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Winnebago County Clerk
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NOTICE OF COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMISSION,
BOARD OR COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee

TIME OF MEETING: 8:30 A.M.

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 24, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: James P. Coughlin Center
625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

VOTING COMMITTEES: Aviation; Board of Health; Facilities & Property Management; Highway; Human Services Board; Judiciary & Public Safety; Industrial Development Board; Information Technology; Land & Water Conservation; Parks & Recreation; Park View Health Center; Personnel & Finance; Planning & Zoning; Solid Waste Management Board; UW Education, Extension and Agriculture and Veterans Service Commission.

To join this Zoom Meeting via video, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89962191050?pwd=QXpyazVudWRRUzV6U051K0VSR2tsdz09>

Meeting ID: 899 6219 1050 **Passcode** – Legi102422

To join this meeting by telephone (312) 626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID: 899 6219 1050

Passcode 6142145664

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING

The Chairman reserves the right to take up any item on the agenda at any time after the meeting commences.

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of minutes of May 23, 2022 meeting.
4. Public comments.
5. Correspondence.
6. Discussion/Action: Kenosha County Resolution No. 22: Resolution to Conduct Countywide Advisory Referendum on making the State of Wisconsin a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State
7. Discussion/Action: Resolution Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise its Policy on Foreign Ownership of Farmland by Entities Party to Adversarial Governments – County Board Supervisors Jacob Floam and Nate Gustafson
8. Discussion: Chapter 92 Wisconsin Statue specific to Winnebago County Land Conservation Committee
9. Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members
10. Discuss proposed/potential state legislation as presented by local legislators and committee members.
11. Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

12. Update from State Legislators:
 Sen. Dan Feyen – District 18; Sen. Roger Roth – District 19; Rep. Michael Schraa – District 53; Rep. Gordon Hintz – District 54; Rep. Rachael Cabral-Guevara – District 55; Rep. Rep. Lee Snodgrass – District 57
13. Update from Federal Representatives: Senator Baldwin, Senator Johnson, Congressman Grothman and Congressman Mike Gallagher (invited).
14. Discussion: Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting (i.e. Resolutions from other Counties)
15. Discussion/Action: How often and what time does Legislative Committee want to meet? Currently we meet in January, March, May and October and if something urgent needs to be addressed, we set up a meeting to discuss.
16. Adjourn.

**This meeting is also being posted as a committee meeting for:

*Aviation

*Highway

*Park View Health Center

*Planning & Zoning

* Personnel & Finance

*Information Systems

*Parks & Recreation

Upon request, provisions will be made for people with disabilities upon 24 hours prior notice to the Office of the County Clerk. Phone Number: (920) 232-3430

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, May 23, 2022
James P. Coughlin Center
625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Present: Thomas Egan, Chuck Farrey, David Albrecht, Steven Binder, Robert Keller, Larry Lautenschlager, Michael Norton, Koby Schellenger, Morris Cox and Bryan Stafford.

Also Present: Ethan Hollenberger

Excused: Andy Buck

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Chairman Egan and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Public Comments:

None

Election of Officers:

Discussion was held as to how to conduct the election of officers.

- For Chairman: Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to nominate Chuck Farrey for Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Motion by Supervisor Norton to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
- For Vice-Chairman: Motion by Supervisor Binder and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to nominate Michael Norton for Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Motion by Supervisor Binder and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
- For Secretary: Motion by Supervisor Cox to nominate Supervisor Binder. Binder declined. Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Binder to nominate Koby Schellenger for Secretary of the Legislative Committee. Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Robert Keller to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Correspondence:

Letter received and read by Chairman Farrey from County Board Supervisor Don Nussbaum to County Board Chairman Egan. Should Winnebago County create a resolution to oppose masking in regards to international pandemic regulations? This is an international issue and not a pending Winnebago County issue, therefore this will not be addressed in any future meeting.

Discussion/Action: Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Affirmation to Denounce Healthcare Choice Discrimination Against Citizens by Sawyer County Government, Businesses, and Employers:

A brief and informal discussion of this resolution. Motion by Robert Keller and seconded by Supervisor Norton to table this resolution as this was from November 9, 2021 and only applies to Sawyer County. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Jefferson County Resolution 2022-11; Price County Resolution 12-22; and Vilas County Resolution 2022-15; Request State to Revise the Current Real Estate Transfer Fees Revenue Sharing Formula:

A brief and informal discussion of this resolution. Supervisor Cox asked if this would concern us here in our County. Chairman Farrey discussed some points and feels this would affect our county as well. Supervisor Schellenger voiced his opinion and concerns regarding this matter. He would like to know a bit more before he would feel comfortable moving forward with this. Supervisor Binder stated if we do refer it back, he would like a follow up on why this change would take 41 years before people started to take a look at this. Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to refer back to Judiciary & Public Safety Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Polk County Resolution No. 08-22: Resolution Urging State Elected Officials to Use Expected 2021-2023 Budget Surplus to Fund Rural Fire and Ambulance Emergency Services:

A brief and informal discussion of this resolution. Motion by Supervisor Albrecht to amend line 33 to delete "volunteer" and change to "all". After further discussion, Supervisor Albrecht withdrew his amendment. Back to the original resolution. More discussion amongst members. Chairman Farrey speaks about the question that might

become, is Polk County providing fire service to the towns within its county? Chairman Farrey is not aware of any county providing fire service so he assumes that this is on behalf of the towns within that county. With that being the case, that would bring it back specifically to the financial need of these smaller counties and rural towns within that county. Motion by Larry Lautenschlager and seconded by Robert Keller to approve resolution as its written and forward to the Winnebago County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: La Crosse County Resolution # 45-12/21: Advisory Referendum on Clean Water

Motion by Robert Keller to table this resolution as this resolution was asking for a referendum to take place for the April 5, 2022 election and we are past that date. Seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Monroe County Resolution No. 03-22-01: Monroe County Resolution on Clean Water

A brief and informal discussion of this resolution. Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to take no action on this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Town of Clayton Resolution 2022-009; Town of Utica Resolution No. 2022-03; Town of Vinland Resolution No. 006-2022; and Town of Winneconne Resolution No. 004-2022: A Resolution to Support NACo's Position on Defining the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and Regulations with Agricultural Considerations:

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to table this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Town of Omro Resolution 2022-4-2: Resolution opposing the mapping of a flood storage district for Sawyer Creek

This was pulled at the last County Board meeting and is a hot topic. Discussion among members on this resolution. Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Cox to refer back to Planning & Zoning Committee. Supervisor Binder, Supervisor Egan and Supervisor Schellenger all voiced their opinions regarding this matter. More discussion among members. Chairman Farrey called the question. Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Cox to refer back to Planning & Zoning Committee with disposition and comment of "No support of the mapping of the City of Oshkosh by the members of the Winnebago County Legislative Committee". CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. 8 Ayes - 1 Nay (Schellenger).

Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members

Supervisor Norton will bring something in the near future when legislators will be in attendance.

Discuss Proposed / Potential State Legislation as Presented by Local Legislators and Committee Members

No one present.

Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

The County Executive was not present.

Update from State Legislators:

No legislators were present.

Update from Federal Representatives:

No representatives were present.

Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting

Next Meeting Date and Time: Discussion among all members. Decision to continue to meet quarterly unless an emergency issue would need to be addressed, then a meeting would be scheduled. Motion by Supervisor Albrecht and seconded by Supervisor Cox to keep the time of the meeting at 8:30 am with date to be determined. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cassie Smith-Gregor, Recording Secretary



KENOSHA COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Resolution No. 22

Subject:			
Resolution to Conduct Countywide Advisory Referendum on making the State of Wisconsin a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State			
Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corrected <input type="checkbox"/>	2nd Correction <input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Date Submitted: Date Submitted: 5/9/2022		Date Resubmitted:	
Submitted by: Supervisors Decker and Poole			
Fiscal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement	
Prepared by: Supervisor Erin Decker		Signature:	

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the Supreme Law of our nation, and;

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms is guaranteed as an Individual Right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, and reads "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," and;

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, Article 1, Section 25, reads "The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose," and;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), affirmed an individual's right to possess firearms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home, and;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *McDonald v. Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), affirmed that the right of an individual to "keep and bear arms," as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment against the states, and;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), opined that firearms that are part of ordinary military equipment, or with use that could contribute to the common defense are protected by the Second Amendment, and;

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms for the defense of Life, Liberty, and Property is regarded as an Inalienable Right by the People of the Kenosha County, and;

WHEREAS, the People of Kenosha County derive an economic benefit from all safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting, and shooting conducted within Wisconsin using all types of firearms allowable under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and;

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Kenosha County are concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Kenosha County to keep and bear arms, and;

WHEREAS, The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors desires to hear the views of the public on this important matter; and subsection 59.52 (25) of the Wisconsin Statutes permits the County Board of Supervisors to conduct a countywide referendum for advisory purposes, and;

WHEREAS, The following advisory referendum question provides a way for the public to express its views on making Wisconsin a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State:

Question: Should the Wisconsin State Legislature declare the State of Wisconsin be a Second Amendment Sanctuary State?

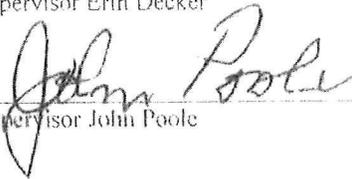
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled will place the following question on the November 8, 2022 ballot as an advisory referendum question. Question: Should the Wisconsin State Legislature declare the State of Wisconsin be a Second Amendment Sanctuary State? YES _____ NO _____, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors directs Corporation Counsel to prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Kenosha County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirement, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with Kenosha County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the November 8, 2022 election at which the question will appear on the ballot, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this ballot referendum shall be forwarded to Kenosha County's legislative delegation, all other Wisconsin counties, the Wisconsin Counties Association and Governor Evers.

Supervisor Erin Decker



Supervisor John Poole

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Excused</u>
<u>Brian Thomas</u> Brian Thomas, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>John Poole</u> John Poole, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Amanda Nedweski</u> Amanda Nedweski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Zach Stock</u> Zach Stock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Andy Berg</u> Andy Berg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Daniel Gaschke</u> Daniel Gaschke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Monica Yuhas</u> Monica Yuhas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Resolution Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise its Policy on Foreign
Ownership of Farmland by Entities Party to Adversarial Governments**

WHEREAS, according to the USDA, foreign agricultural interests in Wisconsin, as of December 31st, 2020, own over 500,000 acres of land in the state with that number rising by over 25,000 acres from 2019 to 2020 alone, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres of agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic shows the need to localize supply chains, especially for food and medicine, and to keep them out of the hands of adversarial governments or entities party to adversarial governments, and

WHEREAS, with the reality that supply chain disruption could happen again in the future, it is prudent to limit the exposure of these critical supply chains to entities party to governments who routinely abuse human rights, violate international trade law and labor standards and seek to upend fair markets through state owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition, and

WHEREAS, the combination of the two factors of rising instances of foreign purchases and the disruption of supply chains show the need to deny entities party to the governments of adversarial foreign powers, particularly the Peoples' Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, the ability to purchase farmland in Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the State of Wisconsin is hereby requested, in the next legislative biennium, to review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland by individuals and corporations party to the governments of the Peoples' Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea and to restrict these aforementioned parties from buying farmland in Wisconsin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Winnebago County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties.



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

Agenda Item Report

DATE: 9/6/2022

FROM: Supervisors Floam and Gustafson

RE: Resolution Concerning Foreign Ownership of Farmland by Entities Party to Adversarial Governments

General Description:

A resolution requesting that the state of Wisconsin, in its next legislative biennium, review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland in order to secure our food supply chain and preclude bad international actors from owning farmland in Wisconsin.

Action Requested:

Motion to approve the attached resolution

Procedural Steps:

(Show each level of committee and board approval needed, with meeting dates.)

Committee of Jurisdiction: <u>Legislative</u>	Meeting date: <u>10/22</u>
Other Committee: _____	Meeting date: _____
Action taken: _____	Vote: _____
County Board: _____	Meeting date: _____

Background:

Family farming in Wisconsin is a tradition that we lose more and more of each day. Combined with an influx of foreign purchases of farmland and the subsequent supply chain disruptions in light of COVID-19, it has become clear that our food supply chain must be secured domestically and kept out of the hands of bad actors.

Currently, Wis. Stat. 710.02 prohibits one foreign individual or corporation from buying more than 640 acres for agriculture or forestry. While this law was enacted in 1887 and has been revised numerous times to lift the exemption on manufacturing, mining, railroads, and more (thanks in large part to the US being a signatory party to the GATS treaty), the 640 acre limit has held firm for these two aforementioned sectors. This is the only safeguard that exists in Wisconsin law as it stands. In 2014, then Attorney General Van Hollen released the attached AG's opinion which affirmed that the 640 acre limit

for agriculture and forestry is not superseded by GATS as the treaty primarily covers the service industry.

Fiscal Impact: \$0

Policy Discussion:

Winnebago County has the opportunity to lead Wisconsin's counties in having the state revisit this discussion. Foreign farmland purchases in the US and Wisconsin are on the rise. While most buyers are transparent, publicly traded firms from nations that follow the international rules of the road when it comes to trade and labor, not all are. It's been the policy of totalitarian foreign governments like the Communist Party of China and Russian Federation to purchase foreign assets in critical infrastructure and supply chains. This resolution encourages Madison to implement sensible reform to foreign purchases of farmland to keep the good actors involved, and the bad actors out.

Attachments:

Included with this memo is a short policy brief with charts and maps regarding foreign farmland ownership from USDA's 2020 AFIDA report, the draft board resolution, and a copy of Attorney General Van Hollen's 2014 opinion.



Securing The Agricultural Supply Chain

An Opportunity for Winnebago County to Lead

OCTOBER 2022

RESOLUTION AUTHORED BY COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Jacob Floam (District 16)

Nate Gustafson (District 28)



Background

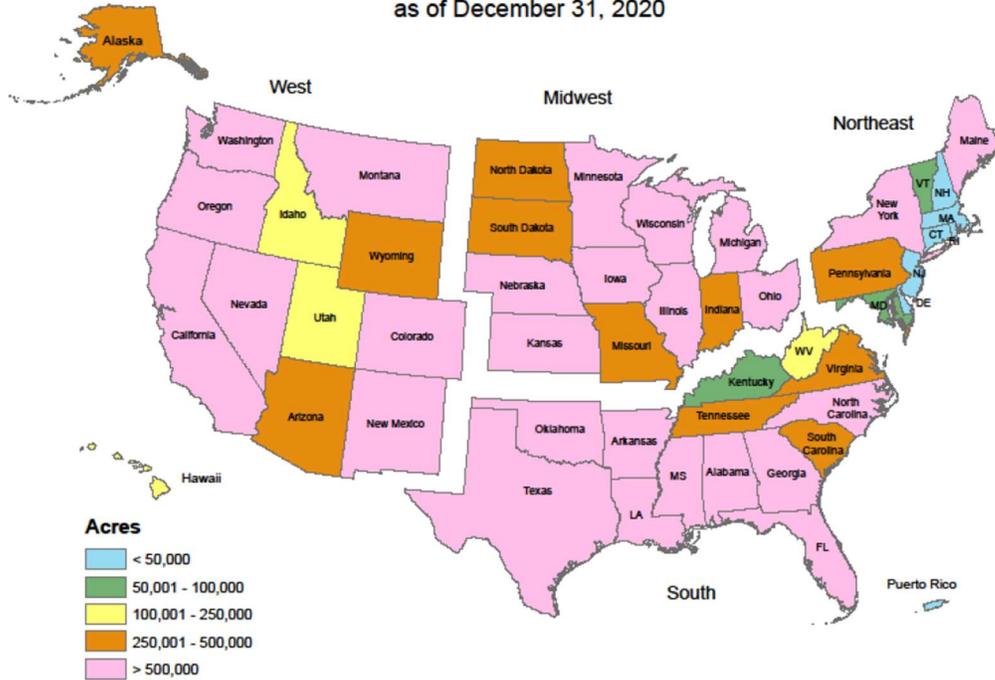
According to the USDA's annual Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) report in 2020, "there was an increase of over 2.4 million acres from the December 31, 2019 report"¹ in terms of foreign-owned farmland nationwide. In Wisconsin alone, there was an increase of just under 26,000 acres sold to foreign entities to nudge our state over the 500,000 acres of foreign-owned farmland. The graphic below highlights this.²

¹ Farm Service Agency, Tricia Barnes, Mary Estep, Veronica Gray, Cassandra Goings-Colwell, Catherine Feather, and Phil Sronce, Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 2020 § (2020). https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/EPAS/PDF/2020_afida_annual_report.pdf.

² Farm Service Agency, Tricia Barnes, Mary Estep, Veronica Gray, Cassandra Goings-Colwell, Catherine Feather, and Phil Sronce, Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 2020 § (2020). https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/EPAS/PDF/2020_afida_annual_report.pdf.

Figure 2

**State Concentration of Foreign Holdings of Agricultural Land
as of December 31, 2020**



6

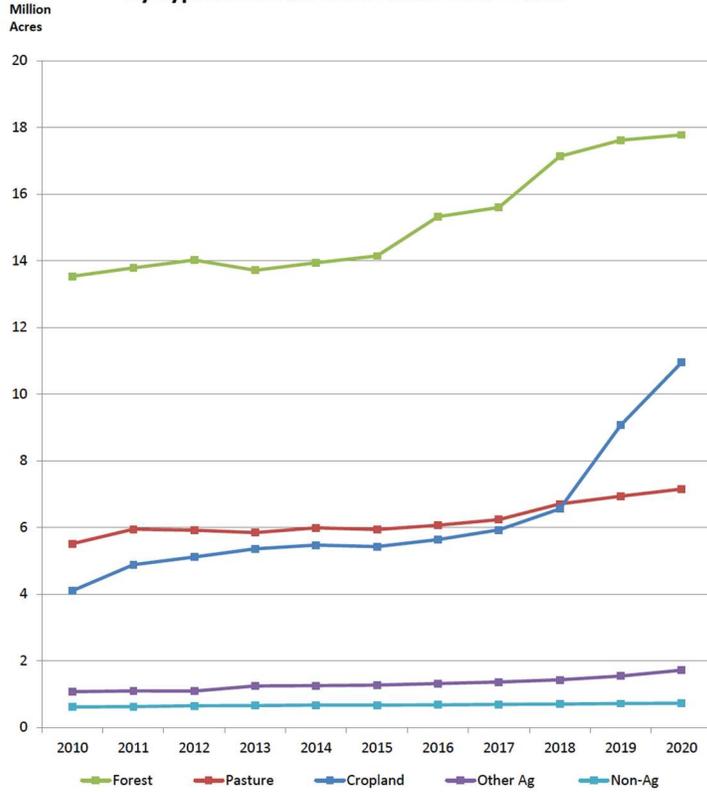
While most foreign-owned farmland in the United States is owned by either Canada, the UK, Germany, Italy, and Netherlands, 403,000 acres of the foreign-owned farmland in Wisconsin is owned by none of these nations.³ To add to this, AFIDA 2020 reports that cropland is rapidly becoming the one of the most popular types of agricultural land by usage that is being bought up by foreign owners. Below is a chart displaying that trend of the past decade.⁴

³ Farm Service Agency, Tricia Barnes, Mary Estep, Veronica Gray, Cassandra Goings-Colwell, Catherine Feather, and Phil Sronce, Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 2020 § (2020). https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/EPAS/PDF/2020_afida_annual_report.pdf.

⁴ Farm Service Agency, Tricia Barnes, Mary Estep, Veronica Gray, Cassandra Goings-Colwell, Catherine Feather, and Phil Sronce, Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 2020 § (2020). https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/EPAS/PDF/2020_afida_annual_report.pdf.

Figure 7

**Trends in Foreign Holdings of Agricultural Land
by Type of Use for the Period 2010 - 2020**



Note: Data for 2010 forward is through December.

When you analyze Wisconsin’s trends in foreign ownership of farmland with the extensive acreage of cropland in the state and combine that with seemingly pedestrian constraints on foreign ownership of farmland in statute, you can see why a supply chain disruption like COVID-19 would merit looking into changing the statute. A relatively exposed supply chain susceptible to foreign purchases by powers with their own interests ahead of international cooperation both threatens the family farm way of life and food security.

Legal Considerations

There are some jurisdictional questions when it comes to whether or not companies or individuals party to hostile foreign governments can be “banned” from buying

farmland. Is this a state or federal issue? Do international trade treaties that the US is party to preclude new state or federal legislation? According to a 2014 opinion, then Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen issued the following statement. The full opinion is also included in this packet.

1. Wisconsin's law specifically exempts most uses of land owned by foreign investors and corporations from the 640-acre limit, but does not exempt agriculture and forestry uses. Given that the Wisconsin statutes were amended numerous times to specifically exempt certain uses from the limit but not agriculture and forestry uses, the opinion determined that the legislature's intent was to clearly limit the amount of agricultural and forestry land that could be owned by foreign investors
2. The federal GATS Treaty is one of the exceptions in Wisconsin's law, and the treaty applies to a long list of service sectors, but not the agriculture or forestry service sectors. Thus, because the federal GATS Treaty does not apply to agriculture or forestry service sectors, the opinion reasons that agriculture and forestry land are not exempt from the 640-acre limit.⁵

This opinion shows that the State Legislature does have the power to change the 1887 law as the General Agreement on Trade in Services Treaty does not supersede Wis. Stat. 710.02.



Scope of the Resolution

While this resolution seeks to start a dialogue and discussion on the topic (and will not dictate the outcome of the state's action on this matter), we recommend that this be a scalpel instead of a hammer. There are many foreign parties in Wisconsin that own farmland whose governments largely follow international trade practices and labor laws

⁵ Larson, Tom. "Made in the USA: Attorney General's Opinion Clarifies Limits on Foreign Ownership of Land in Wisconsin." Wisconsin Real Estate Magazine. Wisconsin Realtors Association, February 5, 2015. <https://www.wra.org/WREM/Feb15/Ownership/#:~:text=Since%201887%2C%20Wisconsin%20law%20has,Wisconsin%2C%20not%20just%20contiguous%20property.>

in good faith. They contribute to our economy as well. Thus, we are asking the state to restrict the purchase eligibility of bad international actors who do the following:

- That seek to disrupt and abuse trade practices and laws
- Abuse international labor standards and human rights
- Harbor and promote state owned enterprises and/or monopolies to artificially tinker with the price of goods
- Commit acts of armed aggression abroad

With this criteria in mind, the scope of this resolution applies to individuals and corporations party to Communist Party of China, the government of the Russian Federation, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



Goal of the Resolution

Telling the state to begin to look at this topic via simple communication resolution has little downside but carries lots of upside. Winnebago County can lead the way on this issue as there have been no other resolutions passed like this by one of the 72 counties in recent memory. We can take the opportunity to learn from the pandemic and recent international events to protect our farmland from bad international actors.

Made in the USA: Attorney General's Opinion Clarifies Limits on Foreign Ownership of Land in Wisconsin

 Tom Larson |  February 05, 2015



In December, Wisconsin's then-Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen issued a formal opinion to clear up confusion regarding the ability of non-U.S. citizens to own land in Wisconsin. The confusion stemmed from what appeared to be a direct conflict between state law, which limits the amount of land a foreign citizen could own, and a federal treaty, which prohibits states from enacting or enforcing laws that treat U.S. and foreign citizens differently. Due to this apparent conflict, REALTORS[®], property owners, and others have been unclear about the rules regarding foreign ownership of land in Wisconsin.

Foreign investment in real estate is growing

Interest by foreign investors in U.S. real estate is very strong and continues to grow. Most of the real estate holdings by foreign investors consist of forest and farmland, but interest is also strong in other types of property, such as commercial, golf courses and residential properties. While activity by foreign investors historically has been higher in coastal areas, states in the Midwest and the South have also experienced greater demand by foreign investors in recent years. Consider the following:

- In 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that approximately 24.2 billion acres of farm and forest land were owned by companies with foreign investors. This represents an increase of approximately 65 percent since 2004. ¹
- In 2013, foreign investment in commercial real estate was an estimated \$40 billion. ²
- The U.S. ranks number one by foreign investors as the most stable and secure destination for real estate investment, according to a survey by the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate (AFIRE). ³
- Ninety percent of global investors have indicated that they plan to maintain or increase the size of their U.S. real estate portfolio in 2015, according to the survey by AFIRE. ³

Wisconsin law vs. federal treaty

While increased demand by foreign investors has helped strengthen U.S. real estate markets, such demand has also resulted in a growing interest in the laws that regulate foreign investment in real estate.

Since 1887, Wisconsin law has prohibited foreign individuals and corporations from owning more than 640 acres of Wisconsin land. The 640-acre limit applies to all land owned in Wisconsin, not just contiguous property. Thus if a foreign individual or corporation has various land holdings in Wisconsin consisting of farmland, commercial buildings and forest land that equal 640 acres, any further land purchases with or without improvements would be prohibited. Moreover, the penalty for exceeding this limit is significant given that any property acquired in excess of 640 acres is subject to forfeiture.

Wisconsin's law, however, does contain numerous exceptions. The exceptions include property owned by railroads and pipeline corporations as well as land used for mining, manufacturing, mercantile or energy-production activities. In addition, the law specifically exempts foreign governments and subjects of foreign governments whose rights are secured by treaty.

Because the U.S. entered into a number of agreements and treaties with foreign countries over the last 50 years to encourage global investment and free trade, many have questioned the enforceability of Wisconsin's 640-acre limit on foreign investment. For example, in 1995, the U.S. and over 150 countries signed the General Agreement on Trade in

Services Treaty (the "federal GATS Treaty"), which was designed specifically to remove barriers to trade and investment between countries. The federal GATS Treaty applies to over 150 countries, including China, Russia and most European countries, and prohibits countries from treating foreign citizens and corporations differently than their own citizens and corporations.

Since Wisconsin's 640-acre limit applies only to citizens and corporations of foreign countries and the federal GATS Treaty prohibits states from treating foreign citizens and corporations differently than domestic citizens and corporations, considerable confusion existed as to whether the 640-acre limit was enforceable.

AG's opinion

Based on an analysis of both Wisconsin law and the federal GATS Treaty, the recent opinion from Wisconsin's Attorney General concluded that the 640-acre limit does not apply to citizens and corporations of the 150 countries that have entered into the federal GATS Treaty agreement for all uses except agricultural and forestry uses. In other words, the federal GATS Treaty overrides Wisconsin's 640-acre limit on foreign real estate investments unless the property is being used for agriculture or forestry. Thus the 640-acre limit still applies to foreign ownership of agricultural and forestry land regardless of whether the foreign owner is a citizen or corporation from a country that has entered into the federal GATS Treaty.

In support of this conclusion, the opinion cites two different reasons:

1. Wisconsin's law specifically exempts most uses of land owned by foreign investors and corporations from the 640-acre limit, but does not exempt agriculture and forestry uses. Given that the Wisconsin statutes were amended numerous times to specifically exempt certain uses from the limit but not agriculture and forestry uses, the opinion determined that the legislature's intent was to clearly limit the amount of agricultural and forestry land that could be owned by foreign investors.
2. The federal GATS Treaty is one of the exceptions in Wisconsin's law, and the treaty applies to a long list of "service sectors" but not the agriculture or forestry service sectors. Thus, because the federal GATS Treaty does not apply to agriculture or forestry service sectors, the opinion reasons that agriculture and forestry land are not exempt from the 640-acre limit.

Conclusion

When working with foreign investors or corporations interested in purchasing land in Wisconsin, REALTORS® should be aware of both the 640-acre limit and the exceptions for certain uses provided for both under the Wisconsin statutes and the federal GATS Treaty. Because the penalty for violating Wisconsin law is forfeiture of the property, REALTORS® should strongly encourage foreign investors and corporations to seek the advice of legal counsel to ensure they are in full compliance with the law.

Tom Larson is Vice President of Legal and Public Affairs for the WRA.

References:

1. 1 "Foreign Investment in U.S. Land on the Rise," USA Today: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-07-18/foreign-investing-US-farm-timber-land/56466674/1> (<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-07-18/foreign-investing-US-farm-timber-land/56466674/1>).
2. 2 "Foreign Investment in U.S. Real Estate": www.asianfortunenews.com/2014/12/foreign-investment-in-u-s-real-estate (www.asianfortunenews.com/2014/12/foreign-investment-in-u-s-real-estate).
3. 3 "More Foreign Capital to Pour into U.S. CRE Sector in 2015," National Real Estate Investor: nreionline.com/finance-investment/more-foreign-capital-pour-us-cre-sector-2015 (nreionline.com/finance-investment/more-foreign-capital-pour-us-cre-sector-2015).



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Federal Memo Impacts Participation on County Land Conservation Committees

Section 92.06(1)(b)2 of the Wisconsin statutes requires county land conservation committees (LCCs) to include the chairperson or designee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

However, in July 2021, the FSA issued a memo stating that Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin statutes "...cannot be enforced on USDA employees, including COC [county committee] members. Participation on LCC/equivalent boards by FSA COC members is not sponsored or compensated by the USDA FSA. FSA COC member participation in their local LCC/equivalent board is voluntary and must be done as a citizen/producer."

In essence, the FSA strongly disfavors USDA employees representing the organization on county land conservation committees. If voluntary participation occurs, the individual participating must do so as a "citizen member" and not act as a representative of the FSA.

As a result of the FSA memo, county officials have expressed growing concerns that individuals affiliated with the FSA are less likely to agree to participate on a county land conservation committee. In addition to the challenges of complying with state statutes, counties are concerned

about losing expertise on the committee. Some situations have already arisen in which the position on the land conservation committee has remained vacant or the FSA member has become a non-voting, ad hoc member and not counted for quorum purposes.

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (the county-based organization working directly with land conservationists), the WCA is developing a legislative strategy to address this issue when the state Legislature reconvenes in January.

Until there is a resolution, the WCA encourages counties to make the appointment required by state statute (i.e., the chair of the FSA or his/her designee pursuant to s. 92.06(1)(b)2), understanding that the appointee may be apprehensive about serving. Counties can then determine if additional committee members (likely from the county board membership) will be required to meet quorum requirements. If additional members are needed, discuss with corporation counsel and other county officials how to best address the situation.

If you have concerns or questions, contact the WCA for assistance. ■

Until there is a resolution, the WCA encourages counties to make the appointment required by state statute ... understanding that the appointee may be apprehensive about serving.

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RESOLUTION: Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry Level Compensation Rate for Assistant District Attorneys

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

8 **WHEREAS**, Assistant District Attorneys serve as the backbone of the State of Wisconsin's ability to prosecute
9 criminal cases in all of its seventy-two counties; and

10 **WHEREAS**, any shortage of these Assistant District Attorneys creates backups in the justice system, which can
11 lengthen cases, create more pressure on existing staff and delay or deny justice to individuals party to these cases; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys in Wisconsin in 2022 sits at
13 \$26.70 per hour which is annualized to around \$54,000 a year; and

14 **WHEREAS**, this entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys has not kept up with the rate of
15 inflation and sits well below the national average for similar positions in District Attorney offices across the country; and

16 **WHEREAS**, this entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys sits below other public sector
17 attorney positions in both Winnebago County and the State of Wisconsin; and

18 **WHEREAS**, this entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys is not competitive in today's
19 workforce environment, accelerates staff turnover in District Attorney offices around Wisconsin and endangers public
20 safety; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to make Wisconsin District Attorney offices more competitive in their entry level
22 compensation offerings for Assistant District Attorneys, Winnebago County requests that the State of Wisconsin review
23 and revise the entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys to remain competitive with similar positions in
24 District Attorney offices around the country, other public sector attorney positions and the private sector as well as to
25 keep up the rate of inflation.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the State of
27 Wisconsin is hereby requested to review and revise the entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys
28 in order to remain competitive with similar positions in District Attorney offices around the country, other public sector
29 attorney positions and the private sector as well as to keep up with the rate of inflation.

30 **LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that a copy of this
31 resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Winnebago
32 County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties **and be referred to Winnebago County**
33 **Legislative Committee.**

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36 Respectfully submitted by:

37 **JACOB FLOAM, DISTRICT 16**

38
39 Respectfully submitted by:

40 **JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

41 Committee Vote: **5-0**

42 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of those members present**

Resolution Number:

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

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive

DRAFT

JPS 08/08/2022 Meeting Minutes

on the ARPA Commission and the Diversity Affairs Commission until the next Judiciary meeting was made by Chairman Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Defferding. Carried 5-0.

12. Consideration/Vote: Resolution – "Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry Level Compensation Rate for Assistant District Attorneys" – County Board Supervisor Jacob Floam

A motion to introduce the resolution requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry Level Compensation Rate for Assistant District Attorneys was made by Supervisor Floam, seconded by Chairman Stafford.

Supervisor Floam stated this would not affect the county's levy but would like for the state to review the entry level compensation rate. A competitive pay study is currently being conducted with the state but he feels it is prudent for the state to examine the DA salary problem. Supervisor Floam reviewed the documents he provided regarding the high turnover with positions within the DA's offices and the possible solution to the problem.

Supervisor Eisen stated this is an ongoing issue and was brought forward at the Wisconsin Counties Association. He would like to see this passed and then forwarded to the Legislative Committee as they work with the state representatives and they can then look into this issue further.

A motion to amend line 34 to read "LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED to send it to Winnebago County Legislative committee." was made by Supervisor Eisen, seconded by Supervisor Defferding.

A motion to pass the resolution requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry Level Compensation Rate for Assistant District Attorneys with the amendment to line 34 was made by Supervisor Floam, seconded by Supervisor Defferding Carried 5-0.

13. Consideration/Vote: Resolution – "Amend Rule 10.2 of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to limit the time supervisors may speak on a subject".

A motion to introduce the resolution to amend Rule 10.2 of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to limit the time supervisors may speak on a subject was made by Supervisor Floam, seconded by Chairman Stafford.

Supervisor Egan stated the time limit is so everyone is able to speak for 2 minutes on a topic to save time at the County Board meetings but up to 4 minutes on one topic for questions or clarification.

Supervisor Eisen is opposed to the supervisor limit to 2 minutes and suggested other avenues to make this work. Supervisor Eisen suggested going to 5 minutes to give everyone the freedom of speech as when you represent the people in the community, you should be able to speak for them when they bring up issues they want to be discussed.

Chairman Stafford stated there are other counties in the surrounding area that have time limits on agenda items. Chairman Stafford sees it as a positive to having people make their points heard within a time limit instead of people getting off topic due to how long people spend speaking. His concern is having someone else decide what is or isn't important and the timeline of topics for freedom of speech.

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3 **RESOLUTION: Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry Level Compensation Rate**
4 **for Assistant District Attorneys**

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

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9 criminal cases in all of its seventy-two counties; and

10 **WHEREAS**, any shortage of these Assistant District Attorneys creates backups in the justice system, which can
11 lengthen cases, create more pressure on existing staff and delay or deny justice to individuals party to these cases; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys in Wisconsin in 2022 sits at
13 \$26.70 per hour which is annualized to around \$54,000 a year; and

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15 inflation and sits well below the national average for similar positions in District Attorney offices across the country; and

16 **WHEREAS**, this entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys sits below other public sector
17 attorney positions in both Winnebago County and the State of Wisconsin; and

18 **WHEREAS**, this entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys is not competitive in today's
19 workforce environment, accelerates staff turnover in District Attorney offices around Wisconsin and endangers public
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29 attorney positions and the private sector as well as to keep up with the rate of inflation.

30
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that a copy of this resolution
32 is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Winnebago County, the
33 Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties.

34

35 Respectfully submitted by:

36 **JACOB FLOAM, DISTRICT 16**

37 Committee Vote: _____

38 Respectfully submitted by:

39 **JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

40 Committee Vote: _____

41 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of those members present**

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

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive

DRAFT

Falling Behind: Wisconsin's Assistant DA Salary Problem

Encouraging the State to Close the Gap

August, 2022

AUTHORED BY

Supervisor Jacob Floam (District 16)

Role of the ADA and How We Got Here

Assistant District Attorneys are the backbone of DA offices across Wisconsin. They handle case adjudication, analyze evidence, prosecute cases in court, assist the District Attorney, and help the docket of cases run smoothly and efficiently. They are the frontline prosecutors that help the justice system work.

These roles are critical in our justice system. These attorneys make decisions that greatly impact peoples' lives and come with public scrutiny. Yet, they are underpaid. The starting salary of an ADA is \$26.70 an hour, which is around \$54,000 annualized.¹ There is flexibility for hiring seasoned attorneys with prosecutorial experience over that baseline number, but it's rare. For reference, the nationwide average pay for jobs in DA offices in 2021 (not counting the DA position itself and adjusted for inflation) is \$66,802.²

The Turnover Aspect

This rate of pay makes ADA positions high turnover positions, and it has not been any recent revelation. According to UW's La Follette School of Public Affairs

"Of Wisconsin's 330 assistant district attorneys (ADAs), 246 left their jobs between 2001 and 2007. A 75 percent turnover rate presents challenges for any organization, but the implications are especially alarming for public safety when the employees are the prosecutors, people whose work in county court make up a critical component of the state's overall criminal justice system....The annual turnover rate for Wisconsin ADAs since 1990 is 15.6 percent. Since 2000 it is 17.2 percent, and since 2005 it is 18.4 percent. These rates contrast with an annual turnover rate for public employees that is usually 5 percent to 7 percent."³

¹ DA Eric Sparr

² "District Attorney Salaries." Biglaw Investor, January 27, 2022.
<https://www.biglawinvestor.com/district-attorney-salary/>. Accessed July 24, 2022.

³ "Public Safety and Assistant District Attorney Staffing in Wisconsin." Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs. Accessed July 24, 2022.
<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/outreach-public-service/past-events-initiatives-and-collaborations/public-safety-and-assistant-district-attorney-staffing-in-wisconsin>.

Based on this analysis, one can only imagine what the turnover numbers look like now.



Comparison to Other Public Sector Attorney Positions

1. City of Oshkosh Assistant City Attorney:
 - \$33.72 - 46.24/hr (\$70,137.60 - \$96,179.20)
2. City of Oshkosh Deputy City Attorney:
 - \$44.93 - 61.62/hr (\$93,454.40 - \$128,169.60)
3. City of Oshkosh City Attorney:
 - \$54.39 - 74.59/hr (\$113,131.20 - \$155,147.20)
4. Winnebago County Corporation Counsel:
 - \$109,230 - \$150,738
5. Assistant Corporation Counsel & County Child Support Attorney:
 - \$74,030 - \$102,160
6. Assistant Child Support Attorney:
 - \$65,513 - \$90,408⁴

If an ADA applicant has a choice and can command a higher wage, these are the more competitive positions listed above (not to mention they're less stressful and carry far less public scrutiny). It is also important to note that Winnebago County has an open ADA position (open since early May - for reference that job description is attached in this packet). There has not been a single applicant yet for that job as of authoring this.⁵ Paralegal positions are also creeping up on baseline ADA salaries. In June of this year, Dodge County posted (and filled) a paralegal position, which started at \$26.87/hour, but was also "negotiable for the right person." Furthermore, in March of this year, the

⁴ DA Eric Sparr

⁵ DA Eric Sparr

Wisconsin Department of Justice posted a paralegal position with a starting hourly wage of \$27.00-\$31.44.⁶



The Fix

To conclude, Winnebago County cannot fix this problem by itself. Since 1989, the counties of Wisconsin are no longer the party responsible for paying District Attorney office prosecutors. The State of Wisconsin must be encouraged to review and revise the baseline pay for ADAs. Public safety depends on it. In an economic situation where it is imperative to separate needs from wants, this is a need.

⁶ DA Eric Sparr



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor
Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary-designee
Jen Fogel, Division Administrator

DATE: May 3, 2022

TO: District Attorneys

FROM: Division of Personnel Management
Department of Administration Human Resources

SUBJECT: VACANCY IN THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

This Assistant District Attorney position is a full-time position to be filled in the District Attorney's office for Winnebago County, located in Oshkosh, WI. This is a State position in the unclassified service.

The starting wage rate is \$26.70 per hour.

Only attorneys who have been admitted to practice law in the State of Wisconsin may be hired. Attorneys who are currently employed by the State of Wisconsin are invited to apply and may be able to transfer at their current pay rate.

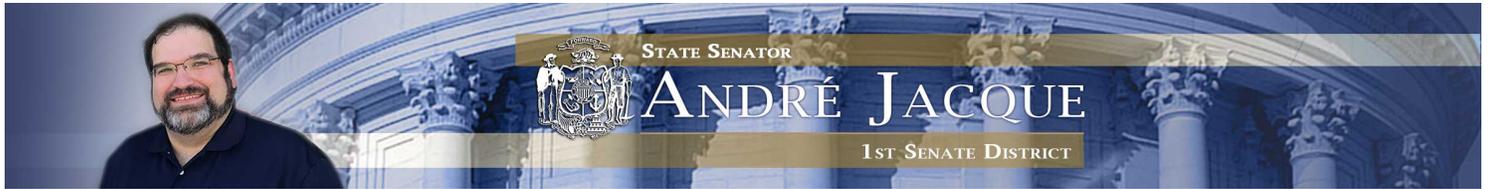
Attorneys who have left the position of Wisconsin elected District Attorney or Assistant District Attorney within the last five years may be able to be hired at a wage rate above the minimum. Please send a resume and cover letter to Eric Sparr, District Attorney, by e-mail to Eric.Sparr@da.wi.gov.

3rd year law students graduating in May 2022 are encouraged to apply!

Applications will be accepted until a qualified candidate has been selected.

(<https://www.facebook.com/senjacque>)

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Andre Jacques, Wisconsin State Senator, District 1 (</senate/01/jacque/>)

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/ FOX11 in Green Bay investigates shortage of assistant district attorneys and backlog of cases

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FOX11 investigates shortage of assistant DAs, backlog of cases

GREEN BAY - (WLUK) - (<http://fox11online.com/news/fox-11-investigates/fox11-investigates-shortage-of-das-backlog-of-cases>) Justice is supposed to be served in a timely manner. But a backlog of police cases referred to the Brown County District Attorney's office can lead to a lengthy wait.

The reason--a shortage of attorneys. And other counties are affected too.

More than 5,600 criminal cases make their way through Brown County Court every year. A typical assistant district attorney handles as many as 450 cases a year--from misdemeanors to felonies.

And yet, with 15 lawyers in the office working Brown County cases, that's not enough to keep up with the 9,000 cases being referred for prosecution by the area's law enforcement agencies.

“There are hundreds, literally hundreds of law enforcement officers in Brown County which funnels down to the 15 lawyers roughly in our office,” said David Lasee, Brown County District Attorney.

Out of the 15 lawyers on staff--12 are state funded as required by law. A grant pays for another position that is shared with more than a dozen other counties. And Brown County seeing the need for more prosecutors opted to pay for two additional lawyers.

Lasee showed FOX11 Investigates the case files his office is currently dealing with--some dating back more than two years.

“We're still substantially behind. Two to three thousand cases behind,” said Lasee, indicating his staff can't catch up with the current case load.

“That's what they feel like. I've made it a priority not to fall further behind,” added Lasee.

That's right. Lasee tells FOX 11 Investigates his office is behind by as many as 3,000 cases.

The cases are prioritized. High profile crimes like murder, and sexual assault head to court right away. But lower level crimes get pushed off. And in some cases the time to prosecute expires.

“We've had cases that we just couldn't prosecute anymore because they're beyond the statute of limitations,” said Lasee.

Other cases waiting to be charged move up on the list, when the offender is picked up again for another crime.

“Yes and that's a problem for law enforcement as well, because we're making the assumption that that individual is already arrested on a charge,” said Brown County Sheriff John Gossage.

Gossage says with new technology his officers are getting better at what they do. And they're making more arrests.

Extra funding is made available at times to put more officers on the streets for special operations. But the office left to prosecute all these cases hasn't received extra help in years--leaving the cases to pile up.

“We're arresting more people for some large crimes, some felony crimes and yes they're sitting there,” said Gossage, who adds he understands the frustration with staff at the district attorney’s office.

District attorneys across the state routinely ask the legislature to fund more prosecutors. For the upcoming budget the state's District Attorneys Association requested 96 positions for various counties around the state.

None are in the governor's budget.

“Is there a need for more prosecutors?” FOX11 Investigates asked State Representative Andre Jacque, (R) De Pere.

“I absolutely believe so,” said Jacque.

Jacques introduced legislation in 2015 to hire more prosecutors statewide. The budget motion went nowhere. He says other budget items like healthcare, education, transportation and corrections didn't leave money for more prosecutors.

“Budgets are about priorities and funding for DAs has languished under both Republican and Democratic administrations,” said Jacque.

A state study of 'county prosecutor needs' conducted in 2014 estimated Brown County should have closer to 25 prosecutors to handle its case load.

“By the state's own calculations we need to have about 11 and a half more prosecutors,” said Lasee.

Statewide there is a shortage of 140 prosecutors--although no county is in need of more prosecutors than Brown. In Winnebago County state calculations indicate another 6 prosecutors are warranted. In Outagamie County it's closer to 9 needed.

View prosecutor staffing levels and projections here for all Wisconsin counties.

(<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3124338/2016-Prosecutor-Staffing-Analysis.pdf>)

The shortage of prosecutors isn't the only problem, how much their paid is also an issue. Assistant district attorneys start at \$49,000 a year--that's at least \$10,000 less than the pay for the city's assistant attorneys and the county's corporation counsel assistants.

The legislature approved a 17-step plan to give the prosecutors annual raises up to a maximum salary of \$119,000. The catch is the legislature doesn't always approve funding to pay for those raises.

“We lost five lawyers in the last two years, three or four of them directly attributed to a lack of progression through the pay scale,” stated Lasee.

The governor's current budget proposal does include funding for pay raises.

Jacque applauds that effort, but plans to reintroduce his request for more prosecutors.

FOX 11 Investigates reminded Jacque that Brown County right now is as many as 3,000 cases behind, backlogged, and without more prosecutors will never catch up.

“The bottom line is that we're supposed to have a right to a swift trial and we're supposed to have the resources to bring cases to trial in a timely basis,” said Jacque.

To ease the workload on the district attorney's office, Lasee says he's told law enforcement agencies in Brown County to prioritize their referrals.

Agencies are told to direct cases involving low level drug users or other lesser offenses to municipal court where the offenses can be handled with a fine.

Lasse admits public safety is an issue with low level criminals oftentimes progressing to bigger crimes without facing a proper deterrent early on.

Senator Jacque's Facebook



Sen. André Jac...

Follow Page



Sen. André Jacque

about 3 weeks ago

Speakers included Rathke, De Pere mayor James Boyd, retired Army Major General Dan Ammerman and state senator Andre Jacque, who said the memorial had a special meaning to him, as the son of a veteran.

"It's a beautiful monument and it really fits in beautifully with what really is a gem for the city of De Pere" - Sen. Jacque

Rep. Jacque passes bill aimed at saving more people ...

00:00

01:32



Senator Jacque Authored Proposals

(<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/legislator/2021/155>)

2021 Senate Bill 1102 - 2022-03-10 (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/sb1102>)

An Act to amend 119.04 (1); and to create 43.75 and 118.073 of the statutes;



10 Mar

2021 Senate Bill 1101 - 2022-03-10 (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/sb1101>)

An Act to amend 71.05 (6) (a) 15., 71.21 (4) (a), 71.26 (2) (a) 4., 71.34 (1k) (g) and 71.45 (2) (a) 10.; and to create 71.07 (4p), 71.10 (4) (ft), 71...



10 Mar

2021 Assembly Bill 1193 - 2022-03-10 (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/ab1193>)

An Act to amend 119.04 (1); and to create 43.75 and 118.073 of the statutes;



10 Mar

2021 Assembly Bill 1180 - 2022-03-10 (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/ab1180>)

An Act to create 345.13 of the statutes;



10 Mar

2021 Assembly Bill 1163 - 2022-03-10 (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/ab1163>)

An Act to renumber and amend 5.06 (1); and to create 5.06 (1) (b) and 5.06 (1) (c) of the statutes;



10 Mar

See all Authored Proposals

(<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/legislators/senate/1941>)

Contact Our Office

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Phone: 608-266-3512 (tel:16082663512)

E-mail: Sen.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

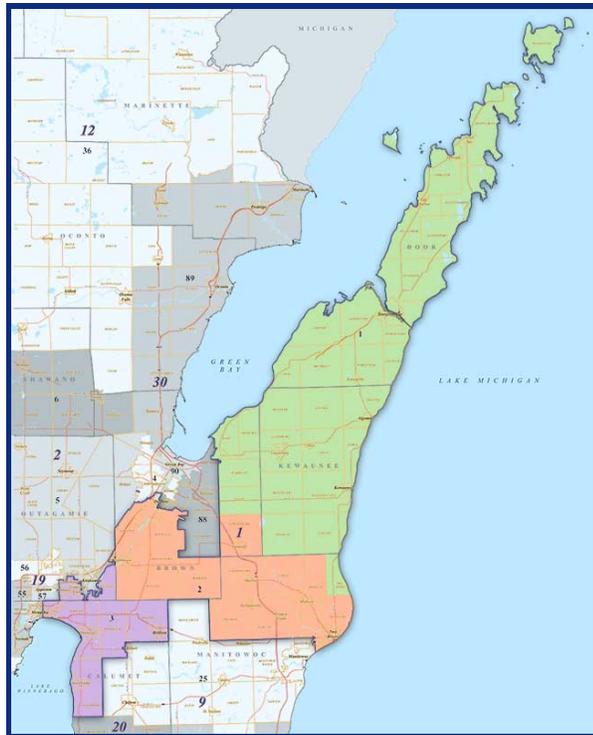
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(<https://www.facebook.com/senjacque>)