishments negatively impact the quality of life of the citizens and visitors of the communities in which these establishments operate, and these negative impacts are occurring throughout the State of Wisconsin; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the Wisconsin Legislature to recognize that additional laws are needed to combat negative community impacts that are associated with these establishments, and that the liquor licensing laws alone are not effective to curb the illegal activities; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association respectfully requests the Wisconsin Legislature to enact laws that would provide tools for counties, cities, villages, and towns, in addition to liquor licensing, to assist local efforts in eradicating the negative impacts associated with the illegal activities occurring within and around these establishments.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Taylor, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt. Motion by Taylor, second by Okey, to delete the first three “resolved” clauses. Motion carried. Resolution adopted as amended.

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

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.I.5. Support the enactment of laws that provide tools for counties, cities, villages, and towns, in addition to liquor licensing, to assist local efforts in eradicating the negative impacts associated with the illegal activities occurring within and around adult entertainment establishments.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 33

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Support for the Expansion of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Opening Avenues to Re-Entry Success (OARS) Program to the Entire State of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, the OARS program enhances public safety by supporting the successful transition, recovery, and self-sufficiency of offenders with mental health needs as they reintegrate into the community; and

WHEREAS, this is a vision and effort that should be supported and encouraged by every county in the state; and

WHEREAS, OARS enhances public safety by reducing recidivism and revocation rates; and

WHEREAS, people released from incarceration often face difficulty finding housing and employment. Those on OARS have opportunities before and after release to plan, reducing the chance of relapse into unhealthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, OARS is currently available in 44 counties in the State of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support expansion of the OARS program to the entire State of Wisconsin.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Gove, second by Frohling, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

2019 Conference Resolution 33

IV.I.5. Support expansion of the Opening Avenues to Re-entry Success (OARS) program to the entire State of Wisconsin.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 34

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Dodge County

Relating to

Supporting Legislation Encouraging Regionalization of Emergency Medical Services and Incentivizing Emergency Medical Services Volunteers

WHEREAS, Dodge County is a relatively rural county of 892 square miles with a population of approximately 90,000 residents and more than 40 cities, villages and towns; and

WHEREAS, Dodge County cities, villages, and towns each offer their own emergency response services, often providing coverage or support for each other in the event of personnel shortages or large-scale emergencies; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, rural areas are having difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteer emergency responders, resulting in longer response times and the need for neighboring services to respond due to these shortages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support legislation that encourages local communities to regionalize, enter into shared service agreements or intergovernmental agreements for emergency medical, ambulance, and firefighting services and that such communities that do so be afforded special consideration in the form of increased shared revenues, relief from levy limits, or state grant funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports legislation that would provide emergency medical, ambulance and firefighter volunteers tax incentives or special state tax status to promote volunteerism in these times of critical need, especially in rural areas.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Haga, Jr., second by Meyers, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

2019 Conference Resolution 34

Captions:

- IV.I.6. Support legislation that makes serving as an emergency medical or ambulance volunteer and/or volunteer firefighter more attractive and financially viable.
- IV.I.7. Support legislation that encourages local communities to regionalize, enter into shared service agreements or intergovernmental agreements for emergency medical, ambulance, and firefighting services and that such communities that do so be afforded special consideration in the form of increased shared revenues, relief from levy limits, or state grant funding.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 35

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Volunteer Emergency Medical Response

WHEREAS, Bayfield County is a very rural area with less than 10 people per square mile; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of the ambulance, emergency medical, and fire response within the county is volunteer; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, rural areas like ours are having more and more difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteer emergency responders, resulting in longer response times; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, neighboring services are called upon to respond in these emergency situations because of the shortage of local volunteers; and

WHEREAS, AB 142 and SB 135 have been created to introduce non-refundable tax credits for volunteer emergency responders, and

WHEREAS, the first credit equals \$20 for each hour an individual who volunteers spends on active duty, in training, or in class. The second credit equals the volunteers unreimbursed expenses. The maximum an individual may claim a year is \$1,000 and \$400 respectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support this legislation in order to make volunteering more attractive and financially affordable.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

2019 Conference Resolution 35

IV.I.6. Support legislation that makes serving as an emergency medical or ambulance volunteer and/or volunteer firefighter more attractive and financially viable.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 36

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Price County

Relating to

Requesting Elimination of the 0% Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city, and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. §66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0602 limits that increase to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of net new construction in Price County used to calculate the increase in the operating levy allowance has significantly lagged the CPI-U over this period; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Price County has been forced to absorb inflationary increases in normal operating expenditures with no offsetting increase in revenues; and

WHEREAS, unexpected increases in the expenditures for certain items, particularly unfunded mandates such as the cost of child protective services, has compounded this issue; and

WHEREAS, Price County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, eliminating positions, limiting employee wage increases, reducing program offerings and postponing necessary work on highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, to continue to provide essential services to county citizens, Price County has resorted to using debt to fund qualified expenditures previously funded in its operating levy resulting in a higher cost to Price County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Price County will be unable to continue to raise revenues using debt.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request complete elimination of the current 0% tax levy cap or replacing it with a levy allowance that adequately reflects the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin counties.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

2019 Conference Resolution 36

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Hintz, second by McMillian Urell, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- VI.G.1. Oppose the imposition of levy limits.
- VI.G.13. Support levy limit adjustments on an annual basis that adequately reflect the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin counties.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 37

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Supporting County or Regional Based Property Tax Assessments

WHEREAS, in 2009, Governor Jim Doyle and the Department of Revenue proposed modernizing Wisconsin's tax assessment system with a county-based approach; and

WHEREAS, Governor Scott Walker's proposed 2015-17 state biennial budget included a provision for transitioning property tax assessments to a county or regional based system of assessment, except for first- and second-class cities opting to retain assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors passed 2015 Resolution 16 to support county-based property tax assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council Study Committee on Property Tax Assessment is currently reviewing current property tax assessment practices, including the review of statutory, administrative, and judicial directives on assessment practices and the consistency of assessment practices throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, fair and equitable assessment and taxation is foundational to the just administration of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the rule of uniformity in taxation is set forth in Art. VIII, §1 of the Wisconsin Constitution; and

WHEREAS, differing methods and frequencies of property tax assessments have created inconsistency and challenges to uniformity and equity across municipal jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has the highest number of tax assessment districts in the country with each of the nearly 1,900 municipalities having their own assessment responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the current equalization process could be significantly improved upon by a more centralized method of assessment; and

WHEREAS, a "Well-Governed and Administered County" seeks opportunities for collaboration and shared services with public and private partners; and

2019 Conference Resolution 37

WHEREAS, the concept of transitioning the responsibility of property tax assessment to counties is sound public policy because a more centrally administered system can provide consistency in methods and frequency throughout the county, thereby resulting in property tax assessments being uniform and equitable across the region and state; and

WHEREAS, previous proposals contained insufficient details on how the shift to a county system of property tax assessment might be implemented, how existing contracts would be handled, how local control might be respected, and how the new mandate would be sufficiently funded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the concept of county-based or regional-based property tax assessment provided, however, that the details for transferring responsibilities to the counties are developed in a way that: (1) provide for an orderly transitional plan; (2) address the treatment of existing municipal contracts with assessors; (3) provide for recognition of local control, and (4) ensure sufficient funding for the mandate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports leaving manufacturing assessments at the state level and independent of any county-based or regional-based property tax assessment system.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Farrell, second by McMillian Urell, to indefinitely postpone. Motion failed. Motion by Streckenbach, second by Meyers, to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 38

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Milwaukee County

Relating to

Supporting State Legislative Changes that Would Permit Wisconsin County Governments to Generate New Revenue and Reduce the Reliance on Property Taxes Through a Binding Referendum Process

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

Shall the State of Wisconsin grant Milwaukee County the authority to provide property tax relief of at least sixty-seven million dollars (\$67 million) by levying a one percent (1%) county sales and use tax to be used to remove the following three items from the property tax levy: parks, recreation and culture, transit and emergency medical services (EMS)?; and

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

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

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

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

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

2019 Conference Resolution 38

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support an opportunity to provide county governments with additional options for local control over their own financial destiny, with new, additional revenue, and a reduction in the reliance on property taxes, through enabling legislation and a binding county-wide referendum.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Nicholson, second by Streckenbach, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- VI.E.7. Support legislation that provides county governments with additional options for local control over their own financial destiny, with new, additional revenue, and a reduction in the reliance on property taxes, through enabling legislation and a binding county-wide referendum.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 39

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Milwaukee County

Relating to

Supporting State Legislative Changes to Require that State Mandates be Fully Funded

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are mandated to administer services on behalf of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, some services mandated by the State of Wisconsin include the operation of correctional facilities, highway maintenance, emergency management, and court operations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin often does not fully fund these mandated services, causing the local taxpayers to incur the remainder of the cost; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff, for example, is the only county sheriff mandated to provide its own expressway patrol services, receiving only partial funding from the State of Wisconsin in the form of expressway policing aids, while the State Highway Patrol services the rest of the Wisconsin expressways; and

WHEREAS, when counties have to budget for state mandated services, it redirects funding away from local services; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 05-86 on February 3, 2005, placing two questions on county-wide referendums relating to state versus county funding of state-mandated services within Combined Court Related Operations and the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, over 85% of voters supported state funding for state mandated services, rather than the use of county property taxes; and

WHEREAS, 69 of the 72 counties throughout the state placed similar questions on their spring 2005 ballots, receiving similar responses; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County supports the State of Wisconsin fully funding all state mandated services.

2019 Conference Resolution 39

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the provision that Wisconsin law be amended to require that state mandates on counties be fully funded.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Kriefall, second by Meyers, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

I.C.15. Support that Wisconsin law be amended to require that state mandates on counties be fully funded.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 40

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Supporting Updating Statutory Provisions for Bidding Requirements, County's Ability to Utilize Design-Build Construction Method and Public Private Partnerships

WHEREAS, the Legislature could make three crucial reforms to ensure competition and efficiency within county public works projects: increased bidding thresholds, authorized design-build construction method, and improved public private partnership (P3) statutes; and

WHEREAS, after decades of bidding thresholds of \$25,000, last session Senate Bill 236 would have increased bidding thresholds for all local governments and passed the State Senate on a bi-partisan voice vote, but failed to pass in the State Assembly; and

WHEREAS, with an increased bidding threshold to \$50,000, Washington County could perform maintenance and other small projects on a quicker timeline; and

WHEREAS, additionally, while the State of Wisconsin may utilize the advantages of the design-build construction method on state-controlled building projects, Wisconsin counties are not authorized to use the method for construction projects; and

WHEREAS, under the design-build construction method, counties could contract with a single entity to provide both the design and the construction of a public work project as opposed to having those projects bid separately; and

WHEREAS, other advantages of design-build include enhanced creativity, guaranteed costs, faster project completion, improved risk management, fewer change orders, and less administrative burden; and

WHEREAS, in addition to reforms to bidding threshold and design-build, the Legislature could look to several Public-Private Partnership (P3s) models which exist throughout the nation on public works projects; and

WHEREAS, P3s are forward thinking and are used as a method to offer solutions to financing and job completion while mitigating the risk of government funds; and

2019 Conference Resolution 40

WHEREAS, Washington County has looked for partnerships in public, private and quasi-governmental entities including Ozaukee County, City of West Bend, West Bend Mutual Insurance, Quad-Med, the History Center, and Fair Park; and

WHEREAS, improved statutory language and a larger emphasis on P3s ensure taxpayer resources are spent competently; and

WHEREAS, all three reforms are more tools into the belt of a “well administered and governed” county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the concepts of design-build and public private partnerships as long as competition in the marketplace is maintained; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports legislation that increases bidding thresholds and ensures local governments play by the same bidding rules.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by McMillian Urell, second by Frohling, to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- I.D.51. Support the concepts of design-build and public private partnerships as long as competition in the marketplace is maintained.
- I.D.46. Support a change in the competitive bidding statute to raise the threshold to an amount greater than \$25,000.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 41

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Washington County

Relating to

Supporting Legislation to Create a Statewide Library System

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's public library system law to provide funding for coordinated regional library services went into effect in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the public library system law is to make quality library resources and services readily available to all of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and to promote the development and improvement of public libraries in order to encourage the most effective use of library resources in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin currently has 17 public library systems serving 5.6 million people through approximately 388 public libraries; and

WHEREAS, in the last year alone, Washington County subsidized other counties' libraries in the amount of \$134,877; and

WHEREAS, such subsidies, which are prevalent throughout the state, amount to a backdoor tax; and

WHEREAS, changes in society, resources, and technologies have created new demands and opportunities for public library systems to meet the needs of the people they serve; and

WHEREAS, in light of these changes, there is a need to update, modernize, and redesign Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes addressing the operation of libraries in order to keep libraries viable and relevant in today's changing world; and

WHEREAS, Washington County strongly urges the creation of a separate and independent committee from the Public Library Redesign Project to explore merging each of the state's library systems into one statewide system that would result in libraries having access to a larger total collection of materials which could be shared across the system, lower overhead cost by eliminating duplicative services and unnecessary facilities, and by achieving better pricing due to volume, thus saving Wisconsin taxpayers a significant amount of money.

2019 Conference Resolution 41

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support taking this objective before the Wisconsin Legislature.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Indefinitely postpone.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Tripp, second by Hintz, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 42

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

La Crosse County

Relating to

Supporting Expansion of Amtrak Services Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities

WHEREAS, one way to help grow business and tourism in Wisconsin is by providing a range of affordable, safe, and convenient transportation options including expanding the frequency of Amtrak services along the Hiawatha and Empire Builder route from Chicago-Milwaukee- La Crosse to the Twin Cities; and

WHEREAS, increased ridership via the Milwaukee-Chicago Hiawatha service has increased to the point that no operating subsidy will be required to run the seven round trips per day, confirming that investments in competitive passenger rail service is economically viable; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's budget requested funding to expand rail service between Milwaukee and Chicago on the Amtrak Hiawatha line and the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee has supported an investment that will provide matching funds for federal transportation grants to complete the improvements to increase service from seven round trips daily to ten round trips per day; and

WHEREAS, expanding the Hiawatha service provides a first step to enable the addition of one daily train in each direction on the Amtrak service route along the Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities rail corridor, which will benefit the economy of the entire state, making business and tourism travel more convenient, likely increasing ridership that could eliminate the operating subsidy for the Empire route; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the service along Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities route will enhance service for the 17 Wisconsin counties adjacent to the route, representing roughly 50% of the state's population, many within 30-45 minutes driving distance to an existing train station; the counties include: Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Dodge, Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Adams, Juneau, Monroe, La Crosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, and St. Croix.

2019 Conference Resolution 42

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the State of Wisconsin to support the additional bonding authority to secure matching federal funds to make the track capacity and signal improvements necessary to increase the number of trains to permit one daily train in each direction, serving all communities along the Chicago-Milwaukee- La Crosse to the Twin Cities route.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Connors, second by Taylor, to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

VII.D.30. Encourage the State of Wisconsin to support additional bonding authority to secure matching federal funds to make the track capacity and signal improvements necessary to increase the number of trains to permit one daily train in each direction, serving all communities along the Chicago-Milwaukee- La Crosse to the Twin Cities route.

Transportation and Public Works

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 43

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Wood County

Relating to

Encouraging the Modification of State Law to Clarify that Revenues Generated by Forfeitures for Overweight Vehicles are to be Paid to the Highway Department Responsible for Maintaining the Road upon Which the Violation Took Place

WHEREAS, the current state of the law doesn't specify what is supposed to happen to revenues from overweight vehicle citations issued by county sheriff's departments for vehicles on county highways or roads a county is responsible for maintaining; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the penalty that exceeds the base \$100 or \$150 forfeiture, which added penalty is based upon the level of excess weight, is to reimburse the jurisdiction responsible for maintaining the road the costs attendant to the damage caused by the overweight vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the statute that sets forth the penalty structure, Wis. Stat. s. 66.0114, doesn't currently address what to do with the added penalties for citations issued for overweight vehicles cited on either county highways or roads the county is responsible for maintaining; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of Courts Automation Program (CCAP) run by the state requires counties to use its CCAP forfeiture accounting program and that program allocates these added forfeitures to the state instead of the respective counties due to the lack of direction provided by the law; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the added penalties tied to the amount of excess weight is not intended to be punitive but rather to serve as a user fee so as to allocate the costs of additional road damage repairs caused by overweight vehicles to the highway departments responsible for making those repairs and not to burden the taxpayers generally with this expense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support enactment of legislation along the lines set forth below that would allow county highway departments responsible to maintain the roads used by drivers cited for overweight vehicles to keep the added penalty tied to the excess weight of the vehicle cited.

2019 Conference Resolution 43

Wis. Stat. s. 66.0114(3)

(d) The entire amount in excess of \$150 of any forfeiture imposed for the violation of any traffic regulation in conformity with ch. 348 for a citation issued by a county sheriff's department or state patrol where the violation occurred on a county highway or other highway that a county has primary maintenance responsibility for shall be transmitted to the county highway department.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Refer to the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Frohling, second by Haga, Jr., to refer to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Refer to the Board of Directors.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Transportation and Public Works

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 44

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Supporting the UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences Building Project

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a significant impact on the recruitment and retention of high-talent students to northwestern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and health sciences graduates possess crucial skillsets that meet talent needs for this region; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's current science building, Phillips Hall, was constructed in 1963 and 1966 and was not designed to accommodate modern scientific instruction and inquiry; and

WHEREAS, Phillips Hall's infrastructure is so obsolete and inefficient that, while it is only one of 33 buildings maintained by UW-Eau Claire, it accounts for 27 percent of all annual campus work orders; and

WHEREAS, Phillips Hall's teaching and research spaces are inflexible and do not allow for the interdisciplinary collaboration with outside industries that typify a modern STEM education; and

WHEREAS, conducting research alongside industry partners provides valuable experience to undergraduates that, in turn, makes them more attractive to prospective employers; and

WHEREAS, these experiences also expose students to professional settings and business organizations in the surrounding area, increasing the likelihood that they choose to live and work in this region after graduation; and

WHEREAS, the inability to meet the existing demand for academic research and laboratory spaces is a challenge for industry innovation and student recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, the UW System Board of Regents has approved a plan to replace Phillips Hall with a new UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building; and

2019 Conference Resolution 44

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project requires \$109 million in the 2019-21 state budget, including approval for \$13.7 million in private philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, this building project requires advanced enumeration of \$147 million in the 2021-23 budget, bringing the project's total budget to \$256 million; and

WHEREAS, providing state funding for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of critical economic infrastructure to support northwestern Wisconsin's talent recruitment and retention needs in STEM and health sciences fields; and

WHEREAS, state support for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of a state-of-the-art facility that embodies the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and technological innovation, replacing one of the most inefficient buildings on campus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the inclusion of UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building in the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget as recommended by the UW System Board of Regents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that advanced enumeration for funding in the 2021-23 Wisconsin State Budget is essential to ensure this project is completed without additional inflation and that Phillips Hall can be demolished in a timely manner to eliminate ongoing maintenance and operational expenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association encourages the construction of a building that achieves high energy efficiency and environmental standards, in keeping with sustainability goals shared by UW-Eau Claire and Eau Claire County and recognizing the significance of the proposed building site neighboring the Putnam Park State Natural Area and the scenic Chippewa River.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

n/a

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Haga, Jr., second by Hintz, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 45

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Rock County

Relating to

Supporting Affordable Higher Education and Lower Student Debt

WHEREAS, as student debt has continued to climb, it is clear there is an immediate need for action to ensure higher education remains an affordable option for students both during their college years and during their repayment period; and

WHEREAS, according to the New York Federal Reserve, total student debt nationwide has tripled in the past decade and now exceeds all credit card debt in the United States. Research done by One Wisconsin Institute shows that nearly thirty percent of households in the state are currently paying a student loan. Current policies prevent borrowers from being able to refinance to take advantage of low interest rates and make it nearly impossible to discharge student loans through bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, the growing student debt burden has direct impacts on our state and local economy. Residents with student loan debt were more likely to forego the purchase of a new vehicle and more likely to rent rather than own a home. Funds tied to student loan payments are not available for discretionary spending at local businesses, stalling the engine of our local economy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to borrowing, we recognize that need-based aid such as the Pell grant is essential to many students' ability to afford a college education. The federal government must find ways to strengthen and sustain this aid if education is to continue to be a path to greater equality in our community and an opportunity to ensure that every individual, regardless of socioeconomic status, has the opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, it is important for student borrowers to have access to a variety of repayment options in order to best fit their needs and goals. Current repayment options also include a possibility of loan forgiveness after ten years of repayment during employment in public service or with a government employer. As a government employer, we must do our part to ensure employees are aware of this option and potential benefit of employment with Rock County.

2019 Conference Resolution 45

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby direct the Department of Human Resources to ensure each employee is notified annually that they may be eligible for public service loan forgiveness of federal direct loans repaid during their employment and that the Department of Human Resources is further directed to, upon request for an employee, complete any necessary paperwork to provide proof of employment to those employees who are eligible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges Congress to adopt legislation which would allow borrowers to refinance existing student loan debt to address the growing student loan debt crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State Legislature to support the state Higher Ed, Lower Debt bill, which would allow borrowers to refinance loans and create a tax break for state residents actively paying back student loans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges state and federal leaders to pursue additional solutions to the student debt burden, including policies that invest in the Pell grant program, reduce interest rates for future loans, and ensure tuition is affordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association recognizes the State of Wisconsin for its effort in reducing the cost of education in the University of Wisconsin System.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

n/a

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by McMillian Urell, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 46

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Rock County

Relating to

Requesting the Next Commissioned Submarine be Named After the State of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, United States naval vessels named after the State of Wisconsin have a long and storied history of service to the United States as a twice commissioned name of a United States Navy vessel; and

WHEREAS, the first vessel named the U.S.S. Wisconsin was an Illinois-class pre-dreadnaught battleship, commissioned in February 1901 and constructed in the Union Iron Works in San Francisco California and served the Navy from 1901 to 1921, as the Flagship of the Pacific Fleet, as the Northern Squadron Flagship in the Asiatic Fleet, in the Great White Fleet, in the Atlantic Fleet, and finally as a training ship for cadets at the United States Naval Academy; and

WHEREAS, the second vessel named the U.S.S. Wisconsin was an Iowa-class battleship, built in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and launched on December 7, 1943 and served the Navy from 1943 to 1991, fighting in the Pacific Fleet during World War II and the bombardment of Japan, in the Korean War, and as a training ship during the Cold War, before being finally decommissioned and preserved as a museum ship docked in Norfolk, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy struck the name Wisconsin from the active registry of ships in 2006 thereby making it available to be used as a name for another ship again; and

WHEREAS, there are currently twenty-three United States naval vessels named for states; and

WHEREAS, current naming conventions for United States naval vessels establish that both ballistic missile and fast attack submarines are named after States of the Union; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin, its veterans and service members would be honored by having a submarine in service in the United States Navy named after the State of Wisconsin; and

2019 Conference Resolution 46

WHEREAS, the Rock County Board of Supervisors seeks to honor our country's and state's history and traditions by asking that the Governor and Congressional delegation ask that the Secretary of the Navy name the next commissioned ballistic missile or fast attack submarine be named after the State of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby encourage the Secretary of the Navy to name the next commissioned submarine after the State of Wisconsin and hereby urges Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin's Congressional delegation to advocate for such a naming.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
n/a

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by McMillian Urell, second by Meyers, to indefinitely postpone. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Indefinitely postpone.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

**2019 WCA
CONFERENCE
RESOLUTIONS 47~79
REAFFIRM CURRENT
POSITIONS OF THE
WISCONSIN
COUNTIES
ASSOCIATION**

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 47

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Rock County

Relating to

Recommending Changes to the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) was established in 1978 to protect the state's most valuable agricultural lands from development. Two avenues were created via legislation: local land use zoning or a special agreement with Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The twenty towns within Rock County chose the local land use zoning as the preferred option. Landowners who participated in the program were then eligible for a Wisconsin state income tax credit, if they met the financial criteria and the state's soil conservation standards. The peak years of the program resulted in approximately 1,200 Rock County participants and 23,900 statewide participants; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the State of Wisconsin made significant changes to the FPP administrative codes and statutes as part of the Working Lands Initiative, a suite of programs to protect farmland from development. Among the many changes to the FPP were setting new flat rates per acre for the income tax credits, adding a process for local areas to establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA), establishing a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program, and finally adding additional conservation standards; and

WHEREAS, since the FPP rules were amended in 2009, the costs of implementing the required conservation standards has increased to a point where in some cases the cost of participating in the program has exceeded the available tax credits, which in turn has impacted the program participation not only in Rock County, currently at 404 participants, but statewide, currently estimated at 12,000 participants; and

WHEREAS, the premise of the FPP tax credit was to ensure landowners were compensated for their conservation stewardship and to help offset the costs of implementing and maintaining the required conservation practices. To date this program has been the best available tool to ensure conservation best management practices are being maintained in Rock County and statewide; and

WHEREAS, the long-term net result of aforesaid changes was a decrease in the value of the tax credits to maintain the conservation standards which in turn has decreased the overall enrollment within Rock County and statewide. This decrease in enrollment is alarming and needs to be addressed as soon as possible; and

2019 Conference Resolution 47

WHEREAS, as part of the FPP redesign, the State of Wisconsin recognized the importance of PACE as a valuable tool to complement the long-term preservation of the most valuable working farmlands in the state and subsequently enrolled 14 participants. The statewide program was defunded due to a controversial funding mechanism, but remains in the Wisconsin state statutes; and

WHEREAS, local units of government, towns, and counties continue to pursue the purchase of agricultural easements through locally funded programs with, in some cases, United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service grants. Rock County developed a local PACE program in 2009 and has been very active with this program ever since. Also, numerous Agricultural Conservation Easements (ACE) have been donated to local land trusts. Many of the donated ACEs remain eligible for the FPP but are not recognized by DATCP for their true farmland preservation value; and

WHEREAS, Rock County urges the State of Wisconsin to review the Farmland Preservation Program and increase each existing tax credit category by a minimum of \$2.50 per acre, add a new tax credit category to recognize landowners with ACEs and set the credit level for easements at a minimum tax credit level that can be found in the FPP zoned AEAs, and review the program every five years making the appropriate adjustments that reflect Best Management Practices (BMP) cost changes in the agriculture sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request the State of Wisconsin review the Farmland Preservation Program statutes and administrative codes to increase the allowable tax credits; amend the program eligibility to allow landowners who have Agricultural Conservation Easements the ability to participate in the FPP, if they meet the financial and conservation criteria; establish a new tax credit level for Agricultural Conservation Easements; reestablish funding for the statewide PACE program through a redesigned funding mechanism; and increase the frequency of review of the Farmland Preservation Program allowable tax credits to assure they are meeting the basic costs associated with program participation.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

2019 Conference Resolution 47

- II.D.5.q. Request that the State of Wisconsin review the Farmland Preservation Program statutes and administrative codes to increase the allowable tax credits; amend the program eligibility to allow landowners who have Agricultural Conservation Easements the ability to participate in the FPP, if they meet the financial and conservation criteria; establish a new tax credit level for Agricultural Conservation Easements; reestablish funding for the statewide PACE program through a redesigned funding mechanism; and increase the frequency of review of the Farmland Preservation Program allowable tax credits to assure they are meeting the basic costs associated with program participation.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 48

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Increased Payments to Towns with County Forest From \$0.30 to \$2.00 Per Acre

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has 29 counties with 2.4 million acres of county forest land; and

WHEREAS, county forest lands are entered under Wisconsin State Statute 28.11 County Forest Law, which outlines the framework for county forest management; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute 28.11 requires compensation and a reasonable revenue to towns; and

WHEREAS, the state currently provides a payment of \$0.30 per acre to local units of government containing county forest lands. This amount was established in 1989 and has not increased in 30 years; and

WHEREAS, payments for national forest lands are approximately \$2.00 per acre to local units of government; and

WHEREAS, these payments to towns help maintain forest roads providing access into the county forest; and

WHEREAS, the DNR is willing to consider a budgetary fix to this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support increased PILT payments to towns with county forest lands to \$2.00 per acre.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 Conference Resolution 48

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- II.I.10. Support an increase in the fee paid to towns for county forest land enrolled in the county forest land program.

Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 49

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Barron County

Relating to

Requesting Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Environmental Fee Exemption for Municipal Solid Waste, 30% for Residual Disposal

WHEREAS, 2013 Wisconsin Act 301, enacted on April 16, 2014, date of publication April 17, 2014 allowed for an exemption from "Groundwater and Well Compensation Fees for Certain Materials:" *For a qualified materials recovery facility as described in subd. (1)(a), (Section 289.63(6)(d)(2)(b) an amount equal to the weight of the residue generated by the qualified resources recovery facility or 30 percent of the total weight of material accepted by the qualified resource recovery facility, whichever is less; and*

WHEREAS, based on the language contained within the above-referenced Act, Barron and La Crosse counties, respectively, were excluded from the 30% fee exemption because of our Waste to Energy Facilities; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, April 26, 2019 at 1pm in the Barron County Government Center, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Mr. Dan Bahr, Government Affairs Associate, Wisconsin Counties Association, gave a presentation on this issue and explained "2019-2021 Budget Motion Request"; and

WHEREAS, at the above-referenced meeting Mr. Jadd Stillwell, Director, La Crosse County Solid Waste Department was in attendance and explained the effect this proposed law change would have on their county; and

WHEREAS, Barron County seeks to work cooperatively with other counties on shared and mutual legislative initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Fees for Various Waste Categories (\$/ton), (revised July 2018), as prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, indicates an Overall Total Fees, (\$/ton), of \$12.997; and

WHEREAS, Barron County Waste to Energy Manager, Mr. Ray Zeman, estimates, based on 2018 data, that if the 30% DNR residual disposal fee had been available to Barron County in 2018, the savings to Barron County would have been, \$15,372.07; and

2019 Conference Resolution 49

WHEREAS, the details for the above amount are as follows:

Total Tons Waste Received:	32,388.59
Total Tons Recycling Received:	799.10
Total:	33,187.69
Total Tons of Waste By-Passed to Landfill	1,182.74
DNR Environmental Fee/Ton	\$12.997
Total Potential Cash Savings to Barron County:	\$ 15,372.07; and

WHEREAS, Barron County is the Responsible Unit of record for recycling pursuant to Section 287.09 Wis. Stats. (previously sec. 159.09(1)(d)), excluding the City of Rice Lake and the Town of Rice Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Barron County Waste to Energy Facility is located adjacent to the Barron County Recycling Center. Municipal solid waste received on the waste tipping floor is spread out prior to incineration at which time metal and other non-combustible items are removed from the waste stream to be recycled as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, a draft of this resolution was reviewed by the Solid Waste Board on May 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the drafting of this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on May 1, 2019 on a vote of 9-0, and to be included with the Wisconsin Counties Association 2019 Annual Meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that Wisconsin State Statutes be amended so as to allow the 30% Department of Natural Resources Residual Disposal Fee be applied to the Barron County and La Crosse County Waste To Energy Facilities and their recycling facilities, respectively.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

2019 Conference Resolution 49

II.A.17. Exempt from state tipping fees the residuals from a “waste to energy” facility in a similar fashion that non-recyclable materials left over from the sorting process in a Material Recovery Facility are exempted under Wisconsin state law.

• Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 50

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie County

Relating to

Requesting that Medicaid Funding for Nursing Home Facilities be Increased Significantly in each Fiscal Year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget in Order to Address Shortcomings Related to Nursing Home Staff Shortages and Overall Funding Deficits

WHEREAS, Outagamie County Brewster Village (BV), a short-term rehabilitation and long-term care community, is facing a significant worker shortage which is forcing staff burnout (turnover), overtime expenses, and may potentially limit admissions; and

WHEREAS, wages for Certified Nursing Assistants, Life Enrichment Specialists, and Homemakers at BV are directly competing with non-health care entities and contributing to healthcare worker shortages; and

WHEREAS, inadequate Medicaid payment rates have made it extremely difficult for long-term care providers to attract and retain qualified caregivers; and

WHEREAS, in addition, over 30 Wisconsin nursing homes have closed since 2008, primarily because of inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, these closures will have an impact on future skilled nursing home care as the population of residents over 85 years of age grows; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid deficits sustained by Wisconsin's nursing facilities are mounting. Wisconsin nursing facilities experienced a \$352.5 million Medicaid deficit in FY16; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin nursing facilities on average lose \$63.04 per day for each Medicaid resident; and

WHEREAS, Brewster Village's loss is at approximately \$100 per day for each Medicaid resident; and

WHEREAS, private pay nursing home rates are \$255 per day (long-term care) and \$385 per day (short-term intensive rehabilitation services); and

2019 Conference Resolution 50

WHEREAS, the current resident Medicaid rate for these same services is approximately \$155 per day; and

WHEREAS, this low rate results in an annual deficit for Brewster Village of approximately \$4,000,000 which falls on local taxpayers through the tax levy; and

WHEREAS, it should be noted that the county would pay this annual amount for residents even if Brewster Village was not part of the county; and

WHEREAS, it is the low Medicaid reimbursement rate that causes the increased cost to the local taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, much has been done locally and statewide to provide alternative care for residents in need of help with daily living needs; and

WHEREAS, homemaker services, assisted living, and other types of care have reduced the need for long-term care for many residents; and

WHEREAS, however, at some point, most elderly residents will require long-term, 24/7 care in a skilled nursing home facility like Brewster Village; and

WHEREAS, the number of people over the age of 85 with these needs will grow significantly over the next 25 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby respectfully request that Medicaid funding for nursing home facilities be increased significantly in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget in order to address shortcomings related to nursing home staff shortages and overall funding deficits. This investment will ensure that Outagamie County Brewster Village can continue to effectively provide short-term rehabilitation and long-term nursing services designed to meet individuals' social and medical needs.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

2019 Conference Resolution 50

- III.A.1.c. Seek and support increased funding from the state and federal governments to adequately fund skilled nursing facilities for services provided to residents who are recipients of Medicare and Medicaid to enable nursing homes to provide excellent care for their residents.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 51

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie County

Relating to

Requesting that the Legislature Work to Address the Workforce Crisis in the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget

WHEREAS, according to a report produced by a coalition of provider associations including the Wisconsin Health Care Association / Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living, LeadingAge Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association, and the Residential Services Association of Wisconsin, Wisconsin nursing homes and assisted living providers are facing a workforce shortage crisis; and

WHEREAS, local government budgets continue to be tight and labor markets are becoming increasingly competitive; and

WHEREAS, talent is at a premium, and government is challenged to offer competitive wages compared to other unskilled and non-healthcare-related organizations; and

WHEREAS, an in-depth statewide member survey shows that 1 in 5 direct caregiver positions in Wisconsin's nursing homes and assisted living facilities are currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the survey found there are as many as 16,900 job openings in long-term care (LTC) facilities across the state; and

WHEREAS, the inability of LTC providers to offer competitive wages is due in large part to their heavy reliance on Medicaid and Medicaid-waiver funding; and

WHEREAS, a recent state-by-state analysis of the nation's Medicaid nursing home reimbursement systems concluded that Wisconsin has the worst daily rate payment in the country, with an average Wisconsin facility losing \$63.04 per day for each of the approximately 16,490 Medicaid recipients residing in a state nursing home; and

WHEREAS, the associations named in this resolution have developed workforce recommendations that can address the labor shortage; and

WHEREAS, among these recommendations is the specific request to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate.

2019 Conference Resolution 51

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby respectfully request that the Legislature work with the associations listed above to address the workforce crisis in the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget as there are serious consequences that will result if the long-term workforce crisis is not addressed.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- III.A.1.c. Seek and support increased funding from the state and federal governments to adequately fund skilled nursing facilities for services provided to residents who are recipients of Medicare and Medicaid to enable nursing homes to provide excellent care for their residents.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 52

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

St. Croix County

Relating to

Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS, St. Croix County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to St. Croix 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, St. Croix County's child support agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families, while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations; and

2019 Conference Resolution 52

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

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for St. Croix 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 \$2 in federal matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that state funding increase for county child support agencies by \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 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:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- III.F.4. Seek an additional \$1.5 million GPR annually (and its corresponding federal match) for county child support enforcement activities.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 53

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Supporting an Increase in County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Eau Claire 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, Eau Claire County's child support agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives, and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.76 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations; and

2019 Conference Resolution 53

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

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Eau Claire 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 \$2 in federal matching funds.

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 \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 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:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.F.4. Seek an additional \$1.5 million GPR annually (and its corresponding federal match) for county child support enforcement activities.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 54

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Funding for County Child Support Agencies

WHEREAS, Walworth County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, providing services to Walworth 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, Walworth County's child support agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives and provides services to both custodial and non-custodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked second in the nation for collecting child support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families, while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private assistance; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

2019 Conference Resolution 54

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding; diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Walworth County's child support agency, which 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 \$2 in federal matching funds.

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 \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 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:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.F.4. Seek an additional \$1.5 million GPR annually (and its corresponding federal match) for county child support enforcement activities.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 55

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Door County

Relating to

Support for Increased County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS, Door County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Door 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, Door County's child support agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations; and

2019 Conference Resolution 55

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

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Door 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 \$2 in federal matching funds.

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 \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 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:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.F.4. Seek an additional \$1.5 million GPR annually (and its corresponding federal match) for county child support enforcement activities.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 56

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Dunn County

Relating to

Requesting Increased Annual Funding for the Child Support Program

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

WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program that counties provide on behalf of the state provides services including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies ensure that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, support the involvement of parents in their children's lives, and provide services to both custodial and noncustodial parents. These services are provided in an incredibly cost-effective way, with an average of \$5.56 in support collected for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies in Wisconsin collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families, thereby reducing state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, an increase of \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget will generate approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding each year; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has not increased funding for child support activities since 2007 while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations, and the increasing drug epidemic; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support increased funding by the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor of \$1.5 million GPR annually in each fiscal year of the 2019-2021 biennial budget.

2019 Conference Resolution 56

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- III.F.4. Seek an additional \$1.5 million GPR annually (and its corresponding federal match) for county child support enforcement activities.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 57

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie County

Relating to

Requesting that State Funding for County Child Support Agencies be Increased by \$1.5 Million General Purpose Revenue (GPR) in Each Fiscal Year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget

WHEREAS, Outagamie County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Outagamie 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, Outagamie County's child support agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives, and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and

WHEREAS, the program is ranked second in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families, while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

2019 Conference Resolution 57

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin which would lead to less funding for Outagamie County's child support agency; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 of state general purpose revenue (GPR) invested in the child support program generates \$2 in federal matching funds.

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 \$1.5 million general purpose revenue (GPR) in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 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:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.F.4. Seek an additional \$1.5 million GPR annually (and its corresponding federal match) for county child support enforcement activities.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 58

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county operated and state supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, through DCF, provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, assessment, intervention, treatment response, and recovery services for families and children well-being and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the State of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, rising county contributions to the child welfare system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover child welfare expenses; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety, well-being, and future of our children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads to grow, contributing to staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

2019 Conference Resolution 58

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing, and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies, or have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps, and disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover services and resources to support the child welfare system and support infrastructure for counties to operationalize so all of Wisconsin's 72 counties CPS systems can meet their obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- III.B.1.c. Increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

2019 Conference Resolution 58

- III.B.1.e.** Urge the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 59

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the State of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workloads and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

2019 Conference Resolution 59

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing, and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps, and disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- III.B.1.c. Increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

2019 Conference Resolution 59

- III.B.1.e. Urge the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 60

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Door County

Relating to

Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the State of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

2019 Conference Resolution 60

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing, and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps, and disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels needed to meet the growing workload so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- III.B.1.c. Increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

2019 Conference Resolution 60

- **III.B.1.e.** Urge the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 61

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie County

Relating to

Requesting that the State of Wisconsin Increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to Counties in the 2019-21 State Biennial Budget by \$30 Million Annually

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the State of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

2019 Conference Resolution 61

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing, and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps, and disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that the State of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association so Wisconsin's child protective services system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the State of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the child protective services resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging child protective services trends and ongoing system needs.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- III.B.1.c. Increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

2019 Conference Resolution 61

- III.B.1.e. Urge the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 62

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

St. Croix County

Relating to

Medicaid Expansion

WHEREAS, Governor Evers' 2019-2021 executive budget recommends the use of available federal funding for Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid eligibility would expand from the current 100% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$12,000 annual income for a household of one per federal poverty guidelines effective February 1, 2019) to 138% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$17,000 annual income for a household of one per federal poverty guidelines effective February 1, 2019); and

WHEREAS, from 2014 through 2016, states were reimbursed for 100% of the cost of covering newly-eligible groups, with a declining federal share in subsequent years until reaching 90% in 2020 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the standard federal Medical Assistance percentage for Wisconsin is currently approximately 59%; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will allow the state to draw down new federal funds resulting in \$324.5 million in state general purpose revenue savings; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's administration estimates that expansion will enable approximately 82,000 additional individuals to access affordable health insurance coverage, of which an estimated 660 are St. Croix County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services provided a summary of \$17 million of Medicaid expansion benefits specific to St. Croix County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support Medicaid expansion as proposed in Governor Evers' 2019-2021 executive budget.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt. Motion carried.

2019 Conference Resolution 62

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.C.3.e. Support the continuation of Wisconsin's medical assistance program at current or expanded eligibility levels.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 63

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Wood County

Relating to

Encouraging the State Legislature and the Governor to Support Medicaid Expansion in Wisconsin

WHEREAS, the federal government has agreed to provide states funding for Medicaid (MA) expansion to the residents of the states eligible for MA benefits; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the voters in Wood County approved by a vote of 21,192 in favor and 8,882 opposed to a nonbinding referendum to have Wisconsin accept federal MA expansion funding to enhance the services covered by BadgerCare; and

WHEREAS, the state has yet to accept the MA expansion funding, thereby leaving its BadgerCare eligible residents with higher levels of medical issues, some of which impact each county directly and indirectly and result in local taxpayers having to pay for services that they wouldn't have to if the federal funds were accepted; and

WHEREAS, some see the acceptance of MA expansion dollars as a political issue but the Wood County board views the matter from the vantage point of how best to serve the residents of this county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby go on record to:

1. State that it supports the State of Wisconsin's acceptance of MA expansion dollars to better fund BadgerCare.
2. Request all state legislators who represent any part of Wood County to support legislative efforts to accept MA expansion funds.
3. Encourage the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) to adopt legislative initiatives that support acceptance of MA expansion dollars in Wisconsin.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 Conference Resolution 63

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

III.C.3.e. Support the continuation of Wisconsin's medical assistance program at current or expanded eligibility levels.

Health and Human Services

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 64

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Dunn County

Relating to

Requesting Support for Legislative Action to Upgrade Local 911 Centers for Next Generation 911 Transition

WHEREAS, modernizing Wisconsin's 911 system has been a priority for local governments, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry since the early 2000s; and

WHEREAS, a Next Generation 911 (NG911) system utilizes advancements in technology to improve communication with 911 operators and provide greater efficiency in assisting individuals in crisis, by creating a faster, more resilient system that allows voice, photos, videos and text messages to flow seamlessly from the public to the 911 network, more accurate mapping to call origination sites, and connectivity with electronic lifesaving and medical equipment (for example, a defibrillator could contact 911 at the time it is used) and improves the capability of PSAPs to manage call overload, natural disasters, and transferring of 911 calls and proper jurisdictional responses based on location tracking; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-19 state biennial budget provided funding for creation of a statewide emergency services Internet Protocol network (ESinet), which is the first step in the transition to NG911; and

WHEREAS, very few PSAPs have the equipment necessary to transition from analog to digital NG911 systems or utilize the ESinet; and

WHEREAS, the transition to NG911 will involve new computer hardware and software and implementing NG911 in counties will require the coordination of a variety of emergency communication, public safety, legislative and governing entities, with the average cost for the necessary equipment upgrades exceeding \$250,000 per county, with additional ongoing maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the State Legislature has provided grant funding for counties to upgrade local PSAPs, state funding has not existed in over a decade. The state currently assesses a \$0.75 monthly fee on landlines and a fee of \$0.38 on each retail transaction for prepaid wireless telecommunications plans for police and fire protection, but many people have abandoned landlines, resulting in decreased revenue available to pay for 911 service and these funds have been used to offset cuts to shared revenues; and

2019 Conference Resolution 64

WHEREAS, the state currently has a fund, the Police and Fire Protection Fee, whose original intent was to fund county PSAP upgrades, but revenues from this fund is deposited in the state's general fund and has never been utilized for their intended purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support an allocation by the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor of \$7 million annually through the existing Police and Fire Protection Fee to fund upgrades to local E911 centers to begin NG911 transition.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.B.1.m. Develop and fund a grant program to assist PSAPs in the upgrade of technology to be Next Generation 911 capable.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 65

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Action to Address the Mental Health Epidemic in County Jails

WHEREAS, the number of individuals with mental health issues in county jails has exploded over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, those with mental illness need specialized care and attention; and

WHEREAS, demands on local correctional institutions is greater than can be sustained; and

WHEREAS, this workload and case type is overwhelming jail staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support legislation addressing mental health issues in county jails including:

- That individuals on psychotropic medicines before incarceration be allowed to continue while in jail, with no interruption to funding of those medications if the individual is currently enrolled in a state program which provides that resource.
- That increased state DOC funding be made available for crisis intervention utilizing licensed mental health professionals that hold prescribing licensure.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 Conference Resolution 65

Caption:

- IV.E.2.c. Support legislation addressing mental health issues in county jails including:
- That individuals on psychotropic medicines before incarceration be allowed to continue while in jail, with no interruption to funding of those medications if the individual is currently enrolled in a state program which provides that resource.
 - That funding of alternatives to incarceration for individuals with mental illness be established by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.
 - That increased state Department of Corrections funding be made available for crisis intervention utilizing licensed mental health professionals that hold prescribing licensure.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 66

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Dunn County

Relating to

Requesting Support for Increased State Funding for Circuit Courts, District Attorneys' Offices and the State Public Defender

WHEREAS, the circuit courts are the trial court for the state court system in Wisconsin, and are divided into branches with at least one branch in every county except that Buffalo and Pepin counties are combined to have one branch, and Shawano and Menomonee counties are combined to have two branches; and

WHEREAS, circuit courts are funded with a combination of state and county money, with state funds used to pay for salaries of judges, official court reporters, and reserve judges, while counties are responsible for all other operating costs; and

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts recommends that the Legislature create additional judgeships in those counties showing the greatest need according to the Judicial Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, adequately staffed district attorney's offices are critical for effective prosecution of criminal cases throughout the State of Wisconsin, and failure to provide adequate levels of staffing has an adverse impact on public safety and victims' rights; and district attorney's offices throughout the state are experiencing increases in caseloads and case complexity, requiring greater prosecutor time and resources; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin provide that persons accused of crime have the right to counsel, which is provided to persons meeting income eligibility guidelines by the Office of the State Public Defender (SPD) or because of conflict or other reason by private attorneys appointed by the SPD, with almost 40% of all SPD cases being appointed to private attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the compensation rate for private attorneys appointed by the SPD, which has not been increased since 1995, is the lowest in the nation, failing to even cover appointed attorneys' overhead costs, resulting in fewer attorneys accepting SPD appointments and creating an increasing burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties due to costs and delays in court proceedings, to the detriment of victims of crime, witnesses, law enforcement agencies, and persons accused of crime; and

2019 Conference Resolution 66

WHEREAS, it has been the policy of WCA to support and advocate for adequate funding for courts, and district attorney and public defender offices to ensure speedy disposition of criminal cases as guaranteed to crime victims and ensure fair administration of justice in all counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support adequate state funding of the courts, the state public defender, and district attorney's offices.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

- IV.C.1.a. Support state payment of all costs of the court system, including the public defender program.
- IV.C.1.e. Support an adequate level of state assistance through the circuit court support grant to ensure the fair administration of justice in all counties, as well as an adequate level of funding to the district attorney and public defender offices to ensure speedy disposition of criminal cases as guaranteed to crime victims.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 67

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Door County

Relating to

Supporting Increasing the Compensation for Defense Counsel Appointed by the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and the Wisconsin State Constitution provide that persons accused of a crime have the right to counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office (SPD) provides legal representation to the indigent, utilizing staff attorneys, as well as (about 40% of the time) private attorneys certified to take SPD appointments to handle conflict and overflow cases; and

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the Wisconsin Supreme Court increased, effective January 2020, the hourly rate of pay for county-funded, court-appointed attorneys from \$70 to \$100 per hour; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay for state-funded SPD appointments is \$40 per hour, has not been increased since 1995, and is the lowest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the pay for state-funded SPD appointments is so low that it has been and is hard to find private attorneys willing to accept such appointments in many counties, resulting in some persons charged with crimes sitting in jail for weeks while they waited for legal representation; and

WHEREAS, the disparity in pay (i.e., the decision to increase pay for county-funded attorneys, but not state-funded SPD appointments) will lead private attorneys to refuse state-funded SPD assignments and instead hold out for county-funded, court-appointed assignments; and

WHEREAS, a greater share of the cost of indigent defense is going to fall on the counties, resulting in (what may reasonably be viewed as) an unfunded mandate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office to ensure the criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently, including increasing the rate of pay for state-funded SPD appointments to \$100 per hour and tie future increases to the rate of inflation.

2019 Conference Resolution 67

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.C.4.f. Support an increase in the hourly rate for private attorneys handling public
defender cases.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 68

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Compensation for Defense Counsel Assigned by the State Public Defender

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin provide that persons accused of crime have the right to counsel; and

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, the Office of the State Public Defender (SPD) provides counsel to those persons meeting income eligibility guidelines for services; and

WHEREAS, where the SPD is unable to provide representation, due to conflict or other reason, the SPD appoints private attorneys to provide representation; and

WHEREAS, almost 40% of all SPD cases are appointed to private attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the compensation rate for private bar-appointed attorneys in Wisconsin has not been increased since 1995, which currently stands at \$40.00 per hour, and it is the lowest in the nation, failing to even cover an appointed attorney's overhead costs; and

WHEREAS, as a result, private attorneys are increasingly declining to accept SPD appointments, which is creating an increased burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, in the 2019-2021 executive budget, Governor Evers included an increase in the private bar rate at the SPD board to \$70.00 per hour effective January 1, 2020 and created a provision that would allow the private bar rate to increase at the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, costs to counties are increasing as circuit court judges are being forced to appoint counsel at county expense and accused persons are being held in jail longer pending appointment of counsel; and

WHEREAS, these delays also lead to inefficiency for courts and law enforcement agencies, and additional delay for obtaining justice for victims.

2019 Conference Resolution 68

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the State Public Defender to ensure that the criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently, including increasing the rate of reimbursement for private attorneys appointed by the State Public Defender to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.C.4.f. Support an increase in the hourly rate for private attorneys handling public defender cases.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 69

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Compensation for Defense Counsel Assigned by the State Public Defender

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and the Wisconsin State Constitution provide that persons accused of a crime have the right to counsel. In Wisconsin, the Office of the State Public Defender (SPD) provides counsel to those persons meeting income eligibility guidelines for services. Where SPD is unable to provide representation, due to conflict or other reasons, the SPD appoints private attorneys to provide representation. Almost 40% of all SPD cases are appointed to private attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the compensation rate for private bar appointed attorneys in Wisconsin has not been increased since 1995 and currently stands at \$40.00 per hour. It is the lowest in the nation, failing to even cover an appointed attorney's overhead costs. As a result, private attorneys are increasingly declining to accept SPD appointments, which is creating an increasing burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties. Costs to counties are increasing as circuit court judges are being forced to appoint counsel at county expense and accused persons are being held in jail longer pending appointment of counsel. These delays also lead to inefficiency for courts and law enforcement agencies, and additional delay for obtaining justice for victims; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2018 the Wisconsin Supreme Court authorized an increase in the hourly rate from \$70.00/hr. to \$100.00/hr. for attorneys appointed by the county; this increase will go into effect on January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the increase authorized to private attorneys, at county expense, may cost Eau Claire County approximately \$116,000 annually depending on caseload, and complexity; and

WHEREAS, the disparity created between the two rates, SPD \$40.00/hr, county \$100.00/hr., will cause private attorneys to refuse SPD cases; and

WHEREAS, other counties in Wisconsin are passing resolutions similar to this one, including Dunn, Barron, Burnett, and La Crosse.

2019 Conference Resolution 69

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender to ensure the criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently, including increasing the rate of reimbursement for private attorneys appointed by the State Public Defender to a market rate that will ensure prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner by, at minimum, increasing the hourly rate paid to SPD appointed private attorneys to the same amount as those recently authorized by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.C.4.f. Support an increase in the hourly rate for private attorneys handling public defender cases.

Judicial and Public Safety

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 70

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Bayfield County

Relating to

Action to Support Legislation Funding Additional Assistant District Attorney Positions

WHEREAS, district attorneys are the gatekeeper for cases at the circuit court level; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that county district attorneys are overloaded and unable to maintain existing caseloads; and

WHEREAS, overloaded caseloads result in delayed and less effective sanctions as time elapses; and

WHEREAS, legislation considered in SB 54, 2017 addresses the ADA shortage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support legislation addressing assistant district attorney shortages.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

IV.C.3.a. Support full state funding of the office of the district attorney, including funding for all staff necessary to accommodate increased caseloads.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 71

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Fond du Lac County

Relating to

Affirming the Right of All Wisconsin Citizens to Fair and Equal Representation and Requesting the Enactment of a Non-Partisan Process for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans

WHEREAS, currently, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following each decennial federal census; and

WHEREAS, at the same intervals, the Legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the Legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby affirm that the determination of all levels of municipal, county, and state legislative and congressional redistricting plans could not include consideration of voting patterns, party information, incumbent residence information, and/or demographic information that in any way significantly distort the right of fair and equal representation afforded to all Wisconsin citizens under the state and federal constitutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association strongly urges the Wisconsin legislative and executive branches to work together to enact bipartisan legislation that would create a fair and nonpartisan process for drawing legislative and congressional redistricting plans, as well as promote more accountability and transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said legislation include language that prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, incumbent residence information, and/or demographic information which serve to significantly distort the right of fair and equal representation afforded to all Wisconsin citizens under the state and federal constitutions.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

2019 Conference Resolution 71

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

I.A.f. Support the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 72

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging Restoration of Funding for UW-Extension

WHEREAS, for over 100 years Cooperative Extension has played a vital role in connecting the resources of the University of Wisconsin system to the state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2015-2017 budget process the State of Wisconsin cut the appropriation to the University of Wisconsin Extension (UW-Extension) by \$3.6 million; and

WHEREAS, the precise impact of those cuts remained unclear for some time as UW-Extension engaged in the nEXT Generation study project; and

WHEREAS, upon conclusion of that study it has become abundantly clear that the budget cut has had a significantly negative impact on the ability of UW-Extension to provide services to its county partners; and

WHEREAS, these negative impacts include the inability of UW-Extension to hire and retain educators to serve county residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the Governor and the Legislature to restore funding for UW-Extension.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

I.E.1.a. Support the allocation to UW-Extension its fair share of the University's budget to be used to finance county positions.

2019 Conference Resolution 72

- I.E.1.b. Support the maintenance of cooperative extension agents and services.
- I.E.1.d. Allocate additional funding for Cooperative Extension to ensure sufficient staffing for county educators.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 73

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State Legislature to Increase the Public Work Limit from \$25,000

WHEREAS, under Wisconsin Statutes § 59.52(29), counties are required to engage in a competitive bidding process on public work construction projects greater than \$25,000 and provide a Class 1 notice on any public work with a cost between \$5,000-\$25,000; and

WHEREAS, these statutory limits of \$5,000 and \$25,000 have been in place for many decades notwithstanding the impact of inflation during that time; and

WHEREAS, complying with the statutory bidding requirements adds significant time and in some cases costs to public construction projects; and

WHEREAS, many counties, including Walworth County, engage in competitive bidding processes that can achieve the same results as following the statutory procedures without adding unnecessary delays to projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request that our State Legislature take action to update the antiquated project limit in Sec. 59.52(29), Wis. Stats., from \$25,000 to \$250,000, and the requirement of a Class 1 notice be raised for any public work to a cost in excess of \$50,000.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

I.D.46. Support a change in the competitive bidding statute to raise the threshold to an amount greater than \$25,000.

2019 Conference Resolution 73

I.D.47. Modify Class 1 notice requirements for public works projects such that the threshold for a Class 1 notice be raised to a cost in excess of \$50,000.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 74

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Milwaukee County

Relating to

Supporting State Legislative Changes to Require State Shared Revenue Payments to Counties be Indexed for Inflation in Every Biennial Budget

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are an arm of the State of Wisconsin, fulfilling many vital state-mandated services such as ensuring health and human services, judicial due process, public safety, and highway maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the state restricts the ability of counties to raise revenues primarily from the property and sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Policy Forum wrote in its February 2019 report, "Dollars and Sense," that "in past generations, large state aid payments helped hold down property taxes in Wisconsin while also providing funding for local services. Yet, with state aid payments stagnant for years and municipalities now under tight state-imposed caps on property taxes, questions are mounting about whether local officials can sustain appropriate service levels in areas such as public safety, streets, libraries, and parks"; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the nonpartisan state Legislative Fiscal Bureau report, "Shared Revenue Program: Informational Paper 18," total shared revenue for counties from 2009 to 2019 has declined from \$216.8 million in 2018 (inflation-adjusted) dollars to \$158.4 million, a decline of approximately 27 percent in real dollars; and

WHEREAS, according to federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the dollar on average 1.6 percent per year since 2009, therefore the state has cut Wisconsin counties' budgets by inflation every biennium; and

WHEREAS, costs to continue the basic services Wisconsin citizens expect and deserve continue to rise while counties' abilities to pay for them continue to decline from state restrictions and underfunding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby support the State of Wisconsin indexing shared revenue payments to Wisconsin counties to the rate of inflation in each state biennial budget.

2019 Conference Resolution 74

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

VI.B.9. Support, at a minimum, inflationary increases in the shared revenue program.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 75

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Outagamie County

Relating to

Requesting Legislation to Close the Dark Stores Loophole

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2018, the voters of Outagamie County, through an advisory referendum, overwhelmingly advised the State Legislature to pass a bill that closes the dark stores loophole; and

WHEREAS, closing the loophole would effectively prevent valuation of ongoing commercial retail properties from being valued as though such properties were shuttered and vacant; and

WHEREAS, allowing the loophole to exist creates an inordinate and inequitable tax shift from commercial real estate to residential properties; and

WHEREAS, this resolution serves as acknowledgement by the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors that the county's electorate clearly wants legislation to address the dark store issue and further serves as the board's notice to state legislators that the county board, on behalf of its residents, requests remedial legislation to close the dark stores loophole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby, based upon the results of the November 6 "Dark Stores" advisory referendum, request those state legislators who represent the residents of Outagamie County, as well as the State Legislature as a whole, to heed the clear results of the referendum and adopt legislation to close the dark stores loophole.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Captions:

2019 Conference Resolution 75

- VI.I.21. Support legislation clarifying that: 1) leases are appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties; and 2) when using the comparable sale method of valuation, assessors shall consider as comparable only those sales within the same market segment exhibiting a similar highest and best use rather than similarly sized but vacant properties in abandoned locations.
- VI.I.22. Amend property assessment requirements to close the “dark store” property assessment loophole and enact legislation overturning the 2008 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in *Walgreens v. City of Madison*.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 76

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State Legislature to Adopt Legislation to Close the Dark Stores Loophole Based Upon the Results of the November 6, 2018 Dark Stores Advisory Referendum

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2018, the voters of Walworth County, through an advisory referendum, overwhelmingly advised the State Legislature to pass a bill that closes the dark stores loophole; and

WHEREAS, closing the loophole would effectively prevent valuation of ongoing commercial retail properties from being valued as though such properties were shuttered and vacant; and

WHEREAS, allowing the loophole to exist creates an inordinate and inequitable tax shift from commercial real estate to residential properties; and

WHEREAS, this resolution serves as acknowledgement by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors that the county's electorate clearly wants legislation to address the dark store issue and further serves as the board's notice to state legislators that the county board, on behalf of its residents, request remedial legislation to close the dark stores loophole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby, based upon the results of the November 6 "Dark Stores" advisory referendum, request those state legislators who represent the residents of Walworth County, as well as the State Legislature as a whole, to heed the clear results of the referendum and adopt legislation to close the dark stores loophole.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

2019 Conference Resolution 76

Captions:

- VI.I.21. Support legislation clarifying that: 1) leases are appropriately factored into the valuation of leased properties; and 2) when using the comparable sale method of valuation, assessors shall consider as comparable only those sales within the same market segment exhibiting a similar highest and best use rather than similarly sized but vacant properties in abandoned locations.
- VI.I.22. Amend property assessment requirements to close the “dark store” property assessment loophole and enact legislation overturning the 2008 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in *Walgreens v. City of Madison*.

Personnel, Finance, and County Organization

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 77

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Eau Claire County

Relating to

Urging the Governor and Wisconsin Legislature to Find a Sustainable Solution to Fund Wisconsin's Transportation System

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County and other local governments across Wisconsin have been highlighting our unmet transportation needs in many different avenues including events such as the historic Turnout for Transportation event in September of 2016 where local governments in every region of this state held simultaneous meetings calling on the State Legislature to prioritize transportation and pass a sustainable funding package; and

WHEREAS, while the increase in transportation funding for locals in the last budget was certainly appreciated, many still aren't back to 2011 levels when you adjust for inflation; and

WHEREAS, locals, including Eau Claire County, continue to struggle to meet even the most basic maintenance needs for our transportation system; and

WHEREAS, states surrounding Wisconsin and across the country have stepped up with sustainable funding plans for their state and local roads; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin will be at a competitive disadvantage if it does not implement a revenue and spending plan that addresses both our interstates that were built in the 1950s and 60s and our local and state roads; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

WHEREAS, local governments would not be forced to turn to local wheel taxes or increased borrowing or exceeding their levy limits if the state would finally pass a sustainable funding plan for transportation; and

2019 Conference Resolution 77

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local and state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the Governor and Legislature to “Just Fix It” and agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin’s transportation system.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- VII.B.16. Support a balanced, long-term solution to ensure the long-term viability of the state’s transportation fund, including a responsible level of bonding and revenue increases necessary to ensure a safe and functional transportation network for Wisconsin citizens and the business community.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 78

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Walworth County

Relating to

Urging the State of Wisconsin to “Just Fix It” as it Relates to Funding Wisconsin’s Transportation System

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for nearly 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads, as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, Walworth County and other local governments across Wisconsin have been highlighting our unmet transportation needs in many different avenues including events such as the historic Turnout for Transportation event in September of 2016 where local governments in every region of this state held simultaneous meetings calling on the State Legislature to prioritize transportation and pass a sustainable funding package; and

WHEREAS, while the increase in transportation funding for locals in the last budget was certainly appreciated, many still are not back to 2011 levels when adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, local units of government, including Walworth County, continue to struggle to meet even the most basic maintenance needs for our transportation system; and

WHEREAS, states surrounding Wisconsin and across the country have stepped up with sustainable plans to fund their state and local roads; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin will be at a competitive disadvantage if it does not implement a revenue and spending plan that addresses both our interstate highways that were built in the 1950s and 1960s *and* our local and state roads; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local governments to make up for inadequate state funding; and

WHEREAS, local governments would not be forced to turn to local wheel taxes or increased borrowing or exceeding their levy limits if the state would finally pass a sustainable funding plan for transportation; and

2019 Conference Resolution 78

WHEREAS, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of its neighbors when one considers the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby urge the Governor and Legislature to “Just Fix It” and agree upon a solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin’s transportation system.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

- VII.B.16. Support a balanced, long-term solution to ensure the long-term viability of the state’s transportation fund, including a responsible level of bonding and revenue increases necessary to ensure a safe and functional transportation network for Wisconsin citizens and the business community.

Wisconsin Counties Association

2019 Conference Resolution 79

Offered for consideration this 22nd Day of September 2019 by

Sauk County

Relating to

Requesting Funding from the State of Wisconsin for Road Repairs and Improvements

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon state roads, as well as city, county, and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, according to "Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin," commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

WHEREAS, state funding for roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades; and

WHEREAS, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of governments across Wisconsin and roads that are not maintained cause accidents; and

WHEREAS, our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, both local and state roads need proper maintenance in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, fifty-five percent of Wisconsin's major locally and state-maintained roads have pavement that is in poor condition and 19 percent in mediocre condition; and

WHEREAS, the report blames "inadequate state and local funding" for worsening conditions and estimates that drivers in some Wisconsin cities spend nearly \$1,000 a year on repairs due to driving their vehicles on deteriorating roads; and

WHEREAS, water and outdoor recreation, along with trails, parks, golf courses, historic sites, and attractions, all work together to draw travelers to Sauk County; and

WHEREAS, local businesses all cater to and benefit from traveler spending; and

WHEREAS, Sauk County is among the top counties in the state for tourism; and

2019 Conference Resolution 79

WHEREAS, with people coming in and out of Sauk County for tourism, work, and everything in between, the quality of our roads is very important; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain our economy, Sauk County asks the state to allocate additional funds for repairing and improving all state highways in Sauk County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association, in conference assembled, does hereby request additional funding from the State of Wisconsin for road repairs and improvements for all state highways.

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:
Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion by Pocernich, second by Haga, Jr., to adopt.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt.

2019 CONFERENCE ACTION:

Caption:

VII.D.20. Support sufficient funding to counties for state highway maintenance contracts to facilitate a safe and effective transportation infrastructure.

Transportation and Public Works

