

LANGLADE COUNTY



RESOLUTION #25-2018

INTRODUCED BY: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: SUPPORT FOR A SECOND CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE FOR LANGLADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, based upon the weighted caseload data filed with the Director of State Courts, Langlade County is currently ranked within the top 15 Counties for judicial need; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County is currently authorized for one circuit court judge, while the number of case filings in Langlade County Circuit Court has consistently warranted two judges; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that legislation will be introduced in the State Legislature to allocate additional judgeships in the 2018-2019 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the County Board failed to adopt a resolution in support of a second Judge and subsequently Langlade County was passed over from consideration when 10 new judges were created; and

WHEREAS, the County Board implemented other options to address the circuit court work load including, increasing support for a Court Commissioner from a 2% credit against judicial need in 2007 to approximately 13% (Statewide average is 15%), and established a state of the art hearing room in the Courthouse for use by the Court Commissioner and visiting Judges; and

WHEREAS, the number of case filings with the Langlade County Circuit Court have continued to increase, specifically felonies, CHIPS (children in need of protection and services) and juvenile cases; and

WHEREAS, the substance abuse epidemic has been cited as one of the driving forces behind the number of filings with the Circuit Court and a second judge would provide the judicial oversight needed for the effective implementation of treatment alternatives and diversion programs for cases involving substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the County Board understands that by supporting this resolution for a second Judge, it is advising the State that it is ready, willing and able to address the County's responsibilities to provide the financial support and resources, including the creation of additional support staff and facilities for a second branch of the circuit court.

WHEREAS, an additional judgeship is in the best interests of the Langlade County in order to provide an effective and efficient judiciary for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Circuit Court Judge and Court Reporter wages and benefits are paid by the State; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a second Judge is approved for Langlade County, then it is anticipated that the Circuit Court Support payment received from the State will also double (currently, \$52,000 per year); and

WHEREAS, the support of the Langlade County Board of Supervisors is required in order for Langlade County to remain in consideration for a second Judge in any Judicial Bill introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors to support the establishment of an additional Circuit Court Judge for the Langlade County Circuit Court by the Wisconsin Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Langlade County will support both space and personnel requirements as deemed necessary for support of a second circuit judge.

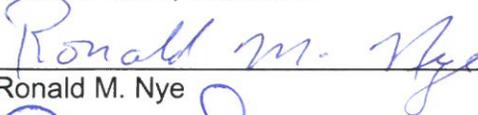
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if Langlade County is included in the judgeship bill, the County Board requests a one-year delay in the implementation, in order to adequately plan for space and personnel requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Director of State Courts, the Governor, and members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing Langlade County.

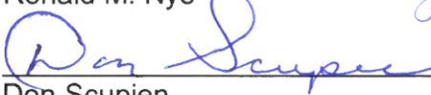
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



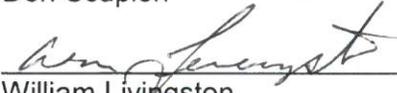
David J. Solin, Chairman



Ronald M. Nye



Don Scupien



William Livingston



Ben Pierce

FISCAL NOTE: If a new circuit court branch is created in Langlade County, the County would be responsible to provide and maintain the physical resources to support a second Judge (i.e., courtroom, judicial chambers, office for court reporter and judicial assistant, etc.) and to provide the additional staff needed to support the operation of a second branch of the Circuit Court, including but not limited to: a judicial assistant position, additional staff in the Clerk of Courts Office and the Register in Probate's Office.

The capital costs range from \$610,000 to \$2.5 million [Note: 2007 numbers from Res. 24-2007 fiscal note] to either renovate existing space, or construct a new facility.

The estimated 2019 wages and benefits for staffing a Second Circuit Court Branch with:

1 Full-Time Prosecuting Attorney

1 Full-Time Judicial Assistant

3 Full-Time Deputy Clerks

At 1820 hrs/year for each of the above positions equals: \$318,709, assuming family health insurance for all 5 positions.

2019 wages and benefits for staffing a Second Circuit Court Branch with:

1 Full-Time Prosecutor at 1820 hours/year, with family health insurance

1 Full-Time Judicial Assistant at 1820 hours/year, with family health insurance

1 Full-Time Deputy Clerk at 1820 hours/year, with family health insurance

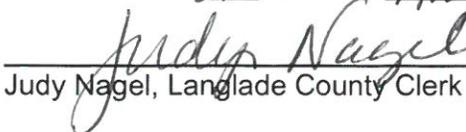
2 Part-Time Deputy Clerks at 920 hours/year each, with single health insurance

For the above positions, approximately \$263,181

2010 Res. 97-2010 fiscal note: \$750,000 to renovate County Board room; and even greater expense if remodel Courthouse.

2018 Estimated: unsure costs to remodel either second floor or third floor of Courthouse for a second branch of the Circuit Court. Unsure costs to relocate displaced offices. Personnel costs: (1) Judicial Assistant; (3) Court Clerks; (1) County Prosecutor listed above.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE COUNTY THIS 21ST DAY OF August, 2018.


Judy Nagel, Langlade County Clerk