

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 12

**Requesting the State to Revise the Current Real Estate Transfer Fees
Revenue Sharing Formula**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, the collection by counties of a real estate transfer fee was mandated by the
2 State of Wisconsin in 1969 and included a requirement that counties remit 50% of all transfer
3 fees collected to the State;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1981, the State changed the transfer fee formula to now require counties
6 to remit to the State 80% of all transfer fees collected; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the County through the Register of Deeds office assumes the annual
9 operating costs of recording all real estate transfer occurring in Barron County, including the
10 collection of real estate transfer fees ; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, Barron County collected \$947,303.70 in real estate transfer fees
13 with the County's 20% share retained totaling \$189,460.74 and was required to remit 80% or
14 \$757,842.96 to the State; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Barron County real estate transfer fee collections over the past five years
17 totaled \$4,207,336.80 of which the County retained \$841,467.36 and over that same period of
18 time \$3,365,869.44 was remitted to the State; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the State of Wisconsin has built up a budget surplus of
21 approximately \$2.5 billion dollars, while many Wisconsin Counties continue to struggle
22 financially due to the ever-increasing costs of providing county government services in an
23 inflationary economy, coupled with the financial restrictions imposed by the State mandated levy
24 limits; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to financially assist all Wisconsin Counties, Barron County
27 requests that the State of Wisconsin return the real estate transfer fee share formula to again
28 allow Wisconsin Counties to retain 50% of all total real estate transfer fees collected, with 50%
29 to be remitted to the State; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on March 3,
32 2023 on a vote of 8 - 0 with Bartlett, Buchanan, Cook, Hanson, Heinecke, Moen, Okey and
33 Rogers voting in favor and no members voting against.
34

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Barron County Board of Supervisors
36 hereby request that the State of Wisconsin revise the real estate transfer fee share formula to
37 again allow Wisconsin Counties to retain 50% of all real estate transfer fees collected, with 50%
38 to be remitted to the State.
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Tony
41 Evers, all members of the State Legislature representing Barron County, the Wisconsin Counties
42 Association and other Wisconsin Counties.

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OFFERED THIS 20th Day of March, 2023

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - 0 - - Future years total amount: \$ - 0 - - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - 0 - - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ - 0 -</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p>_____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Louie Okey, Executive Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Motion: (Taxdahl/B. Anderson) to approve. Carried with 29 voting Yes.</p>
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