RESOLUTION No. 38

Presented to County Board

Date 8 - 18 - 2026

Action by County Board

- [x] Adopted as presented 8 - 18 - 2026
- [ ] Adopted as amended ____-____-____
- [ ] Referred to _____ ____-____-____
- [ ] Defeated ____-____-____
- [ ] Withdrawn ____-____-____

County Board Chairman

[signature]

Presented to County Executive 8 - 18 - 2026

By [signature]
County Clerk

Action by County Executive

- [x] Approved 8 - 19 - 2026
- [ ] Vetoed ____-____-____
- [ ] Vetoed in part ____-____-____
- [ ] Effective without signature

By [signature]
County Executive

Veto action by County Board

- [ ] Overridden ____-____-____
  Vote _____ to _____
- [ ] Sustained ____-____-____
  Vote _____ to _____

KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION NO. 38

Subject: **A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE, FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**			
Original ☒	Corrected ☐	2nd Correction ☐	Resubmitted ☐
Date Submitted:	Date Resubmitted:		
Submitted by: Supervisor Erin Decker			
Fiscal Note Attached: ☐	Legal Note Attached: ☐		
Prepared by: Supervisor Erin Decker *(Name, Title, Department or Division)*	Signature: Erin Decker		

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties, through their local health departments, are required under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 251 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 140 to provide a broad range of essential public health services that protect the health and safety of residents; and

WHEREAS, local public health departments serve as the front line for disease prevention, communicable disease control, emergency preparedness, environmental health, maternal and child health, chronic disease prevention, health education, and other critical public health functions; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities and expectations placed upon local public health departments have expanded significantly due to emerging public health threats, workforce shortages, population growth, and increasing community health needs; and

WHEREAS, despite these increasing responsibilities, state funding for local public health services has not kept pace with inflation or the actual cost of delivering these mandated services, resulting in an increasing reliance on county property tax levy and limited grant funding; and

WHEREAS, much of the existing state funding is distributed through categorical, competitive, or short-term grants that often restrict local flexibility, create funding uncertainty, and hinder long-term planning and workforce retention; and

WHEREAS, counties have limited revenue options available under Wisconsin law, and when state funding fails to keep pace with mandated public health responsibilities, the cost of providing these essential services is increasingly shifted to local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, counties continue to bear a disproportionate share of the financial responsibility for providing state-mandated public health services, placing additional pressure on local taxpayers while limiting counties' ability to address other local priorities; and

WHEREAS, investments in public health improve health outcomes, reduce long-term healthcare costs, strengthen emergency preparedness, and provide measurable economic benefits by preventing disease, reducing hospitalizations, and promoting healthier communities; and

WHEREAS, ensuring stable and sustainable funding for local public health departments is a shared responsibility between the State of Wisconsin and local governments and is essential to maintaining an effective statewide public health system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors urges the State of Wisconsin to recognize public health as a core governmental responsibility by providing increased, sustainable, and flexible General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding for local public health departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board supports a state funding model that:

1. Increases General Purpose Revenue support for local public health departments;
2. Includes automatic adjustments for inflation to ensure funding keeps pace with increasing service costs;
3. Provides counties with sufficient flexibility to address local public health priorities and emerging health threats;
4. Reduces reliance on short-term, restricted, and competitive grant funding; and
5. Lessens the dependence on local property tax levy to fund state-mandated public health services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board respectfully requests that the Wisconsin Legislature, the Governor, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services work collaboratively with Wisconsin counties to develop a long-term funding strategy that supports a strong, resilient, and locally responsive public health system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Kenosha County's Wisconsin legislative delegation, Governor Tony Evers, all Wisconsin counties, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Approved by:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ONE BOX MUST ALWAYS BE CHECKED

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
MORRISSEY, JOHN, Chair	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
DECKER, ERIN, Vice-chair	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
COLOGNA, JEFF	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
TAGLIAPIETRA, RIKI	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
TARZON, DAVE	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐