

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2  
3 Date of enactment: 2/13/19  
4 Date of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

5 **VOTE**

6 **2018 RESOLUTION 74**

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8 **Advisory Resolution in Support of Updating Statutory Provisions for Bidding**  
9 **Requirements, County’s Ability to Utilize Design-Build Construction Method and**  
10 **Public Private Partnerships**

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12 **WHEREAS**, the legislature could make three crucial reforms to ensure competition and  
13 efficiency within county public works projects: increased bidding thresholds, authorized design-  
14 build construction method, and improved public private partnership (P3) statutes; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, after decades of bidding thresholds of \$25,000, last session Senate Bill 236  
17 would have increased bidding thresholds for all local governments and passed the State Senate on  
18 a bi-partisan voice vote, but failed to pass in the State Assembly; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, with an increased bidding threshold to \$50,000, Washington County could  
21 perform maintenance and other small projects on a quicker timeline; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, additionally, while the State of Wisconsin may utilize the advantages of the  
24 design-build construction method on state-controlled building projects, Wisconsin counties are not  
25 authorized to use the method for construction projects; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, under the design-build construction method, counties could contract with a  
28 single entity to provide both the design and the construction of a public work project as opposed  
29 to having those projects bid separately; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, other advantages of design-build include enhanced creativity, guaranteed  
32 costs, faster project completion, improved risk management, fewer change orders and less  
33 administrative burden; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, in addition to reforms to bidding threshold and design-build, the legislature  
36 could look to several Public-Private Partnership (P3s) models which exist throughout the nation  
37 on public works projects; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, P3s are forward thinking and are used as a method to offer solutions to  
40 financing and job completion while mitigating the risk of government funds; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, Washington County has looked for partnerships in public, private and quasi-  
43 governmental entities including Ozaukee County, City of West Bend, West Bend Mutual  
44 Insurance, Quad-Med, the History Center, and Fair Park; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, improved statutory language and a larger emphasis on P3s ensure taxpayer  
47 resources are spent competently; and

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**WHEREAS**, all three reforms are more tools into the belt of a “well administered and governed” county;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that it supports the concepts of Design-Build and Public Private Partnerships as long as competition in the marketplace is maintained.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of Supervisors supports legislation that increases bidding thresholds and ensures local governments play by the same bidding rules.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Office of the Governor, legislators representing Washington County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.



VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory Resolution supporting legislative changes regarding statutory bidding requirements, County's ability to utilize design-build construction method and public private partnerships.

APPROVED:	Introduced by members of the PUBLIC WORKS
(signed by Bradley S. Stern)	COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.
Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney	
Dated 2/18/19	(signed by John H. Bulawa)
Considered 2/13/19	John H. Bulawa, Chairperson
Adopted 2/13/19	
Ayes 24 Noes 0 Absent 2	
Voice Vote _____	

(Fiscal effect unknown at this time.)