

RESOLUTION #R-40-17

**SUPPORT FOR STATE FUNDING TO HIRE MORE PROSECUTORS FOR COUNTY-BASED DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICES
WITHOUT COUNTING COUNTY-FUNDED POSITIONS WHEN ASSESSING NEED
OR DISTRIBUTING PROSECUTOR POSITIONS**

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin criminal justice system is made up of multiple entities, each of which depends upon the others to function efficiently; and when one part of the system is neglected, the entire system is impacted; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin's most recent Workload Analysis, covering 2012 to 2014, identifies a shortage of 140 prosecutor positions across the state; and

WHEREAS, rising workloads as a result of these unfunded positions leave prosecutors less time to work with crime victims, witnesses, and law enforcement officials; delays the resolution of cases; contributes to an environment that has resulted in high rates of prosecutor turnover; and has put tremendous strain on law enforcement, the courts, and other criminal justice system partners; and

WHEREAS, at least 14 Wisconsin Counties, including Marathon, are currently relying on other funding sources for additional prosecutors, including county tax levy, to fill the void created by inadequate state funding; and

WHEREAS, the State's Workload Analysis includes these non-state funded positions when reporting need across the state, creating the illusion that the State is doing a far better job than it actually is doing at funding the number of positions needed; and

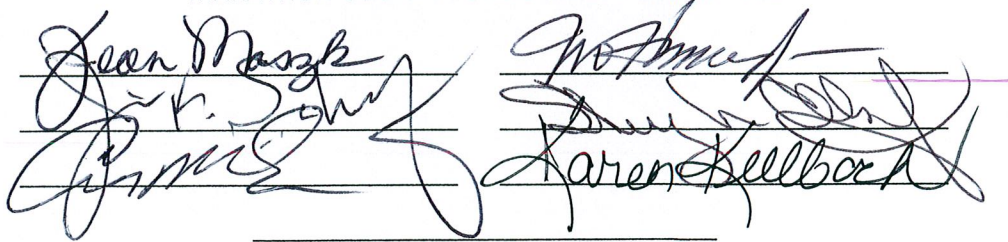
WHEREAS, the Legislature then utilizes the State's Workload Analysis when proposing the allocation of funding for new positions, putting counties that fund prosecutor positions at a further disadvantage when new positions are awarded; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Public Safety Committee has determined that inadequate State funding of prosecutor positions is detrimental to the administration of justice and the preservation of public safety in Marathon County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors calls upon the State of Wisconsin to address the shortage of prosecutors by distributing new prosecutor positions consistent with a revised Workload Analysis that does not count County-funded prosecutor positions when assessing need, as the current system is in crisis and compromises public safety.

Dated this 20th day of June, 2017 in Wausau, Wisconsin.

MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The image shows four handwritten signatures in black ink, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are arranged in two columns. The first column contains two signatures, and the second column contains two signatures. The signatures are stylized and difficult to read, but they appear to be the names of the committee members.

Fiscal Impact: None. However, the Marathon County District Attorney is currently in need of a new support position. If the State were to assume its proper role and fund one or all of the 2.5 prosecutor positions currently County-funded, that funding could be reallocated to fund the new position request, consistent with the County's role to provide support to the District Attorney and prosecutors.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Nan Kottke, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-40-17 was adopted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at their Adjourned Organizational meeting which was held June 20, 2017.

S E A L


Nan Kottke
Marathon County Clerk