

RESOLUTION NO. 5-0325

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the state's fiscal responsibilities include Judges, Court reporters, CCAP equipment, and the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation; and,

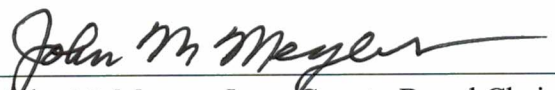
WHEREAS, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other functions of the court, including, but not limited to the following: bailiffs and court security officers, courthouse building maintenance, phones and utilities, Clerk of Court and Register in Probate, staff salaries and benefits, jury costs, psychological exams, guardians ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters and translation fees, court commissioners, law libraries, corporation counsel, courtroom technology and audio visuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies, furniture, recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, mail fees, printing costs, exhibit and file storage, access to state data, insurance, service of court documents, judicial staff attorneys, and equipment repair; and,

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and publication and a copy be sent to Governor Evers and all Wisconsin State Legislators representing Iowa County.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of March 2025.


John M. Meyers, Iowa County Board Chair

ATTEST:


Megan Currie, County Clerk