

RESOLUTION NO.: 164—2017-18

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 Each time a big box retailer gets a Dark Store tax break, homeowners, small businesses
2 and other property owners have to pick up a greater share of the property tax levy. Over
3 the past several months, municipal, county, city, and town officials have been in contact
4 with state legislators testifying against the Dark Store tax loophole in order to avoid a
5 property tax burden shifting to other tax pay entities such as residential homeowners and
6 other businesses and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality.
7 Unless the Dark Store loopholes are closed, residents will realize the impact when they
8 receive their property tax bills in the mail in December.
9

10 Wisconsin State Statute 59.52(25) allows for a county board to conduct a county-wide
11 referendum for advisory purposes. A county-wide advisory referendum on the issue of
12 Dark Stores would provide guidance to the state legislature as to the will of the
13 Outagamie County electorate on this issue. This resolution seeks authorization to
14 conduct such a county-wide advisory referendum.
15

16 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Legislative/Audit and Human Resources
17 Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does resolve to conduct a
19 county-wide advisory referendum, to be held with the November 2018 general election; that a concise
20 statement of the question is given and that the question will state as follows:

21 *Question: Should the state legislature enact proposed legislation that closes the Dark Store*
22 *loopholes, which currently allow commercial retail properties to significantly reduce the*
23 *assessed valuation and property tax of such properties, resulting in a substantial shift in*
24 *taxes levied against other tax paying entities, such as residential home owners, and/or cuts in*
25 *essential services provided by an affected municipality?, and*
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation Counsel prepare a Notice of Referendum to
28 be published by the Outagamie County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements, and

29 BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed
30 with the Outagamie County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the election at which the question will
31 appear on the ballot, and

1 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
2 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Corporation Counsel and the Outagamie County Executive in
3 accordance with statutory requirements.

4 Dated this ____ day of March 2018

5 Respectfully submitted,

6
7 LEGISLATIVE/AUDIT & HUMAN RESOURCES
8 COMMITTEE
9

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11 _____
12 Travis Thyssen

13 _____
14 Cathy Spears

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16 _____
17 Shane Griesbach

18 _____
19 Patrick Meyer

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21 _____
22 John Foss

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24
25 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____
26

27
28 Signed: _____
29 Board Chairperson

30 _____
31 County Clerk

32 Approved: _____

33 Vetoed: _____

34 Signed: _____
35 County Executive