RESOLUTION NO. 638 - 26

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO FULLY FUND ALL STATE-MANDATED PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS

WHEREAS, county governments serve as the administrative arm of the State of Wisconsin, delivering vital state services including public safety, health and human services, the judicial system, and statutory duties of constitutional elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the State continually enacts statutory requirements mandating counties to provide new or expanded programs and specific employment positions without providing adequate state revenue to cover the actual operational costs; and

WHEREAS, the State simultaneously imposes strict statutory levy limits on county property taxes, preventing local governments from generating the necessary revenue to absorb the rising costs of these state-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, shifting the financial burden of these state mandates onto the local property tax levy places an unsustainable hardship on residents in rural counties, particularly senior citizens on fixed incomes and young, growing families already struggling to meet basic household needs due to rising inflation; and

WHEREAS, the combination of flat state shared revenue and rising mandate costs forces counties to deplete funding for essential, non-mandated local services such as road maintenance, infrastructure, libraries, and parks; and

WHEREAS, the Marinette County Board of Supervisors firmly believes that if the State of Wisconsin deems a program or position important enough to mandate statewide, the State should take full financial responsibility for funding it rather than shifting the burden to local property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marinette County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Legislature to fully fund all current and future state-mandated programs, services, and positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State should adopt legislation requiring any future mandates placed on local governments to include a reliable, permanent, and dedicated state funding source covering 100% of the associated local costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor, Wisconsin state legislators, Wisconsin counties, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Approved by a majority vote of the quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors on September 29, 2026.

John M. Guarisco, Chairperson

Bobbie Borkowski, County Clerk

Recommended: Administrative Committee on September 17, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 637 - 26

REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION FROM THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE FOR WISCONSIN COUNTIES TO ADOPT AN ADDITIONAL 0.5% SALES TAX FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties currently have the statutory authority to adopt a 0.5 percent county sales and use tax; and

WHEREAS, Marinette County, like many counties across Wisconsin, faces increasing challenges in maintaining, repairing, and improving its road and bridge infrastructure due to rising construction costs, aging transportation assets, and limited revenue options; and

WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for a substantial portion of the state's transportation network, yet existing revenue sources are insufficient to meet long-term infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, providing counties with an additional, locally authorized revenue tool would allow them to address critical infrastructure needs without further burdening property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, this resolution seeks statutory authorization from the Wisconsin State Legislature for counties to adopt an additional 0.5 percent sales and use tax, to be approved by each respective county board, with all revenue generated from the additional tax dedicated solely to maintaining, repairing, and improving road and bridge infrastructure within the county; and

WHEREAS, Marinette County further supports requiring that up to one-half of the revenue from any such additional 0.5 percent county sales and use tax be shared with municipalities within the county, to ensure that transportation improvements occur throughout the entire local road network; and

WHEREAS, Marinette County is committed to working with legislative and municipal partners to determine an equitable manner to distribute the funds to local municipalities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Marinette County Board of Supervisors hereby respectfully requests that the Wisconsin Legislature enact legislation granting Wisconsin Counties the authority to adopt an additional 0.5 percent County sales and use tax, in addition to the existing 0.5 percent currently authorized by statute, with the following parameters:

- The additional 0.5 percent sales tax may be adopted by county ordinance with approval of the county board.
- All revenue generated from the additional 0.5 percent sales tax must be used exclusively for road and bridge maintenance, repair, and improvement within the county.
- Up to one-half of all revenue generated must be distributed to municipalities within the county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption, the Marinette County Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counites Association, the Governor, Wisconsin Towns Association, all county boards in Wisconsin, and all local and state legislators who represent citizens across Marinette County for consideration, support, and action.

Adopted this 25th day of August 2026, by a majority of a quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors.

John M. Guarisco, Chairperson

Bobbie Borkowski, County Clerk

Recommended: Administrative Committee on August 13, 2026