

January 11, 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-162

RESOLUTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A REFERENDUM QUESTION IN REGARD TO PAYING FOR THE COST OF THE STATE MANDATED COURT SYSTEM ON THE APRIL BALLOT

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, county government acts in partnership with state government in Wisconsin to provide programs and services for the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, state government requires county government to provide programs and services that are not always funded by the state government; and

WHEREAS, the major funding source for county government is the county property tax; and

WHEREAS, some mandated programs and services are not funded or fully funded by the state, causing the county property taxpayer to supplement funding with property tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the public has an increased concern over how property tax dollars are being expended; and

WHEREAS, two statewide commissions (Kettl and Sheehy) suggested that the circuit court system and human services should not be funded by the property tax; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 59.52(25) of the State Statutes states *“the board may conduct a countywide referendum for advisory purposes or for the purpose of ratifying or validating a resolution adopted or ordinance enacted by the board contingent upon approval in the referendum.”*; and

WHEREAS, the following advisory referenda question is an effective way to determine how the citizenry believes the court system should be funded:

Should the State of Wisconsin, not the county taxpayer, pay for the cost of the state mandated court system in Racine County?

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Racine County Board of Supervisors will place the following question on the April ballot as an advisory referenda question:

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5 Should the State of Wisconsin, not the county taxpayer, pay for the
6 cost of the state mandated court system in Racine County?
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8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the
9 Wisconsin Counties Association.

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11 Respectfully submitted,

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13 1st Reading _____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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15 2nd Reading _____

Kenneth A. Vetovec, Chairman

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17 BOARD ACTION

18 Adopted _____

19 For _____

20 Against _____

21 Absent _____

Joseph F. Bellante, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Peter L. Hansen, Secretary

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23 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

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25 Prepared by:
26 Corporation Counsel

Gilbert Bakke

Russell A. Clark

Jeff Halbach

Diane M. Lange

Kenneth Lumpkin

Pamela Zenner-Richards

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