

**WISCONSIN TOWNS ASSOCIATION  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY UNIT  
RESOLUTION 2022-01**

**Request that the State Legislature Modify Levy Limits**

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to control and reduce the annual increase in property tax rates, The State of Wisconsin in 2006 imposed property tax levy limits on municipal and county governments; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011 the State modified the levy limit requirement by allowing local governments an annual increase in the property tax levy based upon a percentage of the value of net new construction; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Towns in Eau Claire County, the allowable increase to the tax levy attributable to the annual percental increase in the value of net new construction fails to sufficiently fund annual increases in operational costs of each of the Towns located in Eau Claire County; and

**WHEREAS**, 2010 census data indicates that the population of Towns located in Eau Claire County was 22,732. According to the census numbers released by the Wisconsin Department of Administration for the 2020 population, 24,570 individuals now reside in Towns located in Eau Claire County, resulting in an 8% net gain in Town population since the 2010 census; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 – 2020 increase in Wisconsin's consumer price index (CPI) averages out to a 1.57% annual increase, according to data compiled by the Wisconsin Employment relations Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the upswing in population is causing an increase in demand for additional services affecting all Towns; most notably Fire Protections, Ambulance Service and Highway Departments; and

**WHEREAS**, along with all other Wisconsin Towns, the Towns located in Eau Claire County continue to experience annual operational cost increases, led primarily by higher fuel, materials, insurance and labor costs as indicated by the annual rate of increase in the CPI; and

**WHEREAS**, all other sources of Town revenues, including the annual allowable increase in the property tax levy, have now proven to be insufficient to fund annual operational cost increases; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no reliable means other than the annual tax levy to fund for the demand for services caused by the population increase, and to fund for the annual increased in CPI as experienced by the Towns in Eau Claire County; and

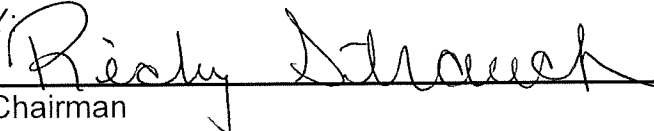
**WHEREAS**, the thirteen Towns located within Eau Claire County are all experiencing similar operational cost funding shorts.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Towns in Eau Claire County at a quarterly WTA Eau Claire County Unit meeting this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022 that we hereby request the Wisconsin State Legislation to consider the following modifications to the levy limits imposed upon Wisconsin municipal governments:

1. Permit all units of municipal government who have experienced an increase in population since the 2010 census, a onetime allowable increase to the town's base levy amount of no more than 10% above their adopted 2022 property tax levy.
2. Also permit an annual allowable increase in the property tax levy based upon the existing formula of a percentage of the annual increase in the value of net new construction plus the annual overall percentage increase in the Wisconsin consumer price index as compiled annually by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Wisconsin Towns Association Eau Claire County Unit Secretary provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers, to all of the state legislators representing Eau Claire County and to the Wisconsin Towns Association.

SUBMITTED BY:

  
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Ricky Strauch, Chairman  
Town of Bridge Creek

  
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Kathy Olson, Clerk  
Town of Bridge Creek