

2 **RESOLUTION: Oppose Bill Eliminating Personal Property Tax and the Elimination of**
3 **Computer Aid Payments to Local Governments**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, Representative Kulp and Senator Tiffany are seeking cosponsors to Bills for a plan on
7 introducing (Legislative Reference Bureau—1183/Legislative Reference Bureau—2009) that would eliminate both the
8 personal property tax and the computer aid payments local governments receive for tax exempt computer and
9 related equipment; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the passage of such Bills would have a huge negative impact on homeowners and local
11 government services; and

12 **WHEREAS**, said Bills, at a minimum, would result in the loss of local tax revenue and a huge tax shift to
13 local homeowners; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the total statewide personal property tax levy collected in 2014 was \$290 Million; and

15 **WHEREAS**, since 2001, the state has been making computer aid payments to local governments to offset
16 the personal property tax exemption for computer equipment that was created in 2001. The total payment made by
17 the state in 2015 was approximately \$83.8 Million; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has estimated that the share of net property taxes bourn by
19 property owners would increase on an average by two percentage points statewide if personal property taxes were
20 eliminated; and

21 **WHEREAS**, this increase will have a greater impact on cities and villages where most of the personal
22 property tax base is located. For example, in the City of Fond du Lac, this would result in a loss of approximately
23 \$128 Million in the City's property tax, representing 4.9% of the City's taxable property tax base; and

24 **WHEREAS**, fully exempting all personal property from the property tax base will likely result in a reduction in
25 the incremental levy for many tax incremental finance districts; and

26 **WHEREAS**, when the Legislature has exempted large amounts of personal property from taxation in the
27 past, it has typically offset the reduction in the property tax base and avoided a tax shift by reimbursing local
28 governments for the lost tax revenue. The Bills presently proposed would not do this; and

29 **WHEREAS**, passage of these Bills would have a devastating effect on local government finances.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
31 opposes the elimination of the state personal property tax and the elimination of computer aid payments to local
32 governments which is received for tax exempt computer and related equipment.

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that a copy of this Resolution
34 be transmitted to the Wisconsin Counties Association, to the Office of Governor Scott Walker, to all representatives
35 representing constituents within Winnebago County, and to the Office of Representative Kulp and Senator Tiffany in
36 the Wisconsin Legislature.

37 Respectfully submitted by:

38 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

39 Committee Vote: **9-0**

40 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

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Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive