

Resolution _____

Request Elimination of the 0% Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. §66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0602 limits that increase to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of net new construction in Price County used to calculate the increase in the operating levy allowance has significantly lagged the CPI-U over this period; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Price County has been forced to absorb inflationary increases in normal operating expenditures with no offsetting increase in revenues; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing costs of operations including effective employee recruitment and retention, maintenance materials, operating supplies and unfunded mandates such as Child Protective Services, the issue continues to escalate out of control; and

WHEREAS, Price County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, eliminating positions, reducing program offerings and postponing necessary work on building and highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, to continue to provide essential services to county citizens, Price County has resorted to using debt to fund qualified expenditures previously funded in its operating levy resulting in a higher cost to Price County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Price County will soon be unable to continue to fund operating levy by using debt; and

WHEREAS, the use of the referendum process to exceed the levy limit for normal operating and mandated costs presents an unacceptable risk for counties to be able to fund operations should such a referendum fail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors requests complete elimination of the current 0% tax levy cap or replacing it with a levy allowance that adequately reflects annual inflationary increases and the continual escalating cost of state mandated services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Price County and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration at the WCA annual business meeting to become part of the WCA platform.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee:

Alan Barkstrom, Chair

Brian Ernst

Jeffrey Hallstrand

Paula Houdek

Larry Palecek

Reviewed by County Administrator:

Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 20th day of June 2023.

Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair

Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For: _____ Against: _____