

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Executive Committee

From: Don Kriefall, County Board Chair

Meeting Date: 06-17-2020

Re: Resolution: Constitutional Rights

POLICY QUESTION:

Should the Washington County Board of Supervisors affirm their oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and the Constitutional rights granted to the citizens of Washington County that we serve?

STRATEGIC PRIORITY/RESULT ACHIEVED:

*Well governed and administered County.
Safe and secure community.*

DISCUSSION:

As many Counties have passed various resolutions to specific amendments to the United States Constitution and public sentiment has indicated that all Counties adopt such resolutions, the Washington County Board of Supervisors should affirm our duty to uphold the entire Constitution of the United States, all amendments and the Wisconsin Constitution in its' entirety.

FISCAL EFFECT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend passage.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Date of enactment: _____
Date of publication: _____

2020 RESOLUTION ____

Washington County Advocates the Constitutional Rights of its Citizens

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in the world and serves as the fundamental document that establishes the role of government and defines the basic rights of all people; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution's first three words, "We the People" affirm that the United States government exists to serve the people of this nation and not the other way around; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights added the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution in order to provide specific guarantees of personal freedoms, clearly defined limitations on the government's power, and explicit declarations that all rights and powers not granted to the U.S. Congress are reserved for the states or the people; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin which was ratified in 1848 and is one of the oldest U.S. state constitutions still in use ratified the Bill of Rights and contains a Declaration of Rights which states in Article I:

"All people are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

WHEREAS, each member of the Washington County Board of Supervisors took an Oath of Office swearing to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors reaffirms the oath that each of its members has taken.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors shall at all times uphold its duty to honor and respect the rights of the citizenry and shall zealously protect the fundamental liberties and freedoms We the People hold dear and sacred and challenge all those who would seek to infringe upon the rights of the people;

VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Washington County advocates the constitutional rights of its citizens.

1 Approved as to form:
2 _____
3 Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney

4 Dated _____

5
6 Approved:
7 _____
8 Josh Schoemann, County Executive

9 ☐ Veto

10 ☐ See attached for objection(s)

11

12 (No fiscal impact.)

Introduced by members of the EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.

Donald A. Kriefall, Chairperson

Considered _____

Adopted _____

Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____

Voice Vote _____