

Resolution to Receive the “*Polk County Organizational Study-Report on County Board Size*”, and to Affirm the Number of Supervisory Districts of the Polk County Board of Supervisors

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

WHEREAS, Section 59.10(3)(b) requires, in the year following the decennial census, a county board of supervisors to propose a tentative supervisory district plan which sets forth the number of supervisory districts and the tentative boundaries or description of boundary requirements and hold a public hearing on the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the current size of the Polk County Board of Supervisors is 23 supervisory districts; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2010, the Polk County Board of Supervisors created the Polk County Organizational Committee, an ad-hoc committee, to study and to provide recommendations on the organization and structure of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, including, but not limited to, the size of the County Board; and

WHEREAS, in examining the issue of county board size, the Polk County Organizational Committee reviewed data received from organizations and agencies including the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, UW-Extension, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, and the Wisconsin Law Library, Shawano County, and the Polk County Clerk’s Office; and

WHEREAS, in examining the issue of county board size, the Polk County Organizational Committee interviewed counties and sought input from the public through an online survey, a direct mailing and three listening sessions; and

WHEREAS, a majority of those county residents responding to the survey stated that the county board should remain at its current size or even larger; and

WHEREAS, the data received in the examination process provided the Polk County Organizational Committee with the direction to make an informed recommendation on board size to the Polk County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, a review by the Wisconsin Taxpayers’ Association determined that reducing the size of the County Board will not result in any cost-savings, but could result in increased costs and lessened accountability to the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the information received by the Polk County Organizational Committee supports the conclusion that a reduction of the size of the county board would make it

more difficult for those with outside employment to serve on the county board and could result in reduced rural voting power;

WHEREAS, the information received by the Polk County Organizational Committee supports the conclusion that a larger county board of supervisors is more conducive to participation at meetings of other local governments; offers broader perspectives to debate and decision making through greater diversity in backgrounds and experience; allows for a strong committee system through active committee participation and detailed work; lessens time constraints and duties per supervisor; and allows constituents to know their supervisors and hold them accountable.

WHEREAS, the Polk County Organizational Committee has compiled its findings and recommendations in the report: *“Polk County Organizational Study-Report on County Board Size”*, which is attached and incorporated into this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Organizational Committee has submitted the report to the Polk County Board of Supervisors with its rationale and recommendation to retain 23 supervisory districts on the Polk County Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors receives the report of the Polk County Organizational Committee, entitled, *“Polk County Organizational Study-Report on County Board Size”* as attached to and incorporated in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopts the findings and recommendations of the Polk County Organizational Committee that are contained in said report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors affirms the number of supervisory districts for the Polk County Board of Supervisors at twenty-three (23).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tentative county supervisory district plan required pursuant to Section 59.10(3)(b) shall be developed with the number of supervisory districts here affirmed.

Funding Amount: Not Applicable

Funding Source: Not Applicable

Date Finance Committee Advised: Not Applicable

Finance Committee Recommendation: Not Applicable

Effective Date: Upon Passage

Approved as to Form: Jeffrey B. Fuge  
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

Date Submitted to County Board: December 21, 2010

County Board Action: adopted

Submitted Upon Recommendation by the Polk County Organizational Committee:

[Handwritten Signature]

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Review By County Administrator:

- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

[Handwritten Signature]  
Dana Frey, County Administrator

Review By Corporation Counsel:

- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

[Handwritten Signature]  
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

At its regular business meeting on December 21, 2010, the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted the above-entitled resolution, Resolution No. 80 -10: Resolution to Receive the "Polk County Organizational Study-Report on County Board Size", and to Affirm the Number of Supervisory Districts of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, by a vote of 19 in favor and 0 against. (by unanimous voice vote)

[Handwritten Signature]  
William Johnson, IV, County Board Chairperson

Attest: [Handwritten Signature]  
Carole Wondra, Polk County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) SS  
COUNTY 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. 80-10 that was adopted  
by the Polk County Board of Supervisors on Dec 21, 2010.

Carole T. Wondra 12-29-10  
Carole T. Wondra Date  
Polk County Clerk