

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION
WASHINGTON COUNTY
NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the County of Washington, State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, the following proposed resolution will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

**2022 RESOLUTION 27
Referendum to Increase the County Tax Levy
to fund the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on County property tax levies under §66.0602, Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, §66.0602, Wis. Stats., limits the increase in 2022 (collected in 2023) to local property tax levy to no more than the greater of: (a) 0% of last year's actual levy, or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed, which for Washington County is estimated to be 1.79 percent; and

WHEREAS, due to fiscally conservative budget management, Washington County has not used its full allowable levy in the 2022 Budget, which would allow additional increase in the 2023 budgeted levy, for a total estimated increase of 3.6%; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors believes it is in the County's best interest to give the voters of Washington County the choice to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than allowable under statutory levy limits, for the purpose of funding the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County's actual levy in 2021 (collected in 2022) was \$36,418,760 and state law would limit the increase to an estimated \$1,316,160 for a total allowable 2022 (collected in 2023) County tax levy of \$37,734,920; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute §59.52(25) authorizes the County Board of Supervisors to conduct a countywide referendum; and

WHEREAS, a countywide referendum on the issue of an increased property tax levy to fund the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan would provide guidance as to the will of the Washington County electorate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that this Board supports a referendum be added to the 08 November 2022 ballot to increase the County tax levy for 2022 (collected in 2023) to exceed the state levy limit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis by including it in the base used to calculate the limit for the 2024 budget as well.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose for which the increased levy will be used is to fund the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board directs that the question of increasing the allowable County Tax Levy for 2022 (collected in 2023) by 9.89 percent, which would increase the County Tax Levy by \$3,600,000 over the past year's levy, for a County Tax Levy of \$40,018,760, the increase to be used for funding the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum to be held on November 8, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is authorized to make arrangements to conduct a countywide referendum to be held in conjunction with the November 2022 general election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the question on the ballot shall read as follows:

Question: Under state law, the increase in the levy of Washington County for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year (2023), is limited to 3.61%, based on Washington County's best estimate, which results in a levy of \$37,734,920. Shall Washington County be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year (2023), for the purpose of funding the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan by a total of 9.89%, which results in a levy of \$40,018,760, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$3,600,000 each fiscal year going forward?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Attorney is directed to prepare a Notice of Referendum, including the date of the referendum, the entire text of the question, as well as an explanatory statement of the effect of either a yes or no vote.

BALLOT TEXT

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

Question: Under state law, the increase in the levy of Washington County for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year (2023), is limited to 3.61%, based on Washington County's best estimate, which results in a levy of \$37,734,920. Shall Washington County be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year (2023), for the purpose of funding the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan by a total of 9.89%, which results in a levy of \$40,018,760, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$3,600,000 each fiscal year going forward?

EXPLANATION

The referendum election ballot will ask electors to vote "yes" or "no" on the referendum election question as set forth above.

A **"yes"** vote on the question means that you support a tax levy increase of 9.89% for 2023 and an increase of \$3,600,000 each fiscal year going forward for the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan; and therefore, approve the County Board's adoption of 2022 Resolution 27.

A **"no"** vote on the question means that you oppose a tax levy increase of 9.89% for 2023 and an increase of \$3,600,000 each fiscal year going forward for the Washington County Anti-Crime Plan; and therefore, disapprove the County Board's adoption of 2022 Resolution 27.

Ashley A. Reichert, Washington County Clerk
432 E. Washington St.
West Bend, WI 53095