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WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Date of enactment: 4-14-2021

Date of publication: 4-21-2021

2021 RESOLUTION 1

Advisory Resolution Supporting Legislation to Provide an Increase in Criminal and Ordinance Violation Surcharge

WHEREAS, County government implements a broad range of essential services, most of which are required by state law; and

WHEREAS, underfunded and unfunded state mandates are continually placing an increasing financial hardship on local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, as the portion of collected fees paid by counties to the state and retained by the county continues to be insufficient to keep pace with inflation and ever growing costs associated with the many mandated programs within the county court system; and

WHEREAS, the County's portion of the statutory clerk fees have not increased since at least 1991, traffic/forfeiture cases are set at \$20.00 and criminal court cases are set at \$163 while the clerk only retains \$9.99 of the total amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that this Board hereby supports legislation that would increase court costs in the amount of \$20 to be retained by the clerk of court for criminal and ordinance violations to align with a portion of the actual cost for courts to operate. This will ensure services implemented on behalf of the state at the circuit court level will more adequately provide resources and protect public safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board hereby directs the Washington County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to all Wisconsin Counties, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all state senators and assembly members representing Washington County constituents.

VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory resolution supporting legislation that would increase court costs in the amount of \$20 to be retained by the clerk of court for criminal and ordinance violations.

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Approved as to form:



Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney

Dated 4/15/2021

Approved:



Josh Schoemann, County Executive

Dated 19 Apr 21

Veto

Partial Veto

Introduced by members of the PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE, as filed with the County Clerk.



Christopher Bossert, Chairperson

Considered 4-14-2021

Adopted 4-14-2021

Ayes 23 Noes 1 Absent 2

Voice Vote _____

(No direct fiscal impact at this time. Should the advisory resolution result in a change in legislation as requested, the County could see additional revenues to cover court costs. Revenue increase will be dependent on the number of violations subject to these fees.)