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3 **RESOLUTION: Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum**
4 **Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of**
5 **Wisconsin**

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

8 **WHEREAS**, legalizing and taxing cannabis could significantly increase state and local revenues; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the amount of time law enforcement spends enforcing existing cannabis laws and ordinances
10 negatively impacts the time available to solve more serious crimes and apprehend more dangerous criminals; and

11 **WHEREAS**, cannabis prohibition makes product quality control and sales regulation impossible, leaving
12 cannabis sellers free to target children as potential customers and to peddle potentially adulterated products; and

13 **WHEREAS**, there are now 19 states and territories where cannabis is legal in the United States of America,
14 11 of the 19 since the start of 2020; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Governor Evers has stated he will put the legalization of marijuana in the next state budget.

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17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
18 authorizes Winnebago County to conduct a countywide advisory referendum to appear on ballots during the April
19 2023 general election.

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21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that a concise statement of
22 the question be given and shall read as follows:

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24 **Question: Cannabis Should:**

25 *(Please select one of the alternatives below or your vote will be invalid)*

26 (a) **Be legal for recreational use for adults 21 years of age and older, and legal for medical**
27 **use, taxes and regulated similar to alcohol.**

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29 (b) **Be legal for medical purposes only.**

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31 (c) **Remain a criminally illegal drug as provided under current law.**

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33 (d) **None of the above.**

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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 at which the
41 question will appear on the ballot.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Winnebago County Corporation Counsel and the Winnebago County Executive in accordance with statutory requirements.

Fiscal Note: The referendum would cause the County to incur costs of about \$1,300 for publication of legal notices.

Respectfully submitted by:
MICHAEL NORTON, District 20
BRIAN DEFFERDING, District 6
STEVEN BINDER, District 13
JULIE GORDON, District 17
DOUG ZELLMER, District 22
RACHAEL DOWLING, District 1

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

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive