

**COUNTY OF RACINE  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Janet Bernberg, Chairman  
Thomas Roanhouse, Vice Chairman  
Melissa Kaprelian-Becker, Secretary

Supervisor John A. Wisch  
Supervisor Scott Maier  
Supervisor Tom Kramer  
Supervisor Eric Hillery

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\*\*\* THIS LOCATION IS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. If you have other special needs, please contact the Racine County Board Office, 730 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin 53403 (262) 636-3571, fax (262) 636-3491 or the TTD/RELAY 1-800-947-3529. \*\*\*

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
OF THE  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: AUDITORIUM  
IVES GROVE OFFICE COMPLEX  
14200 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
STURTEVANT, WI 53177

**A G E N D A**

1. Public Comments
2. Chairman Comments
3. Approval of Minute(s) from previous meeting
4. Old Business
  - A. Laid over from October 9, 2018 meeting. Pepin County Resolution No. 20-18 Support for HR 54.29-SIREN Act of 2018
5. Referrals from County Board
  - A. Door County Resolution 2018-63 in support of increased County Child Support Funding
  - B. Door County Resolution 2018-64 in support of increasing the compensation for defense counsel Appointed by the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office
  - C. Douglas County Resolution #55-18 by the Public Safety Committee, Compensation Increases for Defense attorneys Assigned by State Public Defender Office Supported
  - D. Sawyer County Resolution 2018-31 Urging the State of Wisconsin to provide the resources to fully staff the Sawyer County District Attorney's Office
  - E. Jackson County 50-10-2018 Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System
6. New Business
  - A. Youth in Governance – Bev Baker will report on ongoing recruitment, handbook and project updates.
  - B. Consideration of Draft Resolution No. 2018-XX by The Government Services Committee In support Of State Legislation addressing Tax Avoidance Strategies Used by Large Retailers that Disproportionately Burden Homeowners, Manufacturers, and Small Business Owners
7. Date of December meeting to be determined.
8. Adjournment

# GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2018

AUDITORIUM  
IVES GROVE OFFICE COMPLEX  
14200 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
STURTEVANT, WISCONSIN 53177

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Chairman Bernberg called the meeting of the Government Services Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was attended by Supervisors: Wisch, Maier, Hillery, Roanhouse, Kaprelian-Becker and Youth Rep Reschke.

Excused: None

Absent: Supervisor Kramer and Youth Rep Cafferty.

Also attending were Jen Reese and Bev Baker from UW Extension.

## **#1 – Public Comments**

None.

## **#2 – Chairman Bernberg Comments**

Chairman Bernberg stated members Supervisor Kramer and Youth Rep Cafferty were absent.

## **#3 – Approval of Minutes from previous meeting(s)**

**Action:** To approve the minutes from the September 4, 2018 meeting as printed.

**Motion passed.** Moved: Supervisor Hillery. Seconded: Supervisor Maier. Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. Youth Vote: Aye.

## **#4 Old Business**

Laid over from Sept 4, 2018 meeting. Pepin County Resolution No. 20-18 Support for HR 54.29-SIREN Act of 2018. **Action:** To defer discussion of Pepin County Resolution No. 20-18. **Motion passed.** Moved: Supervisor Kaprelian-Becker. Seconded: Supervisor Hillery. Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. Youth Vote: Aye.

## **#4B. Email letters of thanks from Governor Walker and State Representative Samantha Kerkman**

**Action:** To receive and file email letters. **Motion passed.** Moved: Supervisor Hillery. Seconded: Supervisor Kaprelian-Becker. Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. Youth Vote: Aye.

## **#5A. New Business**

## **Sheriff's Office Representative to speak regarding Resolution No. 2018-XX Acceptance of a State of Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management (WEM) Mobile Field Force Equipment Grant in the amount of \$8,304.00**

Racine County Captain Daniel Adams addressed the committee and answered questions. The grant will allow the purchase of 15 kits used for crowd control. Of the six municipalities participating the City of Racine will not be taking any of the kits now, each of the remaining municipalities will get 2-3 kits each. The kits are used when there is a need for crowd control in this county or when called upon by neighboring agencies. There are no plans to buy more kits for perhaps 3-4 years. **Action:** To approve Resolution 2018-XX and refer it for first reading to the County Board at the meeting on October 9, 2018. **Motion passed.** Moved: Supervisor Wisch. Seconded: Supervisor Maier. Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. Youth Vote: Aye.

## **#5B. Youth in Governance-Jen Reese will give an Annual Report (2017-2018), Handbook Updates, and Youth Project.**

Jen Reese distributed handouts to the committee including the YIG handbook for 2018-2019, the Program Report for the 2017-2018 Group 4 and the Youth in Governance Bus Tour Reflection from Group 5. Discussion was held and questions taken regarding both the program report and bus tour. For the benefit of the newest supervisors on the committee the annual nomination process was discussed; how they become nominated and are invited to apply; how the applications are scored and youth then invited to interview. Ms. Reese informed the committee that ten counties in Wisconsin are compiling data from former student participants after they have graduated. That data will be brought back to the Government Service committees in each county for their use. Ms. Reese presented the ideas that came from the group regarding a group project. When they met at the marina they compiled 6 ideas or directions and requested feedback from the committee which Ms. Reese noted. The committee further discussed the annual tour portion for the youth serving as representatives. It has previously been a mandatory part of the program. After discussion was held it was decided that absence from the tour will be handled on a case by case basis going forward.

Bev Baker left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

## **#6 Date of next meeting**

No decision was made on the next meeting date of the committee

**#7 Adjournment Action:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. **Motion passed.** Moved: Supervisor Wisch. Seconded: Supervisor Hillery. Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. Youth Vote: Aye.

Resolution No. 2018-63

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING



DOOR COUNTY

TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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

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

DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JANUARY 2018  
10:00 AM



**DOOR COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION 2018-63**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED  
COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING**

| ROLL CALL<br>Board Members | Aye | Nay | Exc. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| AUSTAD                     |     |     |      |
| BACON                      |     |     |      |
| BULTMAN                    |     |     |      |
| CHOMEAU                    |     |     |      |
| D. ENGLEBERT               |     |     |      |
| R. ENGLEBERT               |     |     |      |
| ENIGL                      |     |     |      |
| FISHER                     |     |     |      |
| GUNNLAUGSSON               |     |     |      |
| HALSTEAD                   |     |     |      |
| KOCH                       |     |     |      |
| KOHOUT                     |     |     |      |
| LIENAU                     |     |     |      |
| LUNDAHL                    |     |     |      |
| NEINAS                     |     |     |      |
| NORTON                     |     |     |      |
| ROBILLARD                  |     |     |      |
| SCHULTZ                    |     |     |      |
| VIRLEE                     |     |     |      |
| VLIES WOTACHEK             |     |     |      |
| WAIT                       |     |     |      |

**BOARD ACTION**  
Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

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Motion to Approve: \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted  Defeated

1st Norton 2nd Bultman

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exc: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Administrator

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution. MEJ

**Certification:**

I, Jill M. Lau, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 27th day of September, 2018 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.

Jill M. Lau  
County Clerk, Door County

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**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 Door County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Door County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and each of Wisconsin's seventy two counties for consideration.

**SUBMITTED BY:  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

David Lienau, Chair

Ken Fisher

Dan Austad

Joel Gunnlaugsson

Susan Kohout

John Neinas

Nancy Robillard



**DOOR COUNTY**

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**Resolution No. 2018-64**

**IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING THE COMPENSATION FOR DEFENSE COUNSEL APPOINTED BY THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE**

**TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

| ROLL CALL Board Members | Aye | Nay | Exc. |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| AUSTAD                  |     |     |      |
| BACON                   |     |     |      |
| BULTMAN                 |     |     |      |
| CHOMEAU                 |     |     |      |
| D. ENGLEBERT            |     |     |      |
| R. ENGLEBERT            |     |     |      |
| ENIGL                   |     |     |      |
| FISHER                  |     |     |      |
| GUNNLAUGSSON            |     |     |      |
| HALSTEAD                |     |     |      |
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| NEINAS                  |     |     |      |
| NORTON                  |     |     |      |
| ROBILLARD               |     |     |      |
| SCHULTZ                 |     |     |      |
| VIRLEE                  |     |     |      |
| VLIES WOTACHEK          |     |     |      |
| WAIT                    |     |     |      |

**BOARD ACTION**

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

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Motion to Approve      Adopted

1st Robillard      Defeated

2nd Vlies Wotachek

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exc: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Administrator

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution. MEJ

**Certification:**

I, Jill M. Lau, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.

Jill M. Lau  
Jill M. Lau  
County Clerk, Door County

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

3  
4      **WHEREAS**, The Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office ("SPD") provides  
5      legal representation to the indigent, utilizing staff attorneys as well as (about 40%  
6      of the time) private attorneys certified to take SPD appointments to handle conflict  
7      and overflow cases; and

8  
9      **WHEREAS**, In May, 2018, The Wisconsin Supreme Court increased, effective  
10     January, 2020, the hourly rate of pay for county-funded, court-appointed, attorneys  
11     from \$70 to \$100 per hour; and

12  
13     **WHEREAS**, The rate of pay for state-funded SPD appointments is \$40 per  
14     hour, has not been increased since 1995, and is the lowest in the nation; and

15  
16     **WHEREAS**, The pay for state-funded SPD appointments is so low that it has  
17     been and is hard to find private attorneys willing to accept such appointments in  
18     many counties, resulting in some persons charged with crimes sitting in jail for  
19     weeks while they waited for legal representation.

20  
21     **WHEREAS**, The disparity in pay (i.e., the decision to increase pay for county-  
22     funded attorneys, but not state-funded SPD appointments) will lead private  
23     attorneys to refuse state-funded SPD assignments and instead hold out for county-  
24     funded, court-appointed, assignments; and

25  
26     **WHEREAS**, A greater share of the cost of indigent defense is going to fall on  
27     the counties, resulting in (what may reasonably be viewed as) an unfunded  
28     mandate.

29  
30     **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Door County Board of  
31     Supervisors does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources  
32     to the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office to ensure the criminal justice  
33     system operates effectively and efficiently, including increasing the rate of pay for  
34     state-funded SPD appointments to \$100 per hour and tie future increases to the  
35     rate of inflation.

36  
37     **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the County Clerk is directed to send a copy  
38     of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Counties Association,  
39     the Wisconsin Towns Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, all  
40     members of the State Legislature representing Door County, and to each Wisconsin  
41     County.  
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SUBMITTED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

David Lienau  
David Lienau, Chair

Ken Fisher  
Ken Fisher

Dan Austad  
Dan Austad

Joel Gunnlaugsson  
Joel Gunnlaugsson

Susan Kohout  
Susan Kohout

John Neinas  
John Neinas

Nancy Robillard  
Nancy Robillard

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# DOUGLAS COUNTY COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

Mark Liebaert  
1316 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street • Suite 301  
Superior, WI 54880  
(715) 395-1493 Home (715) 398-5234 Fax (715) 395-1312

**DOUGLAS COUNTY  
MISSION STATEMENT**  
The mission of Douglas County is to provide cost-effective services, with equal access to all citizens; to continue and enhance partnerships; to responsibly manage our resources and plan for the future.

September 24, 2018

**TO:** Governor Scott Walker                      WI Supreme Court  
         WI State Public Defender's Office        WI Towns Association  
         Wisconsin Counties Association        League of WI Municipalities  
         Wisconsin State Legislators           All Wisconsin Counties

**SUBJECT:** Douglas County, Wisconsin - Resolution #55-18  
                 Compensation Increases for Defense Attorneys Assigned by State Public  
                 Defender Office Supported

Attached is above referenced Resolution #55-18, certified and adopted by the Douglas County Board of Supervisors at their September 20, 2018, meeting.

Your support for the intent of this Resolution is appreciated.

Best regards,

//Mark Liebaert, Chair  
Douglas County Board of Supervisors  
mark.liebaert@douglascountywi.org

ML/pt

Enclosure

10 SEP 26 AM 9:34

| Roll Call  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| District Number  | Yes | No |
| 1. Pomush  |     |    |
| 2. White   |     |    |
| 3. Finn  |     |    |
| 4. Clark   |     |    |
| 5. Baker   |     |    |
| 6. Leino   |     |    |
| 7. Glazman   |     |    |
| 8. Raunio  |     |    |
| 9. Jaques  |     |    |
| 10. Quam   |     |    |
| 11. Finendale  |     |    |
| 12. Lear   |     |    |
| 13. Allen  |     |    |
| 14. Ryan   |     |    |
| 15. Hendrickson  |     |    |
| 16. Luostaril  |     |    |
| 17. Liebaert   |     |    |
| 18. Moen   |     |    |
| 19. Long   |     |    |
| 20. Borgeson   |     |    |
| 21. Bergman  |     |    |
| Roll:<br>Ayes _____<br>Noes _____<br>Absent _____<br>Abstain _____<br><br>Passed <u>  X  </u><br>Lost _____<br>Refer _____<br>Amend _____<br>Other _____ |     |    |
| Rev. 04-17-18  |     |    |

**RESOLUTION #55-18  
RESOLUTION BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Subject: Compensation Increases for Defense Attorneys Assigned  
by State Public Defender Office Supported**

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage of criminal defense attorneys in Douglas County, and

WHEREAS, State Public Defender appointed private bar attorneys regularly travel over 100 miles, one way, to represent Douglas County clients, and

WHEREAS, the lack of defense attorneys is causing excessive delays and inefficiencies for the Douglas County criminal justice system, including but not limited to excess pre-trial confinement in the Douglas County Jail, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of Douglas County, the Douglas County circuit court judges are being forced to appoint private attorneys to represent individuals at the expense of the citizens of Douglas County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender ensuring the criminal justice system is operated effectively and efficiently thereby protecting the constitutional rights of its citizens, including increasing the rate of reimbursement for private attorneys appointed by the Public Defender to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are handled in a timely, efficient and competent manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Governor, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the Wisconsin State Public Defender, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, all Wisconsin state legislators, and each Wisconsin county.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.  
(Committee Action: Unanimous)  
(Fiscal Note: None)

**ACTION:** Motion by Pomush, second Lear, to adopt. Motion carried.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

)SS:

COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

I hereby certify that this resolution is a true  
and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the  
Douglas County Board of Supervisors on

9-20-18

*Susan T. Sandvick*  
Susan T. Sandvick, County Clerk



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Resolution 2018-31

Urging the State of Wisconsin to provide the resources to fully staff the Sawyer County District Attorney's Office

**WHEREAS**, the public demands law enforcement to effectively and efficiently pursue prosecution of crime on behalf of victims; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet that demand, there must be sufficient attorneys to review each referral in detail and seek the appropriate legal response; and,

**WHEREAS**, the total number of cases filed by the Sawyer County District Attorney's Office has always increased over the last five years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the total number of complex felony cases have more than doubled over that same five year time period; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 Caseload Study reports Sawyer County should have 4.34 full-time staff attorneys; and

**WHEREAS**, Sawyer County has two full-time attorneys, thus being staffed at 46.11%; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to fully staff the Sawyer County District Attorney's Office, ensuring continued efficient and effective prosecution of crime on behalf of victims and citizens; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County.

Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Public Safety Committee this 20th day of September, 2018.

Wm. R. Voight - Chair  
Bill Voight, Chairman

James Schlender  
James Schlender, Vice-Chairman

Helen Dennis  
Helen Dennis, Member

Ron Buckholtz  
Ron Buckholtz, Member

Dale Schleeter  
Dale Schleeter, Member

SEP 21 9:06 AM

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RESOLUTION 50-10-2018

ORIGINAL

TO: The Honorable Jackson County Board of Supervisors

RE: 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 Services 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

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.

ORIGINAL

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board of Supervisors 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties.

Respectfully Submitted,

DHHS Committee

Executive and Finance Committee

Ron Carney  
Chairman

Greg Barron  
Chairman

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Ron Carney

I HEREBY CERTIFY

RESOLUTION # 50-10-2018  
WAS ADOPTED ON October 15, 2018  
BY JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

[Signature]  
KYLE DENO, JACKSON COUNTY CLERK

YES 18 NO 8

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION ADDRESSING TAX AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES USED BY LARGE RETAILERS THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY BURDEN HOMEOWNERS, MANUFACTURERS, AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

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

**WHEREAS**, generally, non-manufacturing property tax assessment is determined by a local assessor using statewide assessment practices prescribed by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and based on a property's market value, followed by aggregate review and "equalization" at the state level; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Legislative Council recognizes that Wisconsin courts have grappled with questions relating to the extent to which a lease affects a property's market value, if any, and in what circumstances vacant properties should be used as points of comparison for commercial properties; and

**WHEREAS**, large retail operations commonly use a commercial property valuation theory known as the "Dark Store Method" to generate property tax reductions by contesting assessments on the basis that the assessed value of a new store in an economically successful location should reflect the market price sales comparisons from unoccupied retail establishments; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of unoccupied retail establishments as comparable sites by large retailers when contesting yearly property tax assessments prompts difficult questions for consideration yet also results in less revenue for local municipalities, which, in turn, forces local municipalities to shift the property tax burden to its citizens and/or make cuts in local services; and

**WHEREAS**, homeowners in Wisconsin already pay 70% of the total statewide property tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, with increasing numbers of property tax challenges, that disproportionate burden may worsen unless the Legislature addresses and brings uniformity to property tax assessment practices; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of clarity on this complex issue puts municipalities in the unenviable position of choosing whether to settle with large retailers challenging property tax valuations or enduring costly litigation, while maintaining an environment that fosters economic growth and investment from the business community; and

**WHEREAS**, the power to determine the appropriate methodology for valuing property for taxation purposes lies with the Legislature;

2  
3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of  
4 Supervisors joins those interested parties from various perspectives that have  
5 advocated a need for general clarification and uniformity in the appropriate methodology  
6 for valuing property in a way that simultaneously accounts for the unique real property  
7 needs of large retailers and reduces the volume of costly litigation for all parties, while  
8 also addressing the burden property tax avoidance strategies commonly employed by  
9 large retailers disproportionately place on homeowners, manufacturers, and small  
10 business owners; and

11  
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of Supervisors  
13 expresses its support for legislation that appropriately factors leases into the valuation  
14 of properties and, when using the sales comparison method of valuation, principally  
15 relies on those sales most comparable to the subject property and that exhibit a similar  
16 highest and best use, rather than unoccupied retail establishments; and

17  
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is hereby directed to  
19 transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, Racine County's Legislative  
20 Representatives, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

21  
22  
23 Respectfully submitted,

24 **Government Services Committee**

25 1st Reading \_\_\_\_\_

26  
27 2nd Reading \_\_\_\_\_

28  
29 **BOARD ACTION**

30 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

31 For \_\_\_\_\_

32 Against \_\_\_\_\_

33 Absent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Bernberg, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Roanhouse, Vice-Chairman

34  
35 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Kaprelian-Becker, Secretary

36  
37 Prepared by:  
38 Corporation Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Wisch

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Maier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Kramer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric C. Hillery

1 Page Three

2

3 **The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of**  
4 **Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:**

5 **Approved: \_\_\_\_\_**

6 **Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_**

7

8 **Date: \_\_\_\_\_,**

9

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 **Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive**

DRF