

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 8

**Resolution Urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to Support
County Courts**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, the total cost to Wisconsin Counties for running all Circuit
3 Courts was \$237 million. At the same time, the Court Support funding from the state to
4 counties was \$28 million, 12 percent of the actual cost to run the local courts; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Circuit Court system is intended to be a state-county partnership;
7 and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the state's fiscal responsibilities include Judges, Court Reporters,
10 CCAP equipment and the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other
13 functions of the court, including, but not limited to the following: bailiffs and court security
14 officers, courthouse building maintenance, phones and utilities, Clerk of Court and
15 Register in Probate, staff salaries and benefits, jury costs, psychological exams, guardians
16 ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters and translation fees,
17 court commissioners, law libraries, corporation counsel, courtroom technology and audio
18 visuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies,
19 furniture, recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, mail fees, printing costs,
20 exhibit and file storage, access to state data, insurance, service of court documents, judicial
21 staff attorneys, and equipment repair; and

22 **WHEREAS**, over the last 10 years, the increase in the county portion of cost to run
23 the courts is nearly six times higher than the increase in Circuit Court Cost Appropriations
24 provided to cover these costs, and counties now pay almost \$150,000,000 more than the
25 state in unbalanced Circuit Court costs.

26 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on March
27 7, 2025 on a vote of 7 - 0 with Bartlett, Cook, Okey, Rogers, Thompson, Wenzel and Olson
28 voting in favor and no members voting against. Hanson and Kusilek were absent.
29

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Barron County Board of Supervisors
31 that Barron County joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association (WCCCA)
32 and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the Circuit
33 Court Cost Appropriation by \$70 million payable to Wisconsin Counties in the 2025/27
34 Wisconsin State Budget.

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur
36 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes and a copy
37 be sent to Governor Evers and all Wisconsin Legislators representing Barron County.
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OFFERED THIS 17th day of March, 2025.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X)</p> <p>2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund ()</p> <p>Grant () Contingency ()</p> <p>Other (X) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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>Fiscal impact reviewed by:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Jeffrey French, County Administrator</p> <p>_____</p> <p>John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____</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: (Heller/Langman) to approve. Supervisor Kohnen requested the typo from line 24 of the resolution be changed from “not” to “now.” Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Schradle).</p>
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