

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-31

RESOLUTION BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT ON THE SEPTEMBER 2010 BALLOT OF AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM QUESTION WITH REGARD TO AMENDMENT OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT DIVERSIONS FROM THE STATE TRANSPORTATION FUND

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

WHEREAS, since 2003, the State of Wisconsin has transferred more than \$1.2 billion from its segregated transportation fund to the general fund and has only partially replaced that amount with funds from General Obligation (GO) bonds, thereby reducing the amount available for transportation purposes by more than \$400 million; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's practice of transferring money from the segregated transportation fund to the general fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees" paid through the state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their intended transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the state's segregated transportation fund with GO bonds puts our state in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, a November 2009 report issued by the Pew Center on the States singled out Wisconsin as having one of the ten worst budget situations among the 50 states and specifically cited transferring money from the transportation fund to fund ongoing operations as one of the practices that have put Wisconsin in such a difficult position; and

WHEREAS, the debt service for these bonds will have to be paid for out of the state's general fund, which will hinder its future ability to fund other programs, such as Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and courts; and

WHEREAS, although gasoline taxes and vehicle registration fees constitute over 90% of the state's segregated transportation account, revenues from those two sources have been declining and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component in its ability to attract and retain business and produce jobs; and

WHEREAS, a number of states, including our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio, already have provisions in their state constitutions to prevent diversion of transportation funds to non-transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Racine County deserve the right to have their voices heard on this important issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the following question will be put to the voters of Racine County in an advisory referendum during the September 14, 2010 primary election:

Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to cause a copy of the Notice of Referendum to be published in the county’s official newspaper as required by law; and

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

Respectfully submitted,

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

1st Reading _____

2nd Reading _____

BOARD ACTION

Adopted _____

For _____

Against _____

Absent _____

Russell A. Clark, Chairman

Mike Dawson, Vice-Chairman

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Gaynell Dyess, Secretary

Gilbert Bakke

Prepared by:
Corporation Counsel

Mark M. Gleason

Kenneth Hall

Kenneth Lumpkin

John A. Wisch

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

Approved: _____

Vetoed: _____

Date: _____,

William L. McReynolds, County Executive