

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-60**

**ORDINANCE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AMENDING “DIVISION 3. – OTHER PROVISIONS,” AND CREATING “DIVISION 4. – TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN GOVERNMENT,” WITHIN CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE V., DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, OF THE RACINE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES**

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

**WHEREAS**, in the annual State of the County address, delivered May 26, 2020, Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave issued a call to action for the establishment of an ordinance implementing the principles of transparency; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2020, the County Executive’s administration launched [racinecounty.com/StateOfTheCounty](http://racinecounty.com/StateOfTheCounty), incorporating a dashboard for transparency, performance monitoring, reporting, planning, accountability, and policy-making in county government; and

**WHEREAS**, the principle of transparency forms the cornerstone of an open government and promotes accountability and civic engagement by providing current, reliable information on government processes with measurable outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, with this ordinance, Racine County resolves to continuously improve the quality of the data it collects and the analysis and accessibility of that data devoid of racial and socioeconomic bias to better measure, assess, and understand the impact of budgetary and strategic expenditures of taxpayer dollars, staffing, and other resources relative to the quality, availability, impact, and equity of services rendered for and on behalf of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Racine does ordain as follows:

Division 3. Within Chapter 2 – Administration, Article V., Departments, Divisions, Officers and Employees, of the Racine County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended in pertinent part to read as follows:

**Secs. 2-306 – 2-349. – Reserved.**

Division 4. – “Transparency and Open Government,” within Chapter 2 – Administration, Article V., Departments, Divisions, Officers and Employees, of the Racine County Code of Ordinances is hereby created to read as follows:

**DIVISION 4. – TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN GOVERNMENT**

**Sec. 2-350. – Declaration of policy.**

In recognition of the fact that a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be the policy of Racine County that it embraces

4 transparency and the Racine County government is directed to implement the principle  
5 of transparency. Transparency forms the cornerstone of an open government and  
6 promotes accountability and civic engagement by providing current, reliable information  
7 on government processes with measurable outcomes. Racine County declares its  
8 resolve to continuously improve the quality of data it collects and the analysis and  
9 accessibility of that data devoid of racial and socioeconomic bias to better understand,  
10 assess, and measure the impact of budgetary and strategic expenditures of taxpayer  
11 dollars, staffing, and other resources relative to the quality, availability, impact, and  
12 equity of services rendered for and on behalf of the community. The Racine County  
13 government shall seek to employ innovative tools and practices that create new and  
14 easier methods for public engagement. To implement and ensure the public policy  
15 herein expressed, the Racine County government is directed to embrace certain goals  
16 set forth herein.

17 **Sec. 2-351. – Organize, filter, and publish performance data in open formats.**

18 The Racine County government shall endeavor to expand timely access to  
19 performance data that tracks taxpayer investments by organizing, filtering, and  
20 publishing such data in open formats that can be downloaded and searched subject to  
21 valid privacy, confidentiality, security, or other restrictions. The objective of organizing,  
22 filtering, and publishing performance data in open formats is to provide an easy  
23 accessible place to view information about Racine County government and its  
24 operations, initiatives, and important topics that impact the community. Performance  
25 data may come in many forms such as dashboards, financial reports, grant funded  
26 projects, and documents/policies aimed at empowering the public and for transparent  
27 and accountable decision-making.

28 **Sec. 2-352. – Improve the quality, analysis, and utilization of data for transparent  
29 and accountable governance.**

30 Data science in government deals with the extraction, interpretation,  
31 presentation, and use of insights from data and it is critical to bridging the gap between  
32 the government and the public. The Racine County government shall endeavor to  
33 combine and continuously improve its use of data science by locating quality data,  
34 gaining in-depth knowledge of statistics and data analytics, defining performance goals,  
35 integrating various professional disciplines within the government such as policy, legal,  
36 procurement, finance, and technology operations, and measuring the success of  
37 government expenditures and programs based upon the quality, availability, impact, and  
38 equity of services rendered for and on behalf of the community.

39 **Secs. 2-353 – 2-419. – Reserved.**

40  
41 Respectfully submitted,  
42 1st Reading \_\_\_\_\_ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
43  
44  
45

1 Ordinance No. 2020-60  
2 Page Three

3  
4

5 2nd Reading \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas E. Roanhouse, Chairman

7 BOARD ACTION

8 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Kramer, Vice Chairman

9 For \_\_\_\_\_

10 Against \_\_\_\_\_

11 Absent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert N. Miller, Secretary

13 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

14  
15 Prepared by:  
16 Corporation Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert D. Grove

17  
18

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

19  
20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rusty Russell Clark

21  
22

\_\_\_\_\_  
Q.A. Shakoor, II

23  
24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Kaprelian

25  
26

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Hincz

27  
28

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald J. Trottier

29  
30

31  
32

33  
34

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

37 **Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

38 **Vetoed:** \_\_\_\_\_

39  
40

41 **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_,

42

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive

43