

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Barbara
Tillman
INITIATOR



3/3/2025
DATE SUBMITTED

SPONSOR

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

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, the total cost to Wisconsin Counties for running all Circuit Courts was \$237
2 million. At the same time, the Court Support funding from the state to counties was \$28 million, 12
3 percent of the actual cost to run the local courts; and,
4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Circuit Court system is intended to be a state-county partnership; and
6
7 **WHEREAS**, the state’s fiscal responsibilities include Judges, Court reporters, CCAP equipment, and
8 the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation; and,
9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other functions of the court,
11 including, but not limited to the following: Bailiffs, Court Commissioners, Clerk of Court, Circuit Court,
12 Mediation and Register in Probate staff salaries and benefits, jury costs, psychological exams, guardians
13 ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, indigent counsel fees, court reporter transcript fees, witness fees
14 and mileage, interpreters and translation fees, law libraries and subscriptions, courtroom technology and
15 audio visuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies, furniture,
16 recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, postage, phones, and equipment repair; and,
17
18 **WHEREAS**, over the last 10 years, the increase in the county portion of cost to run the courts is nearly
19 six times higher than the increase in Circuit Court Cost Appropriations provided to cover these costs,
20 and counties now pay almost \$150,000,000 more than the state in unbalanced Circuit Court costs.
21
22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
23 assembled this 27th day of March, 2025, joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association
24 (WCCCA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the Circuit Court
25 Cost Appropriation by \$70 million to cover 50% of County Circuit Court operational expenses payable
26 to Wisconsin Counties in the 2025/27 Wisconsin State Budget.
27
28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and publication
29 and a copy be sent to Governor Evers and all Wisconsin State Legislators Representing Rock County.
30
31

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution has no fiscal impact at this time. Fiscal impact will be identified as the State of Wisconsin adopts the 2025-2027 budget.

Kristin Vander Kooi
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Resolution has no fiscal impact at this time and appreciate the advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin Counties.

John Light
County Administrator

Committee Action
Public Safety & Justice Committee