

1 **79-72010**

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3 **RESOLUTION: Place Advisory Referendum Question on**  
4 **November Ballot—Use of Transportation**  
5 **Tax Funds**  
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8 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**  
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10 **WHEREAS**, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, over the past decade, the State  
11 of Wisconsin has transferred approximately \$1.2 billion from the State's Segregated  
12 Transportation Fund to the State's General Fund and replaced it with approximately \$800 million  
13 in General Obligation (GO) bonds, thereby, reducing the amount available for transportation  
14 purposes by approximately \$400 million; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's practice of transferring money from the Segregated  
17 Transportation Fund to the General Fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees"  
18 the public pays through the State gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their  
19 intended purposes; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the State's  
22 Segregated Transportation Fund with GO bonds puts our State in the precarious position of  
23 bonding to fund ongoing operations; and  
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25 **WHEREAS**, the Pew Center on States recently released a report that indicated  
26 Wisconsin has one of the ten worst budget situations in the country and specifically citing  
27 transferring money from the Transportation Fund to fund ongoing operations as an example of  
28 one of the practices that has put Wisconsin in such an untenable position; and  
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30 **WHEREAS**, the debt service for these bonds will have to be paid for out of the State's  
31 General Fund, which hinders its ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids,  
32 Community Aids, and Court in the future; and  
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34 **WHEREAS**, using the State's General Obligation (GO) bonds in this way has hurt the  
35 State's bond rating, and a report issued by CNN in 2009 listed Wisconsin as having the second  
36 worst GO bond rating in the country; and  
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38 **WHEREAS**, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 90% of the State's  
39 Segregated Transportation Account, and revenue from these two sources have been declining  
40 and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this State; and  
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42 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component in its  
43 ability to attract and retain business and produce jobs; and  
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45 **WHEREAS**, the citizens of Winnebago County deserve the right to have their voices  
46 heard on this important issue; and  
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48 **WHEREAS**, providing constitutional protection much like our neighbors in Minnesota,  
49 Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio already have is the only way to ensure that this practice will not  
50 continue.  
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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the following question will be put to the voters of Winnebago County in an advisory referendum during the November 2010 election:

Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended as follows: All funds collected by the state from any taxes or fees levied or imposed for the licensing of motor vehicle operators, for the titling, licensing, or registration of motor vehicles, for motor vehicle fuel, or for the use of roadways, highways, or bridges shall be deposited only into the transportation fund or with a trustee for the benefit of the Department of Transportation or the holders of transportation-related revenue bonds. None of the funds collected or received by the state from any source and deposited into the transportation fund shall be lapsed, further transferred, or appropriated to any program that is not directly administered by the Department of Transportation in furtherance of the Department's responsibility for the planning, promotion, and protection of all transportation systems in the state except funds that were already lapsed, transferred, or appropriated from the transportation fund as of December 31, 2007. In this section, the term "motor vehicle" does not include any all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or watercraft.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the Winnebago County Clerk is directed to cause a copy of the Notice of Referendum to be published in the County's official newspaper as required by law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the Winnebago County Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this Resolution and a copy of the results of the advisory referendum to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Submitted by:

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE**

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Committee Vote: **5-0**

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

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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Mark L Harris  
Winnebago County Executive