

To: The Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

From: Mary Anne Mueller, Winnebago County Corporation Counsel

Re: Wisconsin Counties Definition of the word "Session"

Date: April 3, 2023

Pursuant to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee's directive, below is a sampling of the definition of "session" used in counties across Wisconsin. Based on my research, the majority of Wisconsin counties define the word "session" to mean a two-year term. My opinion is that the underlying rationale for the two year term definition is to avoid endless reconsideration of items at meetings during the two-year board term. This opinion is corroborated by the Seventh Edition of the Wisconsin County Official's Handbook.

Calumet County – The length of a session shall be the term of one meeting.

Dane County – A session of the county board shall be a one-year period, beginning on the third Tuesday in April in even-numbered years, and on the date of the second meeting in April in odd-numbered years.

Dodge County – A session of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors is hereby defined as the period of time beginning on the third Tuesday in April of each year and ending on the third Tuesday of April of the next succeeding year, both inclusive.

Dunn County – Dunn County's Corporation Counsel is of the opinion that a session is the two-year period between elections.

Green Lake County – There is no formal definition but Corporation Counsel has advised the board that a session is a two-year term.

Marathon County -- For purposes of Renewal of a defeated measure, Postponement to an indefinite time and Reconsideration, a session of the marathon County board shall run from the commencement of the first meeting following election of supervisors in April in even-numbered years to the commencement of the same meeting two years later.

Ozaukee County – A session is defined as a single two-year term of the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors. A session commences on the 3rd Tuesday in April following the biennial election of County Board Supervisors and terminates on the 3rd Monday in April following the next biennial election of County Board Supervisors.

Washington County – A session of the County Board shall commence beginning at the April meeting in even-numbered years and shall conclude when adjourned sine die as set forth in §15-60. A motion to adjourn sine die will not be in order prior to the close of the final meeting of the session held in April immediately prior to the organizational meeting.

Waupaca County – A session of the County Board runs from the third Tuesday in April in an even year until the third Monday in April of an even year.