

Resolution No. 2-13

Resolution Urging State Legislators to Vote in Favor of Transportation Dollars for Transportation

TO THE HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF POLK:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component of its ability to attract and retain business and produce jobs; and

WHEREAS, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 85% of the state's segregated transportation account. Revenues from these two user fees have been declining and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's past practice of transferring money from the segregated transportation fund to the general fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees" they pay through the state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the state's segregated transportation fund with general obligation (GO) bonds put our state in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, the debt service for these bonds are being paid for out of the state's general fund which hinders its ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and courts in the future; and

WHEREAS, Polk County placed an advisory referendum on the November 2010 ballot asking "Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?"; and

WHEREAS, the people of Polk County voted overwhelmingly in favor of this constitutional amendment – over 65% "yes"; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-three other counties in Wisconsin also asked the same advisory referendum question and the support was similar across the state with an average "yes" vote of 70%; and

WHEREAS, first consideration of this constitutional amendment passed the Wisconsin State Legislature overwhelmingly last session, on a bipartisan basis

WHEREAS, the 2012-13 session of the Wisconsin State Legislature has the opportunity to pass second consideration of this constitutional amendment and in so doing will give the citizens of the entire state the opportunity to vote for amending the state constitution to ensure transportation revenues are spent for transportation purposes;

37 WHEREAS, providing constitutional protection for transportation user fees will align
38 Wisconsin with our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors
40 strongly urges our state representatives to vote in favor of second consideration of the joint resolution
41 to protect the transportation fund, thereby giving voters across this state the opportunity to vote on a
42 binding referendum to amend the constitution and ensure the transportation user fees they pay will be
43 spent for transportation purposes.

Funding Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Date Finance Committee Advised:

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Effective Date: Upon Passage

Date Submitted to County Board: January 15, 2013

Submitted and sponsored by the Polk County Highway Committee:

Marvin Caspersen

Jeff Luke
Craig Mourak

Tom Myer

Dean Johnson

Review By County Administrator:

- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

Dana Frey
Dana Frey, County Administrator

Review By Corporation Counsel:

- Approved as to Form
- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

Jeffrey B. Fuge
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

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County Board Action:

- On the 15th day of January 2013, the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2-13: Resolution Urging State Legislators to Vote in Favor of Transportation Dollars for Transportation, by a majority vote of supervisors of in favor and against.
by unanimous voice vote.

William F. Johnson, IV

William F. Johnson, IV, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Carole T. Wondra
Carole T. Wondra, County Clerk

Dated this 15th day of January, 2013.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
C OUNTY OF POLK)

I, Carole T. Wondra, Clerk for Polk County, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2-13 that was adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors on January 15, 2012.

Carole T. Wondra 1-16-13
Carole T. Wondra Date
Polk County Clerk