

1 SUB ____ to 2016 RES -161 (PROPOSED-PERTL)

2 AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE COUNTY CLERK TO IMPLEMENT A SURVEY OF
3 VOTER ID LEGISLATION EFFECTS ON VOTING BEHAVIOR

4 Over the last five years elected state officials have enacted numerous changes to how elections are run
5 in Wisconsin. Among the most significant are a photo ID law requiring voters to show a qualifying photo
6 identification at polling places, special ID provisions for college and university students, the elimination of
7 voting and registration in the last weekend before elections, reductions in the number of early voting
8 hours, and an increase in the residency requirement for people who have recently moved. These are the
9 most significant changes in election administration in Wisconsin since the adoption of same day voter
10 registration in 1976.

11 Voter ID laws, in particular, have been shown to affect turnout both among individuals who do not
12 possess one of the qualifying forms of ID, but also among people *with* qualifying ID who think they do not
13 or are confused about which IDs qualify. University students, especially if they are not Wisconsin
14 residents, face particular burdens with voting.

15 The Dane County Clerk proposes to study the effect of these law changes on voting behavior in Dane
16 County and Wisconsin by contracting with the University of Wisconsin Political Science Department. To
17 date, only anecdotal evidence exists to quantify the effects on voting behavior and the conceptions or
18 misconceptions of voters trying to navigate a slew of new legislative changes to voting.

19 The 2016 presidential election is an appropriate election in which to analyze possible effects. Presidential
20 elections are the highest turnout of the different types of election (an average of 66.3% of the voting age
21 population since 1984, compared to an average of 47.% in off year general elections since 1990), and
22 tend to bring out more marginally connected voters who are likely to be the most strongly affected by
23 changes in voting practices. November 2016 will be the first general election in which the full range of
24 administrative changes will be in place, and the effects, if any, are most likely to show up then.

25 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that revenue line REGDEEDS 80120 "County Share of Transfer
26 Fees" be increased by \$25,000 and transferred to ~~be transferred from~~ the General Fund to ~~to~~ and
27 expenditure account COCLKEL 22776 be increased by \$25,000 and that any unspent funds be carried
28 forward to 2017.

29 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Clerk enter into a contract with the University of
30 Wisconsin-Madison to determine what effect these changes in state law have had on voting, and which
31 population subgroups are most affected and report back to the County Board with the survey results.

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