



RESOLUTION # 3-4/25

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AS Amended

ITEM # 4-24

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: ☒
For: 24
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 6
Vote Req: 6
Other Action: -

**JUDICIARY &
LAW**

COMMITTEE

ACTION

Adopted: ☒
For: 3
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 2

RE: **URGING GOVERNOR EVERS AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE
COUNTY COURTS**

WHEREAS, in 2023, the total cost to Wisconsin Counties for running all Circuit Courts was \$237 million. At the same time, the Court Support funding from the state to counties was \$28 million, 12 percent of the actual cost to run the local courts; and,

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court system is intended to be a state-county partnership; and

WHEREAS, the state's fiscal responsibilities include Judges, Court reporters, CCAP equipment, and the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation; and,

WHEREAS, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other functions of the court, including, but not limited to the following: bailiffs and court security officers, courthouse building maintenance, phones and utilities, Clerk of Court and Register in Probate, staff salaries and benefits, jury costs, psychological exams, guardians ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters and translation fees, court commissioners, law libraries, corporation counsel, courtroom technology and audio visuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies, furniture, recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, mail fees, printing costs, exhibit and file storage, access to state data, insurance, service of court documents, judicial staff attorneys, and equipment repair; and,

WHEREAS, over the last 10 years, the increase in the county portion of cost to run the courts is nearly six times higher than the increase in Circuit Court Cost Appropriations provided to cover these costs, and counties now pay almost \$150,000,000 more than the state in unbalanced Circuit Court costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors that La Crosse County joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association (WCCCA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation by \$70 million payable to Wisconsin Counties in the 2025/27 Wisconsin State Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and publication and a copy be sent to Governor Evers and all Wisconsin State Legislators representing La Crosse County and the Joint Finance Committee.

FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal impact.

Date: 4/8/2025

Dawn M. Dault

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 4/8/25

Lisa Bruring

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.		<u>JLC</u>	
Fin. Director			
Corp. Counsel	<u>KA</u>		
Board Chair			

Requested By: Supervisor Mathu
Date Requested: March 27, 2025
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 15 Day of April, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 15th day of April 2025.

Ginny Dankmeyer
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk