

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2  
3 Date of enactment: 6/13/18  
4 Date of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

5  
6 **2018 RESOLUTION 16**

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8 **Support for Legislation to Create a Statewide Library System**

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10 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s public library system law to provide funding for coordinated  
11 regional library services went into effect in 1971; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the public library system law is to make quality library  
14 resources and services readily available to all of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and to  
15 promote the development and improvement of public libraries in order to encourage the most  
16 effective use of library resources in the state; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin currently has 17 public library systems serving 5.6 million people  
19 through approximately 388 public libraries; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, in the last year alone, Washington County subsidized other counties' libraries  
22 in the amount of \$134,877; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, such subsidies which are prevalent throughout the state amount to a backdoor  
25 tax; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, changes in society, resources, and technologies have created new demands  
28 and opportunities for public library systems to meet the needs of the people they serve; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, in light of these changes, there is a need to update, modernize, and redesign  
31 Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes addressing the operation of libraries in order to keep libraries  
32 viable and relevant in today’s changing world; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, Washington County strongly urges the creation of a separate and independent  
35 committee from the Public Library Redesign Project to explore merging each of the state’s library  
36 systems into one statewide system would result in libraries having access to a larger total collection  
37 of materials which could be shared across the system, lower overhead cost by eliminating  
38 duplicative services and unnecessary facilities, and by achieving better pricing due to volume, thus  
39 saving Wisconsin taxpayers a significant amount of money;

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41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of  
42 Supervisors that this Board seeks the support of the Wisconsin Counties Association to take this  
43 objective before the Wisconsin Legislature.

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45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington County Clerk shall send a copy of  
46 this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Resolution seeking the support of the Wisconsin Counties Association to support legislation to create one statewide library system.

APPROVED: Introduced by members of the EXECUTIVE  
(signed by Bradley S. Stern) COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.

Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney

Dated 6/13/18 (signed by Donald A. Kriefall)  
Donald A. Kriefall, Chairperson

Considered 6/13/18

Adopted 6/13/18

Ayes 23 Noes 1 Absent 2

Voice Vote \_\_\_\_\_

(There is currently no direct fiscal impact to the County from this resolution. An indirect fiscal impact would include a reduced tax burden to Washington County taxpayers.)