

2 **RESOLUTION: Oppose Making County Veterans Service Officers Optional, Allowing**
3 **Non-Veterans to Fill the CVSO Position, or Consolidating or**
4 **Regionalizing County Veteran Service Offices in Wisconsin**

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

8 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Statutes Section 45.80 requires each county to elect a County Veterans Service
9 Officer who is a Wisconsin resident and who served under honorable conditions on active duty in the Armed Forces;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, County Veteran Service Officers are responsible for a high percentage of veterans' claims at
12 any given time at the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee; and

13 **WHEREAS**, County Veteran Service Officers are a major stakeholder in assisting veterans with obtaining
14 more than \$2.7 billion in VA benefits annually in Wisconsin; and

15 **WHEREAS**, County Veteran Service Officers are invaluable to all veterans but especially elderly and
16 disabled veterans in the local community; and

17 **WHEREAS**, County Veteran Services Officers are the only veterans' advocates when dealing with the VA
18 who serve veterans in their local communities; and

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20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the county of
21 Winnebago joins other counties in the state of Wisconsin to express its opposition to any future efforts to make
22 County Veterans Service Officers optional.

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24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it joins other counties in
25 the state of Wisconsin and it opposes any efforts to allow non-veterans to fill the positions of County Veterans
26 Service Offices.

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28 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the county of Winnebago joins other counties in the state of
29 Wisconsin to express their desire to the Wisconsin State Legislature adamantly oppose any efforts to allow any
30 consolidation and/or regionalization of County Veterans Service Officers.

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32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that a copy of this resolution
33 be transmitted by the County Clerk to all Winnebago County's State Senators and Assembly Representatives
34 representing Winnebago County, to the Wisconsin Counties Association; and to the President of the County Veteran
35 Services Officers Association of Wisconsin.

36 Respectfully submitted by:

37 **Legislative COMMITTEE**

38 Committee Vote: **11-0**

39 Respectfully submitted by:

40 **Judiciary and Public COMMITTEE**

41 Committee Vote: **5-0**

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

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44 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2016.

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Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive