

REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE DANE COUNTY BOARD AND CREATING A MERIT FUND FOR THE DANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Under Wis. Stat. 59.10(3), the Dane County Board is obligated to create a supervisory district plan after each decennial United States census. However, the county board can reduce the number of supervisory districts at any time during the decade under Wis. Stat. 59.10(3)(cm).

This resolution proposes to reduce the current 37-member Dane County Board of Supervisors by 10 members to a 27-member board, which would go into effect for the April 2028 regularly-scheduled county board election of supervisors to fill the 2028-2030 term of the Dane County Board.

The salary savings (based on 2026 salary amounts) of \$130,750 from the reduction of Dane County Board supervisor representation from 37 to 27 members would be used to establish a "DCSO Merit Fund" to recognize exemplary performance by both sworn and civilian staff of the Dane County Sheriff's Office. The conditions of the DCSO Merit Fund could include:

- Supervisors may nominate DCSO staff to receive up to a \$2,500 award from the fund;
- The bonus would be a one-time award and would not be base building for the employee's salary;
- Written justification for the award must accompany the nomination and be presented to the Dane County Sheriff for approval; and
- No more than \$2,500 may be awarded to any individual in a given fiscal year.

Because DCSO sworn deputies are under a collective bargaining agreement, the creation of this benefit would be subject to collective bargaining negotiations. Similarly, the creation of this benefit would also be subject to the Employee Benefit Handbook annual update process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the number of representatives on the Dane County Board of Supervisors be reduced by 10 representatives from the current 37-member Dane County Board of Supervisors to a 27-member body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.10(3)(cm), a redistricting plan reflecting the reduction in size shall take effect on November 15, 2026, and first apply to the April 2028 regularly-scheduled county board election of supervisors to fill the 2028-2030 term of the Dane County Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the salary savings from the reduction of Dane County Board supervisor representation from 37 to 27 members would be used to establish a "DCSO Merit Fund" to recognize exemplary performance by both sworn and civilian staff of the Dane County Sheriff's Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Administration will develop the terms and conditions of the DCSO Merit Fund including a process that allows supervisors to nominate DCSO staff for a \$2,500 award by submitting a written justification, and subject to the Dane County Sheriff's approval. No more than \$2,500 may be awarded to any individual in a given fiscal year.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Administration will pursue developing the
51 DCSO Merit Fund in accordance with established collective bargaining procedures for sworn
52 employees and subject to the Employee Benefit Handbook annual update process for civilian
53 staff.

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55 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board recognizes that, per Wis. Stat.
56 59.10(3), passage of this resolution will not release the board from its legal obligation to design
57 a supervisory district plan based upon the next decennial federal census.