RESOLUTION NO. 631 - 26

SUPPORTING COUNTY INNOVATION IN ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP STATUTES IN WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are experiencing sustained pressure on property tax levies due to rising costs in public safety, transportation, human services, and infrastructure maintenance; and

WHEREAS, counties are increasingly limited in their ability to meet public expectations while remaining within levy constraints imposed by state law and structural revenue limitations; and

WHEREAS, counties are often required to rely heavily on property taxes as the primary local revenue source, despite providing services that benefit regional economies, the state system, and nonresident users; and

WHEREAS, counties are creatures of statute, powers must be granted or implied providing clear authority, and

WHEREAS, innovative public private partnership (P3) financing approaches have demonstrated potential to improve long-term fiscal sustainability, and reduce reliance on property taxes while maintaining or improving service levels; and

WHEREAS, current Wisconsin State Law allows a variety of solicited transportation, procurement and other programmatic P3 proposals; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated P3 statute that allows counties to enter into this type of arrangement could enable new types of housing, energy and broadband projects while preserving public ownership and generating recurring income; and

WHEREAS, other P3 examples include, revenue sharing infrastructure concessions, county led development corporations with private equity participation, land redevelopment partnerships, public private utilities and long-term operating agreements for public assets.

WHEREAS, statutory changes providing clear authority could increase private sector involvement, financing flexibility (alternatives to levy based borrowing) and ownership opportunities allowing for entrepreneurial / private operation of public facilities; and

WHEREAS, counties would be better positioned to implement policies like these if supported with specific statutory guidance; and

WHEREAS, encouraging P3 innovation aligns with the shared goals of local control, taxpayer relief, and sustainable service delivery across Wisconsin's counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Marinette County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Wisconsin Counties Association to advocate for a formal statewide Public Private Partnership statute that supports diversification of revenue sources beyond property taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Counties Association is requested to advocate for state policies, statutory adjustments, and programmatic support that enable counties to pursue public-private partnerships; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Marinette County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing Marinette County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted this 28th day of July 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 July 16, 2026