RESOLUTION NO. 8-1126

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2030 UNITED STATES CENSUS RESIDENCE CRITERIA

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment require a decennial census to determine state population for congressional apportionment, and federal law assigns the U.S. Census Bureau responsibility for determining individuals' usual residence; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau has historically defined usual residence as the place where a person lives and sleeps most of the time, recognizing it may differ from legal or voting residence; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2026, the Census Bureau proposed new regulations (91 Fed. Reg. 57524) establishing revised residence criteria for the 2030 Census, defining usual residence as the location where an individual lawfully spends the most days between January 3 and April 1, rather than where they reside for the majority of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, Iowa County and communities across Wisconsin have many seasonal residents who maintain primary homes, year-round community ties, and significant economic and personal interests in Wisconsin, despite temporarily residing elsewhere during limited winter months; and

WHEREAS, the proposed criteria could result in individuals who spend most of the year in Wisconsin being counted as residents of another state solely due to their location during the January–April enumeration window, leading to inaccurate population counts; and

WHEREAS, such inaccuracies could negatively affect congressional representation, legislative redistricting, and federal funding allocations critical to Wisconsin and its local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors supports census criteria that are consistent, objective, and practical, but believes they must reflect where individuals actually reside for the majority of the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors opposes the proposed residence criteria in 15 CFR § 60 insofar as they would classify Wisconsin's majority-year residents as residents of other states based only on temporary winter residence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board urges the Census Bureau to withdraw or revise the proposed criteria to ensure individuals with multiple residences are counted in the state where they live for most of the year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa County Clerk shall transmit this resolution to Wisconsin's U.S. Senators, the U.S. Representative serving Iowa County, the Governor, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the National Association of Counties, and submit it as a formal comment under Docket No. 260903-0005.

Adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 10th Day of November 2026.

John M. Meyers
Iowa County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Megan Currie
Iowa County Clerk