



RESOLUTION NO. 604 - 25

URGING GOVERNOR EVERS AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE COUNTY COURTS

WHEREAS, in 2023, the total cost to Wisconsin Counties for running all Circuit Courts was \$237 million. At the same time, the Court Support funding from the state to counties was \$28 million, 12 percent of the actual cost to run the local courts; and,

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court system is intended to be a state-county partnership; and

WHEREAS, the state's fiscal responsibilities include Judges, Court reporters, CCAP equipment, and the Circuit Court Support Appropriation; and,

WHEREAS, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other functions related to court, including, but not limited to the following: bailiffs and court security officers, courthouse building maintenance, phones and utilities, Clerk of Court and Register in Probate, staff salaries and benefits, jurycosts, psychological exams, guardians ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters and translation fees, court commissioners, law libraries, corporation counsel, courtroom technology and audio visuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies, furniture, recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, mail fees, printing costs, exhibit and file storage, access to state data, insurance, service of court documents, judicial staff attorneys, and equipment repair; and,

WHEREAS, over the last 10 years, the increase in the county portion of cost to run the courts is nearly six times higher than the increase in Circuit Court Cost Appropriations provided to cover these costs, and counties now pay almost \$150,000,000 more than the state in unbalanced Circuit Court costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Marinette County Board of Supervisors that Marinette County joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association (WCCCA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the Circuit Court support payments to the Counties by providing more than \$24.5 million increase in fiscal year 2025-26 and a \$70 million increase in fiscal year 2026-27; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marinette County Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Marinette County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Approved by a majority vote of the quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors on March 25, 2025.

[Signature of John Guarisco]
John Guarisco, Chair

[Signature of Bobbie Borkowski]
Bobbie Borkowski, County Clerk

Recommended by Administrative Committee on March 13, 2025

Marinette County Finance Department  
Fiscal Impact Statement

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Ordinance

Resolution

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TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE COUNTY COURTS**

Fiscal Impact Statement:

The resolution itself has no fiscal impact; however, any increase in Circuit Court support payments would reduce the County's allocation.

In 2024 total state aid for Clerk of Courts and Family Court was \$215,107 while the County funded \$646,188. The 2024 funding allocation was 25% State and 75% County. If these costs were shared, it would result in additional revenue in the amount of \$215,541.

*Hollie Viestenz*

Hollie Viestenz  
Finance Director

3/5/25

Date