

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Sandra Disrud, Register of Deeds  
INITIATED BY



3/13/2023  
DATE DRAFTED

**Requesting State of Wisconsin to Revise the Real Estate Transfer Fee Revenue Sharing Formula**

**WHEREAS**, the collection of a real estate transfer fee by counties 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 changed the transfer fee formula to require counties to remit 80% of all transfer fees collected to the State; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Rock County real estate transfer fee collections over the past five years totaled \$13,566,086, of which the County retained \$2,713,217 and \$10,852,869 was remitted to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, using a 50/50 split, the County's share of fees collected on local real estate transfers during that same five-year period would have provided an additional \$4,069,826 in support of local government; 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 and providing services for increasing unfunded state-mandated programs along with the financial restrictions imposed by State imposed levy limits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 23rd day of March, 2023 does hereby support a revision to 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.

FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact in and by itself.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.