



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors *Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, 5th District*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 24, 2021
Contact: Brian Rothgery, 608-219-2064

Chairwoman Nicholson Applauds Renewed Partnership with the Wisconsin Counties Association

MILWAUKEE – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved (14-2, Clancy, Czarnezki) a [measure](#) to re-join the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) today, after the WCA made a new commitment to proactively address issues of diversity, transparency, and accountability.

Prior to the vote, Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson expressed her support for rejoining the WCA and encouraged other Supervisors to join her in voting Yes.

“We can’t do everything we want by ourselves. Renewing our membership with the WCA means that we’ll have an ally and a partner as we tackle big challenges like solving our revenue crisis and achieving racial equity. I was proud to introduce the racial equity resolution at the WCA as a member of their board, and while I know there is certainly more work to be done, engagement is the path to a stronger relationship.”

When setting and adopting Milwaukee County’s 2021 budget last November, the Board voted to withhold approximately \$36,000 in annual dues to the WCA due to [concerns](#) over the organization’s lack of diversity, operational transparency, and perceived conflicts of interest.

The Committee on Intergovernmental Relations considered a resolution to re-join the WCA in [January](#) but the Board remained sharply divided when debating the measure on February 4. Nicholson then successfully motioned (15-1, Weishan) for Corporation Counsel to communicate a [detailed proposal](#) for deeper engagement with the WCA on specific areas of concern.

The [WCA’s response](#) was received on February 22.

With today’s Board action, the County is authorized to allocate \$35,835 from a contingency fund to pay Milwaukee County’s 2021 dues to the WCA.

Supervisors Willie Johnson, Jr., Sequanna Taylor, and Chairwoman Nicholson will continue to represent Milwaukee County on the WCA board of directors.

###