

1 **2018 RES-493**

2 **URGING EXPUNGEMENT REFORM IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

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4 An estimated 1.4 million individuals in Wisconsin have criminal records. An individual's  
5 ability to secure housing and employment is significantly impeded by a criminal history  
6 record, which may not be entirely accurate and complete. Overly strict expungement laws  
7 hamper the ability of individuals, especially those of color, to pursue happiness and  
8 contribute meaningfully to their community.

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10 Current law does not allow expungement requests and orders after sentencing or case  
11 closure and does not allow for expungement for acquittals or dismissed charges. The  
12 Wisconsin Policy Forum determined in its June 2018 report "A Fresh Start: Wisconsin's  
13 Atypical Expungement Law and Options for Reform" that "Wisconsin appears to have a  
14 stricter expungement law than all of its neighboring states except Iowa".

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16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Dane County supports expanding Wisconsin's  
17 expungement law by allowing a person, regardless of age, to request expungement after  
18 completion of their sentence, as well as for acquittals, dismissed charges, closed cases  
19 and civil conviction.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Dane County supports expanding Wisconsin's  
21 expungement law to expanding the types of felonies eligible for expungement to put  
22 Wisconsin in line with the neighboring states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Minnesota.

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Dane County supports removing expunged records from  
25 both the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access website and the Wisconsin Department of  
26 Justice's paper and online criminal history databases.

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28 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Dane County urges the Wisconsin Legislature to develop  
29 and support the passage of expungement policies and practices as outlined in this  
30 resolution and that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Dane County  
31 legislative delegation, Governor Tony Evers, and to the Wisconsin Counties Association  
32 for inclusion in their legislative agenda.