

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

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3 Date of enactment: 7/13/10

4 Date of publication: 7/20/10

5 **VOTE**

6 **2010 RESOLUTION 18**

7
8 **Advisory Resolution Regarding the State of Wisconsin’s Use of Segregated Funds**

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10 **WHEREAS**, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, over the past decade, the State
11 of Wisconsin has transferred approximately \$1.2 billion from the State’s Segregated
12 Transportation Fund to the State’s General Fund and replaced it with approximately \$800 million
13 in General Obligation (GO) bonds; thereby, reducing the amount of money available for
14 transportation purposes by approximately \$400 million; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has tapped other segregated funds in a similar
17 fashion to eliminate budget deficits, address budget shortfalls and to address short-term needs;
18 and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the State’s practice of transferring money from segregated funds, including
21 the Transportation Fund, to the General Fund has eroded the public’s confidence that the “user
22 fees” and various other taxes the public pays are actually used for the purpose intended; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s practice of replacing the dollars transferred from segregated
25 funds with GO bonds puts our State in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing
26 operations which is viewed by some as fiscally irresponsible and has negatively impacted the
27 State’s bond rating; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the Pew Center on the States recently reported that Wisconsin has one of
30 the ten worst budget situations in the country and specifically cited transferring money from the
31 Transportation Fund to fund ongoing operations as an example of one of the practices that has
32 put Wisconsin in such an untenable position; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, the State’s Segregated Transportation Fund was intended to provide the
35 resources necessary to maintain the State’s transportation infrastructure which is crucial to the
36 State’s economy and business environment and is a fundamental component in attracting and
37 retaining businesses and producing jobs; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, debt service for bonds that were issued to replace dollars transferred out of
40 the Transportation Fund will have to be paid out of the State’s General Fund which hinders its
41 ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and Courts in
42 the future; and

1 **WHEREAS**, when the State fails to fully fund county-delivered, state-mandated services
2 and programs, counties are forced to make the difficult decision to either raise taxes or reduce
3 availability of services;

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5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of
6 Supervisors that it urges the State of Wisconsin to carefully examine its budgeting practices and
7 refrain from raiding segregated funds to offset overspending and associated budget deficits at the
8 state level.

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10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board that the Washington County Clerk is
11 instructed to send a copy of this advisory resolution to the Governor, all Legislators representing
12 Washington County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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16 VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

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18 RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory resolution urging the State of Wisconsin to refrain from
19 using segregated funds for other than the intended purpose.

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22 APPROVED:
23 **(signed by Kimberly A. Nass)**
24 Kimberly A. Nass, County Attorney

Introduced by members of the EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.

25 Dated **7/14/10**

(signed by Herbert J. Tennies)

Herbert J. Tennies, Chairperson

26
27 Considered **7/13/10**

28 Adopted **7/13/10**

29 Ayes **28** Noes **0** Absent **2**

30 Voice Vote _____

31
32 (Advisory resolution.)