

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
Barron County
November 2, 2010**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the County of Barron, on November 2, 2010, the following proposed advisory referendum will be submitted to a vote of the people:

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2010 - 35

**Resolution Placing Advisory Referendum
Question on November Ballot**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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 Barron County deserve the right to have their voices heard on this important issue; and

WHEREAS, providing constitutional protection much like our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio already have is the only way to ensure that this practice will not continue; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on June 15, 2010 on a vote of 7-0, with Miller, Romsos, Bartlett, Horstman, Heinecke, Thompson and Hardie voting in favor and no members against. Olson and Mosentine were absent.

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Highway Committee on June 3, 2010 on a vote of 5-0, with Horstman, Henck, Organ, Thompson and Rogstad voting in favor and no members against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Barron County Board of Supervisors that the following question will be put to the voters of Barron County in an advisory referendum during the November 2010 election:

Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund? This amendment would require that transportation funds, collected or received, be used solely to fund Wisconsin's transportation systems and infrastructure.

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.

MOTION: (Henck/Horstman) to place referenda question on November ballot. Discussion regarding pro's and con's of creating a Resolution and sending to WCA versus a referendum in the November election. Estimated cost of putting referenda question on November ballot is \$2,000-3,000. Carried.
Voting No: Cordes & Stavran.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

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

EXPLANATION

This is an advisory referendum only. A “yes” vote indicates that you support a constitutional amendment to prohibit using transportation user fees (*i.e.*, state gas tax and vehicle registration fees) for any purpose other than funding transportation in Wisconsin. A “no” vote indicates that you do not support such a constitutional amendment. Your vote on this question will not directly result in the passage or non-passage of a constitutional amendment. The purpose of the question is to advise your representatives of the amount of support for and against a constitutional amendment limiting the use of transportation user fees for transportation purposes only.

Done in the County of Barron,
On October 27, 2010.
DeeAnn Cook, Barron County Clerk