

1 019-042018

2 **RESOLUTION: Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of**
3 **Referendum Regarding the Enactment of Proposed Legislation that**
4 **Closes “Dark Store” Loopholes**
5

6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, each time a big box retailer gets a Dark Store tax break, homeowners, small businesses, and
8 other property owners have to pick up a greater share of the property tax levy. Over the past several months,
9 municipal, county, city, and town officials have been in contact with state legislators testifying against the Dark Store
10 tax loophole in order to avoid a property tax burden shifting to other tax pay entities such as residential homeowners
11 and other businesses and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality. Unless the Dark Store
12 loopholes are closed, residents will realize the impact when they receive their property tax bills in the mail in
13 December 2018; and

14 **WHEREAS**, § 59.52(25), Wis Stats, allows for a county board to conduct a county-wide referendum for
15 advisory purposes. A county-wide advisory referendum on the issue of Dark Stores would provide guidance to the
16 state legislature as to the will of the Winnebago County electorate on this issue. This resolution seeks authorization
17 to conduct such a county-wide advisory referendum.
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19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
20 authorizes Winnebago County to conduct a county-wide advisory referendum to appear on ballots during the
21 November 2018 general election; and that a concise statement of the question be given and shall read as follows:
22

23 ***Question: Should the state legislature enact proposed legislation that closes the Dark Store***
24 ***loopholes, which currently allow commercial retail properties to significantly reduce the***
25 ***assessed valuation and property tax of such properties, resulting in a substantial shift in***
26 ***taxes levied against other tax paying entities, such as residential home owners, and/or cuts in***
27 ***essential services provided by an affected municipality?***
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29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
30 Winnebago County Corporation Counsel to prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Winnebago
31 County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements.
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33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that this Resolution and the
34 referendum shall be filed with the Winnebago County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the election at which the
35 question will appear on the ballot.
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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
38 Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Winnebago County Corporation Counsel and the
39 Winnebago County Executive in accordance with statutory requirements.
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Respectfully submitted by:

AARON WOJCIECHOWSKI, District 16
JULIE GORDON, District 17
LARRY LAUTENSCHLAGER, District 19
MIKE NORTON, District 20
ANDRE BUCK, District 26
JERRY FINCH, District 28

Committee Vote: _____

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive