

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2
3 Date of enactment: **6/8/10**
4 Date of publication: _____

5 **VOTE**

6 **2010 RESOLUTION 15**

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8 **Support for Wisconsin Legislation Changing the Process for**
9 **Setting Elected County Officials' Compensation**

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11 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Constitution provides for the election of certain county
12 officials by county residents, namely, the County Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Register of Deeds,
13 Clerk of Circuit Court, District Attorney and Coroner ("county elected officials"); and

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15 **WHEREAS**, prior to 2005, the term of office for these county elected officials was two
16 years; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, by the adoption of a constitutional amendment, the term of office
19 was changed to four years, and was phased in beginning with the 2006 gubernatorial election
20 electing Sheriffs, Clerks of Circuit Court and Coroners to four year terms and with the 2008
21 presidential election electing District Attorneys, Registers of Deeds, Treasurers and County
22 Clerks to four year terms; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, current law (§59.22, Wis. Stats.) requires the County Board to establish the
25 total annual compensation for services to be paid to the officer, for officers paid in whole or in
26 part by the county treasury, which compensation cannot be modified during the officer's term
27 and shall remain for ensuing terms unless changed by the board; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, counties establish operating budgets annually, operate on a fiscal calendar
30 year and are required to comply with state mandated tax levy limits; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, historically, the County Board has struggled with setting compensation for
33 county elected officials, due to changing and uncertain economic conditions, operating budgets
34 being considered and approved annually and the various State levy limit mandates imposed on
35 counties; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the transition to four year terms for county elected officials has made
38 setting compensation even more difficult;

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40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of
41 Supervisors that it hereby urges that legislation be introduced to allow county boards the option
42 of setting county elected officials' compensation annually, in conjunction with its annual
43 operating budget, and consistent with the process for establishing the compensation for the
44 general County employees, but not allowing for the lowering of the annual compensation during
45 the term and not based on performance of the County elected offices which performance is to be
46 reserved to the judgment of the electorate;

