

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2
3 Date of enactment: 5/12/09

4 Date of publication: 5/19/09

5 **VOTE**

6 **2009 RESOLUTION 14**

7
8 **Opposition to the Governor's Proposed Changes to**
9 **Wisconsin Prevailing Wage Law**

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Governor Jim Doyle's proposed biennial state budget, 2009 Assembly
12 Bill 75, proposes to make the prevailing wage law applicable to any public work contract over
13 \$2,000; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, under the current law, the prevailing wage requirements only apply to
16 multiple-trade public works projects over \$234,000 and single-trade public works projects over
17 \$48,000; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, reducing the threshold to \$2,000 will increase the cost of small public
20 works projects previously exempted from the prevailing wage requirement; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the cost increase to pay prevailing wages on all public works projects
23 over \$2,000 will force counties and municipalities to either reduce the number of and/or size of
24 public works projects or raise taxes to meet the increased costs, which is an increased burden
25 on property taxpayers; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, the requirement to pay prevailing wage on all public works projects over
28 \$2,000 will remove the competitive advantage that many smaller local contractors have on
29 smaller public works projects over larger contractors from outside the immediate community,
30 and thus, may hurt the local economy in these communities while still increasing the costs of
31 these projects; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's proposed state budget also, for the first time, proposes to
34 make the prevailing wage law applicable to private projects that receive public financing, pub-
35 lic funding or other forms of public assistance; and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, the proposed changes to the prevailing wage law in the state budget are
38 non-fiscal policy changes that only affect local governments and should be introduced as sepa-
39 rate and transparent legislation rather than be included in the state budget;

40
41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of
42 Supervisors that this Board opposes the changes to the prevailing wage law as described here-
43 in, which are included in Governor Doyle's state budget proposal, 2009 Assembly Bill 75, and
44 hereby urges the Wisconsin State Legislature to remove these items from the Budget Bill.

