

URGING THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT
NEXT GENERATION 911 FUNDING

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Funding for upgrading 911 systems is a priority for counties throughout Wisconsin for the 2017-19 state biennial budget. Over the past nine months, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has worked with the telecommunications industry, emergency management associations, and the law enforcement community on a legislative proposal requesting \$7 million annually to begin the transition to Next Generation (NG) 911 in Wisconsin. This funding would allow the state to issue an RFP for the building of a statewide emergency services IP network that will provide the initial infrastructure required for county 911 centers to utilize today's digital technology (e.g., texting, video, etc.).

Modernizing the state's 911 system is critical to ensuring public safety. Current 911 equipment will be obsolete or cost prohibitive to maintain by mid-2017. Delaying the NG911 transition presents serious public safety concerns because 911 systems are increasingly at risk of failure.

Wisconsin has fallen behind neighboring states with its lack of a statewide emergency services IP network. NG911 transition efforts have been underway in other states for more than 10 years.

The state must play a role in the creation of a statewide network. It would be cost prohibitive and financially unattainable for individual counties to build the network on their own. For example, if Dane County implemented NG911 without state support, the estimated cost to the county would be \$97,000 per month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Scott Walker to include \$7 million annually in the 2017-19 state biennial budget to begin the transition to Next Generation 911 in Wisconsin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, the members of the Joint Finance Committee, the Dane County legislative delegation, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.