

**REQUEST ELIMINATION OF THE 0% LEVY CAP  
IMPOSED ON WISCONSIN COUNTIES**

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village and county property tax levies under Wisconsin Statute § 66.0602; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Statute § 66.0602 limits that increase to the local property 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 Pepin 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 Pepin 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, had compounded this issue; and

**WHEREAS**, Pepin County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, eliminating positions, limiting employee wage increases, reducing program offerings and postponing necessary work on highway infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, to continue to provide essential services to County citizens, Pepin County has resorted to using debt to fund qualified expenditures previously funded in its operating levy resulting in a higher cost to the Pepin County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, Pepin County will be unable to continue to retain staff, maintain highways and provide essential services without additional levy funding.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pepin County Board of Supervisors requests the 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 directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Pepin County and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) for consideration at the WCA annual business meeting to become part of the WCA platform.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:**

  
Steven L. Anderson, Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE  
4 0 1 0  
In favor Oppose Absent Abstain

**FISCAL IMPACT REVIEWED** – Impact and challenges are noted above.

  
Finance Director

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommend Not Recommended

**COUNTY BOARD ACTION:**

X ADOPTED  
\_\_\_\_ DEFEATED  
\_\_\_\_ TABLED

by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of Sept., 2019  
In favor 12 Oppose 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

  
County Clerk

  
County Board Chair