

2 **RESOLUTION: Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of a**
3 **Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of**
4 **Marijuana and the Implementation of a Tax on the Sale of Marijuana in the**
5 **State of Wisconsin**

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

8 **WHEREAS**, criminalizing marijuana use has failed to curb its use, and more than 100 million Americans say
9 they have used marijuana; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in a 2016 poll, 59 percent of Wisconsinites said that marijuana should be "fully legalized and
11 regulated like alcohol," and recent polls show a majority of Americans favor legalization of adult recreational use of
12 marijuana; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin State Legislature has failed to act on legislation to legalize and regulate
14 marijuana, and has not allowed hearings on such legislation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, legalizing and taxing marijuana could significantly increase state and local revenues; and

16 **WHEREAS**, an estimate by the Congressional Research Service suggests that replacing marijuana
17 prohibition with a system of taxation and regulation could yield \$6.8 billion in Federal excise taxes alone; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington have
19 legalized adult personal use of marijuana, and regulate the production, distribution, and sale of marijuana, while
20 Vermont and the District of Columbia have legalized limited personal possession and cultivation of marijuana by
21 adults; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the time law enforcement spends enforcing existing marijuana laws and ordinances negatively
23 impacts the time available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals; and

24 **WHEREAS**, marijuana prohibition makes product quality control and sales regulation impossible, leaving
25 marijuana sellers free to target children as potential customers and to peddle potentially adulterated products.

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27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
28 authorizes Winnebago County to conduct a county-wide advisory referendum to appear on ballots during the
29 November 6, 2018, general election, and that a concise statement of the question be given and shall read as follows:

30 **Question: Should the Wisconsin State Legislature enact proposed legislation that allows individuals**
31 **21 years of age and older to engage in the medical and recreational use of marijuana, while also**
32 **regulating commercial marijuana-related activities including, but not limited to, imposing a tax on the**
33 **sale of marijuana, and expunging marijuana-related crimes for those convicted in Wisconsin?**
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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
36 Winnebago County Corporation Counsel to prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Winnebago
37 County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements.

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that this Resolution and the
40 Referendum shall be filed with the Winnebago County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the election. The question
41 will appear on the ballot of the November 6, 2018, general election.
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44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
45 Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Winnebago County Corporation Counsel and the
46 Winnebago County Executive in accordance with statutory requirements. .

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48 Respectfully submitted by:
49 **AARON WOJCIECHOWSKI, District 16**
50 **MICHAEL NORTON, District 20**
51 **ANDY BUCK, District 24**
52 **TOM SNIDER, District 35**
53 **STEVE LENZ, District 7**
54 **JULIE GORDON, District 17**

55 Vote Required for Passage: _____

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

57
58 _____
59 Mark L Harris
60 Winnebago County Executive