Resolution No. 43 - 09/19
Requesting Elimination of the 0% Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties

Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Section 66.0602 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602 limits that increase to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year’s actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; and,

WHEREAS, the percentage of net new construction in Walworth County used to calculate the increase in the operating levy allowance has significantly lagged the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over this period; and,

WHEREAS, as a result, Walworth County has been forced to absorb inflationary increases in normal operating expenditures with no offsetting increase in revenues; and,

WHEREAS, unexpected increases in the expenditures for certain items, particularly unfunded mandates such as the cost of Child Protective Services, has compounded this issue; and,

WHEREAS, Walworth County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs and reducing program offerings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors requests complete elimination of the current 0% tax levy cap or replacing it with a levy allowance that adequately reflects the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, state legislators representing Walworth County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Nancy Russell
County Board Chair

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: September 3, 2019

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote Other

This Resolution/Ordinance was: Adopted Roll Call/U.C. Voice
Rejected/Referred/Laid Over

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Date September 3, 2019
Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

David A. Bretl  7/19/19  Jessica Conley  7/19/19
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel  Date  Finance Director  Date

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.