

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-35

RESOLUTION BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PERMIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MORE USE OF INTERNET WEB SITES FOR MANDATED PUBLICATION OF NOTICES, ADVERTISEMENTS, AND RECORDS OF GOVERNMENTAL PROCEEDINGS

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

WHEREAS, during the period 2007 through 2010, the Office of the Racine County Clerk spent, on average, more than \$22,800 per year for newspaper publication costs, the great majority of which was due to publication of County Board minutes; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, in addition to costs of publishing County Board minutes, Racine County spent over \$91,800 in newspaper publication and advertising costs, including more than \$22,100 for election notices and inserts and more than \$4,300 for the County Treasurer's notice of unclaimed funds; and

WHEREAS, since before achieving statehood 163 years ago, Wisconsin has required that various notices, advertisements, and records of proceedings of local governments be published in newspapers of general circulation, even though, in recent years, the percentage of persons receiving their news from print media, including newspapers, has substantially declined; and

WHEREAS, notices, advertisements, and records of proceedings published on web sites are available to any person who has Internet access through private or public sources (e.g., libraries) at any time of day or night and on an ongoing basis, without having to guess which edition of a newspaper might contain the information being sought; and

WHEREAS, although previous bills to permit substitution of Internet postings for newspaper publication have not passed, two companion bills now before the State Legislature - Assembly Bill (AB) 45 and Senate Bill (SB) 37 - would permit county treasurers to reduce costs by using Internet postings in lieu of, or as supplements to, newspaper publication; and

WHEREAS, increased use of Internet postings of governmental activities not only saves money for its citizens, but also makes government more accessible to them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that it calls upon the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor to enact AB 45/SB 37 and other legislation to permit increased use of Internet web sites for mandated publication of notices, advertisements, and records of local government proceedings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin, to Racine County's state legislative delegation, and to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin County Clerks Association, and Wisconsin County Treasurers Association.

Respectfully submitted,

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

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

1  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Russell A. Clark, Chairman

4 BOARD ACTION  
5 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
6 For \_\_\_\_\_  
7 Against \_\_\_\_\_  
8 Absent \_\_\_\_\_  
9

10 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Joseph Bellante, III

12  
13 Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Corporation Counsel Katherine Buske

15  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 Mark M. Gleason

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19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Kenneth Hall

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Kenneth Lumpkin

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

27 **Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

28 **Vetoed:** \_\_\_\_\_

29  
30 **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_,

31  
32 \_\_\_\_\_  
33 **James A. Ladwig, County Executive**