RESOLUTION No. 606 - 25

REDISTRIBUTING 0.5% STATE SALES TAX TO COUNTIES

WHEREAS, local governments provide the infrastructure which has the most impact on the day-to-day lives of those who live and visit this great State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, state sales tax receipts have soared in recent years and the projections are that the State of Wisconsin is anticipated to have a $1 billion annual State Budget surplus; and

WHEREAS, 0.5% of the total State Sales tax for all 72 Counties is estimated to be less than $700 Million; and

WHEREAS, the objective of allowing counties to adopt a 0.5% sales tax was to reduce the financial burden of the property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties are struggling to fund infrastructure improvements even with the existing 0.5% without bonding thus increasing the financial burden on the property owners to not only pay off the borrowed funds, but also interest and fees associated with the bonding; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 Marinette County Board considered borrowing for a three-year term just over $9 million for capital improvements including but not limited to road construction, facility improvements, and equipment upgrades and this borrowing had an anticipated financial impact of $0.50 per thousand equalized value debt levy tax for each of the three years. This bonding was postponed to further evaluate all the options which included the potential to receive additional State aid and/or an additional 0.5% sales tax; and

WHEREAS, providing the local governments with an increased share of the State sales tax will help meet the growing and changing needs of local government without negatively impacting the state budget or increasing property taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and State legislature work together to incorporate a redistribution of State Sales Tax proceeds in the 2025-2027 State Biennial Budget as follows: State Sales tax (currently 5%) with 4.5% allocated to the State and 0.5% to Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Governor and State Legislature can't agree on redistributing 0.5% of the State Sales tax to the Counties, they at a minimum pass the necessary legislation to allow all counties to adopt an additional up to 0.5% sales tax like Milwaukee County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers, to all the state legislators representing Marinette County, Joint Finance Committee Members, to the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all 72 counties.

Hereby granted this 15th day of April 2025 by a majority of a quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors.

John M. Guarisco, Chairperson

Bobbie Borkowski, County Clerk