

DIRECTING THE COUNTY CLERK TO PLACE THE REFERENDUM QUESTION CONTAINED IN THIS RESOLUTION REGARDING THE WISCONSIN 1849 ABORTION BAN LAW ON THE APRIL 4, 2023 SPRING ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS, A non-binding advisory referendum can gauge public opinion, and recent polling shows that Wisconsin voters find reproductive freedom to be one of their top issues, and widely support abortion rights and access; and

WHEREAS, Many counties across the State of Wisconsin are placing referendums regarding the 1849 ban on abortion law on their respective April general election ballots to gauge public opinion; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s 1849 Abortion Law states that abortion is illegal in all cases, including rape and incest, except where “advised by two other physicians as necessary, to save the life of the mother;” and

WHEREAS, In surrounding states such as Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan, access to abortion services is available and safe and protected by the law in each of their respective states; and

WHEREAS, In order to determine whether the people of Eau Claire County support or oppose the repeal of the 1849 law, the County Board may conduct a countywide advisory referendum, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 59.52(25), in the Spring Election on April 4, 2023

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors authorizes the following countywide advisory referendum be placed on the April 4, 2023 ballot:

Should the Wisconsin legislature repeal the state's 1849 abortion ban that provides no exceptions in cases of rape or incest nor to protect the health of the mother?

- Yes
- No

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the Governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

ADOPTED: January 17, 2023

Sue McDonald  
County Clerk