VOTE

2018 RESOLUTION 16

Support for Legislation to Create a Statewide Library System

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in the last year alone, Washington County subsidized other counties’ libraries in the amount of $134,877; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association.
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 COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.
(signed by Bradley S. Stern)
Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney
Dated 6/14/18
(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.)