

RESOLUTION NO.: 15—2016-17

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 2015 Act 261 (2015 Senate Bill 295) was enacted March 16, 2016, and published
2 March 17, 2016. 2015 Act 261 made changes to include electronic voter registration,
3 verification of registrations, proof of residence for voting, electronic poll lists, election
4 equipment approval, counting of absentee ballots, and other elections and campaign
5 finance items. 2015 Act 261 requires that “on election night the [county] clerk shall post
6 all returns, by ward or reporting unit, on an Internet site maintained by the county no later
7 than 2 hours after receiving the returns.” The Wisconsin Statutes had previously required
8 county clerks to post all returns, but the new provision has raised questions regarding the
9 interpretation of “all returns.”

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11 Outagamie County is one of several counties whose election night returns are called in
12 from the election inspectors/clerks. Outagamie County election equipment throughout
13 the county, except for the Village of Wrightstown, is not capable of modeming in
14 unofficial election returns, which would enable returns of all races/referenda being
15 counted to be reported. Outagamie County utilizes the Planning Department’s staff and
16 the Esri GIS program to report election night returns, which enables written reports and
17 individual maps for each contest race/referenda. If “all returns” is interpreted as “all”
18 school and municipal contests/local referenda, staffing requirements for both the county
19 clerk’s office on election night and Planning Department labor to enter in additional
20 municipal/school contests/referenda will in some cases double the requirements. The
21 costs would especially be larger in the Spring elections when municipal and school races
22 normally occur.

23
24 Reporting school/municipal races within one county does not provide sufficient data for
25 the determination of unofficial results. Numerous school districts and municipalities
26 cross county lines in Outagamie County and other counties across Wisconsin. Finally,
27 municipal and school official results are determined by those entities’ canvasses, not via
28 the county canvass. Therefore, reporting unofficial results will not provide results of the
29 final outcome of those contests/referenda.

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31 This resolution supports the definition of the election night returns to be reported at the
32 county level to include county unofficial election returns relative to those races/referenda
33 that the county canvass will review.

34
35 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Finance Committee and Legislative/Audit
36 and Human Resources Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

37 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does support definition in
38 Wisconsin Statutes of reporting election night returns at the county level to include only county
39 unofficial election returns relative to those races/referenda that the county canvass will review, and

1 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
2 of this resolution to the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, Wisconsin county clerks,
3 Lobbyist Mark Wadium, Outagamie County state legislators, and municipal clerks within Outagamie
4 County.

5 Dated this ____ day of June, 2016

6 Respectfully submitted,

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8 FINANCE COMMITTEE &
9 LEGISLATIVE/AUDIT & HUMAN RESOURCES
10 COMMITTEE

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13 _____
14 Kevin Sturn

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14 Kathy Groat

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17 _____
18 James Pleuss

17 _____
18 Nadine Miller

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21 _____
22 Peter Stueck

21 _____
22 Travis Thyssen

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25 _____
26 Cathy Spears

25 _____
26 Matthew Strenn

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29 _____
30 Shane Griesbach

29 _____
30 Justin Krueger

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32 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____

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34 Signed: _____
35 Board Chairperson

34 _____
35 County Clerk

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37 Approved: _____

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37 Vetoed: _____

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39
40 Signed: _____
41 County Executive

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY FISCAL NOTE

INTRODUCTION: This form must be attached to any resolution or ordinance which contains a spending or revenue proposal. The form should be completed by an individual within the department initiating the resolution or ordinance with assistance from the Financial Services Department. Contact the Finance Director (1674), Controller (1675) or Staff Accountant (1681) for assistance. Once completed, forward a copy of the form to the Financial Services Department for their review. Financial Services will forward a reviewed copy of the fiscal note to Legislative Services.

1. **Subject:** 2015 Act 261 - Posting of All Election Night Returns if the Definition of "All" Includes Municipal and School Contests and Referenda

2. **Description:** This section must be completed for all fiscal notes. Briefly and concisely describe the request. State assumptions used and discuss any current year and long-term fiscal impacts. (A separate attachment can be used)

2015 Act 261 requires that "on election night the [county] clerk shall post all returns, by ward or reporting unit, on an Internet site maintained by the county no later than 2 hours after receiving the returns." The Wisconsin Statutes had previously required county clerks to post all returns, but the new provision has raised questions regarding the interpretation of "all returns." As there are no municipal/school contests or referenda in August and minimal numbers in November 2016, the costs for the November 2016 races could be absorbed by the county clerk and Planning departments. However, in 2017, when the Spring elections occur, costs would significantly increase. While we are not sure of the costs at this time, an estimate is between \$10-20,000. Those estimated amounts would be included in the 2017 Proposed Budget.

Current Year Budget Impact (Check one or more of the following boxes)

Revenues Expenses (Cost) None


- 3. Is the specific cost or revenue included in the current year's budget? yes () no () partially ()
- 4. If the proposal requests additional spending, can the additional cost be absorbed within the current year's line item? yes () no () n/a ()
- 5. Is the proposal to accept additional revenues only? yes () no ()
- 6. Does this request modify/adjust the current year budget? yes () no ()
If no, skip to question 8 below.
- 7. Detail current year budget changes. Please list cost center name, line item, account number and either the increase or decrease amount. (Please note that all budget adjustments must balance. For example, an increase in an expenditure account must be offset by a decrease in another expenditure account or the contingency fund or an increase in a revenue account or other funding sources such as fund balance applied.)

COST CENTER NAME	LINE ITEM (i.e. Salaries, Supplies, Etc.)	ACCOUNT NUMBER INCLUDING COST CENTER (i.e. 1004100.5100, 1004100.5400, etc.)	INCREASE (DECREASE) AMOUNT
N/A - Funds already budgeted			
2017 Estimated Costs will be included in the 2017 Proposed Budget.			

Annual and Long-Term Impact

- 8. Is the above Increase/Decrease a nonrecurring one-time expense or revenue? yes () no () n/a () For a 2 year period
- 9. What is the anticipated annual and/or long-term cost or revenue impact? Annual Cost \$10-20,000
Annual Revenue -0-

Fiscal Note Prepared by: Lori O'Bright, County Clerk

For Financial Services purposes only	
Reviewed By: 	If expenditures are recorded in the financial system at a level of detail lower than the level 6 as shown above, indicate the specific account numbers and amounts below: <u>Detail Expenditures Account Number</u> <u>Amount</u>
Date: <u>6/1/16</u>	
Comments:	