



AMENDED BY COUNTY BOARD

RESOLUTION # 37-8/10

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 8/24

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 24
Against: 10
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 1
Vote Req: 2/3 REGULAR
Other Action: ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted: NO
For: 3
Against: 5
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 1

PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 1

RE: RESOLUTION PLACING ADVISORY REFERENDUM QUESTION ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

WHEREAS, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, over the past decade, the State of Wisconsin has transferred approximately \$1.2 billion from the state's segregated transportation fund to the state's general fund and replaced it with approximately \$800 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds. Thereby, reducing the amount available for transportation purposes by approximately \$400 million; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's 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 GO bonds puts our state in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing operations; and,

WHEREAS, the Pew Center on the States recently released a report that included Wisconsin as having one of the ten worst budget situations in the country and specifically cited transferring money from the transportation fund to fund ongoing operations as an example of one of the practices that has put Wisconsin in such an untenable position; and,

WHEREAS, the debt service for these bonds will have to be 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, using the state's general obligation (GO) bonds in this way has hurt the state's bond rating. A report issued by CNN in 2009 listed Wisconsin as having the second worst GO bond rating in the country; and,

WHEREAS, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 90% of the state's segregated transportation account. Revenues from these two sources have been declining and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this state; and,

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

WHEREAS, the citizens of La Crosse County deserve the right to have their voices heard on this important issue; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby approve that the following question be put to the voters of La Crosse County in an advisory referendum during the November 2010 election:

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"Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to cause a copy of the Notice of Referendum to be published in the county's official newspaper as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution and a copy of the results of the advisory referendum to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

FISCAL NOTE: The County Clerk estimates that the cost of including the above referendum on the November ballot will be \$3,000 to cover the cost of a larger ballot, the publication of the notice and staff time in the County Clerk's office.

Date: _____

Date: 7-8-10

FAILED

C. J. ...

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Margaret Jordan
RECORDING CLERK

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>SO</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Dennis Osgood Date Requested: June 17, 2010 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>GI</u>	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>SD/MA</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 19TH Day of AUGUST, 2010

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Linda A. Stone, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 19th day of August, 2010.

Linda A. Stone
Linda A. Stone, La Crosse County Clerk