

**WASHBURN COUNTY CLERK**

P.O. Box 639 --- 10 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Shell Lake, Wisconsin 54871  
(715) 468-4600 Fax (715) 468-4725  
[www.co.washburn.wi.us](http://www.co.washburn.wi.us)

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**Lolita Olson, County Clerk**  
Rosie Hauk, Chief Deputy County Clerk  
Alicia Swearingen, Deputy County Clerk

Please consider this resolution from Washburn County as a topic of discussion for the WCA Legislative Exchange.

Thank you,

Washburn County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION # 2023-5

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE TO REVISE THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE TRANSFER FEES REVENUE SHARING FORMULA**

**TO THE WASHBURN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

WHEREAS, the collection by counties of real estate transfer fee was mandated by the State of Wisconsin in 1969, and included a requirement that counties remit 50% of all transfer fees collected to the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 the State arbitrarily changed the transfer fee formula to now require counties to remit to the State 80% of all transfer fees collected; and

WHEREAS, the County through the Register of Deeds office assumes the annual operating costs of recording all real estate transfers occurring in Washburn County, including the collection of real estate fees; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Washburn County collected \$559,008.90 in real estate transfer fees with the County's 20% retained share totaling \$111,801.78 and was required to remit 80% or \$447,207.12 to the State; and

WHEREAS, Washburn County real estate transfer fees collections as averaged over the past five years totaled \$2,211,467.10 of which the County retained \$442,293.42; and over that same period \$1,769,173.68 was remitted to the State; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the State of Wisconsin has built up a budget surplus of approximately \$2.5 billion dollars, while many Wisconsin counties continue to struggle financially due to the ever-increasing costs of providing county government services in an inflationary economy, coupled with the financial restrictions imposed by State mandated levy limits; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to financially assist all Wisconsin Counties, Washburn County requests that the State of Wisconsin return the real estate transfer fee share formula to again allow Wisconsin Counties to retain 50% of all total real estate transfer fees collected, with 50% to be remitted to the State.

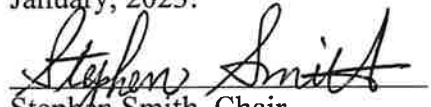
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors in session this 17th day of January, 2023 that we hereby request that the State of Wisconsin revise the real estate transfer fee share formula to again allow Wisconsin Counties to retain 50% of all real estate transfer fees collected, with 50% to be remitted to the State.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE TO REVISE THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE TRANSFER FEES REVENUE SHARING FORMULA**

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the State Legislature representing Washburn County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties.

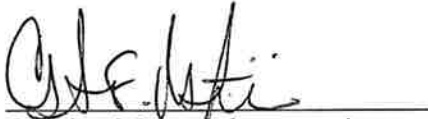
**FISCAL IMPACT: \$666,440.13 over five years**

Recommended for adoption by the Washburn County Finance Committee this 5th day of January, 2023 and approved by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of January, 2023.

  
Stephen Smith, Chair

  
Dave Wilson, Vice-Chair

  
Linda Featherly, Member

  
Cristina Masterjohn, Member

  
Scott Roppe, Member

Motion: S. Smith Second: J. Hoy  
(Voiced) (Roll) vote: Yes 20 No 0

I, Lolita Olson, as County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the County of Washburn at the meeting held on: 1-17-2023

