

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-3

**A RESOLUTION TO PETITION THAT WAUKESHA COUNTY PAY THE FULL COST
OF ITS ELECTION EQUIPMENT UPDATE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Clerk is the Chief Election Officer of the County, obligated to perform all duties that are imposed on the Clerk in relation to the preparation and distribution of ballots and the canvass and return of votes at general, judicial and special elections, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 59.23(2)(i); and

WHEREAS, in requesting this election system upgrade from the Waukesha County Board, as shown in enrolled Resolution 169-4, the Waukesha County Clerk noted that the Waukesha County Clerk's office oversees the election procedures in the 37 municipalities of Waukesha County; that the Waukesha County Clerk's office is accountable to the voters of Waukesha County to ensure the integrity of the County's election process; that the individual municipalities have the authority to purchase any certified election hardware that they deem appropriate, whether or not it integrates with the County system, but by ensuring that the municipalities in the County are equipped with standard equipment and processes, that will minimize variances and increase successful running of elections; and

WHEREAS, enrolled Resolution 169-4 of the Waukesha County Board further states that the scope of services of the election system upgrade includes budgeting and planning for a single election system to be used by all municipalities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Board adopted enrolled Resolution 169-4 on or about October 28, 2014, and it was approved by the County Executive on or about October 31, 2014, including a capital budget for the election system upgrade in the total project cost amount of \$2,318,000, which amount is more than adequate to cover the full cost of the proposed upgrade; and

WHEREAS, Waukesha County, therefore, has identified County goals, to best accommodate the performance of County duties, in order to achieve goals that apply throughout the entire County of Waukesha, without regard to municipal divisions; and

WHEREAS, municipalities also have duties related to elections, and have purchased election equipment to serve their needs; and

WHEREAS, the elections equipment being used by many municipalities throughout the County are deemed by the local municipal officials to be more than adequate for their purposes, and some of the equipment is quite new, having been purchased very recently, even in 2014 in some cases; and

WHEREAS, State certification of election equipment was required starting in 2005, the State had certified the first equipment that will allow election results to be sent via modem in September 2014, and the equipment purchased by the majority of the municipalities in Waukesha County the modem attachment was never approved by the State for use;

WHEREAS, Waukesha County's goal of having quick, accurate election results throughout the County, and having uniform equipment used throughout the County, will not be achieved unless all of the equipment throughout the County is updated as proposed by Waukesha County's program; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent participation by all 37 municipalities in Waukesha County will not be achieved without Waukesha County bearing the full cost, due to the fact that many municipalities have new, or relatively new equipment at present, which has been paid for by their taxpayers, and which are not in need of replacement, and the local municipalities therefore will not ask their taxpayers to pay again out of the local municipal budget in order to satisfy Waukesha County's goals in the performance of Waukesha County's duties; and


WHEREAS, Waukesha County's proposed upgrades, while they may assist Waukesha County in performance of Waukesha County's election duties, at the local level would only add cost, retraining and education responsibilities, additional staff time, and loss of use of a current machine that is known and proven to be effective at the local level; and

WHEREAS, Waukesha County's goals can only be achieved, therefore, if Waukesha County pays all of the cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Town of Waukesha that Waukesha County's election system upgrade approved by the Waukesha County Board in enrolled Resolution 169-4 should be fully funded by Waukesha County, with no requirement for cost sharing by local municipalities.

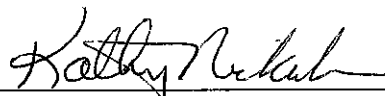
Dated this 14 day of May, 2015.

TOWN OF WAUKESHA



John Marek, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kathy Nickolaus, Town Clerk/Treasurer