

RESOLUTION 2971

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

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. 66.0602; 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 years 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 Iron County used to calculate the increase in the operation levy allowance has significantly lagged the CPI-U over this period; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Iron 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 with Iron County borrowing over \$1,271,000.00 in 2018 to cover actual 2017 placement costs for both adults and children. Borrowing the funds allows Iron County to add this amount over the levy cap amount but interest was paid back to our local bank in the amount of over \$41,000.00. In early September Iron County will pay back the 2018 amount borrowed and then borrow the 2018 actual placement costs on the same day to be included in the 2020 budget levy.

WHEREAS, Iron County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, limiting employee wage increases and reducing program offerings; and

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

WHEREAS, Iron County does not wish to keep borrowing for placement costs and paying interest to our local bank.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iron 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; and

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, Senator Bewley, Representative Meyers and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Resolution adopted this 30th day of July, 2019.

BY:

ATTEST:


Joseph Pinardi, CHAIRMAN


Michael J. Saari, CLERK

