

RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisors Robert Fizzell, Ivan Collins, Terry Thomas, Marvin Wopat  
INITIATED BY



Supervisor Robert Fizzell  
DRAFTED BY  
11/17/2011  
DATE DRAFTED

County Board Staff Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

Authorizing Countywide Referendum Question to be Placed on the April Ballot

1 WHEREAS, collective bargaining and other workers' rights have helped make Wisconsin a great state in  
2 which to live and work as well as to raise and educate our families; and,  
3

4 WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a long history of valuing and protecting its workers, having passed the  
5 nation's first workers' compensation law in 1911 and the first unemployment compensation law in 1932;  
6 and,  
7

8 WHEREAS, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) was  
9 founded in Madison in 1936; and,  
10

11 WHEREAS, the rights of public sector bargaining originated in Wisconsin in 1959; and,  
12

13 WHEREAS, Wisconsin citizens have long benefitted from the gains made by workers through collective  
14 bargaining, such as worker safety, sick leave, the eight-hour work day, the forty-hour work week, and the  
15 ability to live the American Dream; and,  
16

17 WHEREAS, collective bargaining rights have enabled working men and women to achieve a fair and  
18 equitable standard of living that, in turn, have enabled local businesses to prosper; and,  
19

20 WHEREAS, collective bargaining and other worker rights are under assault within our state by those  
21 seeking to maximize corporate profits over the welfare of working class citizens; and,  
22

23 WHEREAS, the Rock County Board of Supervisors stands behind all Rock County citizens in their  
24 struggle for good jobs, fair pay and workplace safety.  
25

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled  
27 this 12 day of January, 2012 hereby directs the County Clerk to place the following  
28 referendum question on the countywide ballot at the election to be held on April 3, 2012:  
29

30 Should all Wisconsin workers have the right to seek safe working conditions and fair pay  
31 through collective bargaining?  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Rock County Legislative  
34 Delegation, Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Respectfully submitted,

12-1A-556

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## COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

Dissent

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

Dissent

Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

Dissent

Eva Arnold

Dissent

Henry Brill

Absent

Betty Jo Bussie

Ivan Collins

Ivan Collins

Marilynn Jensen

Marilynn Jensen

Lou Peer Dissent

Lou Peer

Dissent

Kurtis L. Yankee

### LEGAL NOTE:

The County is permitted to conduct a county-wide advisory referendum pursuant to § 59.52(25), Wis. Stats.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

### FISCAL NOTE:

It is difficult to estimate the cost of a referendum to be included in the April 2012 ballot. A Notice of Referendum would need to be published in the County's official newspaper (Janesville Gazette for 2012) at a cost in excess of \$400. There would be additional publishing costs in the standard ballot notices due to the requirement to show the language and ballot sample. A referendum question would take anywhere from 1/2 to 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of a column. There are three columns on a ballot.

Ballot printing costs are 27 cents per ballot. Whether an additional ballot would be required due to the referendum would depend upon whether or not Presidential Preference Ballot with all the local elections would create a full ballot by themselves. There is an expected large turnout for the April election due to both national and local offices being included. Ballots for the April election are estimated to cost \$35,000 with some of the cost shared with the local municipalities and school districts.

Jeffrey A. Smith

Jeffrey A. Smith  
Finance Director

### ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of Policy,

Craig Knutson

Craig Knutson  
County Administrator