

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR EVERS AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY COURTS

WHEREAS, in 2023, the total cost to Wisconsin Counties for operating all Circuit Courts was \$237 million. During 2023, the Court Support funding from the state to counties was \$28 million, which is 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 cost appropriation; and,

WHEREAS, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other functions of the 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, jury costs, 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 ten 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. Wisconsin counties now pay almost \$150 million more than the state in unbalanced Circuit Court costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association (WCCCA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the circuit court cost appropriation by \$70 million payable to Wisconsin Counties in the 2025/27 Wisconsin State Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and publication and a copy shall be sent to Governor Evers and all Wisconsin State Legislators representing any portion of Eau Claire County.

ADOPTED: April 2, 2025

Sue McDonald
County Clerk