

# NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

APRIL 2, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

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## 2023 ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION 78

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*To create* section 7 of article III of the constitution; **relating to:** prohibiting state and local governments from using privately sourced moneys or equipment in connection with the conduct of elections and specifying who may perform tasks related to the conduct of an election (second consideration).

Whereas, the 2021 legislature in regular session considered a proposed amendment to the constitution in 2021 Senate Joint Resolution 101, which became 2021 Enrolled Joint Resolution 17, and agreed to it by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, which proposed amendment reads as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 7 of article III of the constitution is created to read:

[Article III] Section 7 (1) No state agency or officer or employee in state government and no political subdivision of the state or officer or employee of a political subdivision may apply for, accept, expend, or use any moneys or equipment in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum if the moneys or equipment are donated or granted by an individual or nongovernmental entity.

(2) No individual other than an election official designated by law may perform any task in the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum.

**SECTION 2. Numbering of new provision.** If another constitutional amendment ratified by the people creates the number of any provision created in this joint resolution, the chief of the legislative reference bureau shall determine the sequencing and the numbering of the provisions whose numbers conflict.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That* the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution is agreed to by the 2023 legislature; and, be it further **Resolved, That** the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be submitted to a vote of the people at the election to be held on the first Tuesday of April 2024; and, be it further **Resolved, That** the questions concerning ratification of the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be stated on the ballot as follows:

**QUESTION 1: “Use of private funds in election administration.** Shall section 7 (1) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that private donations and grants may not be applied for, accepted, expended, or used in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum?”

**QUESTION 2: “Election officials.** Shall section 7 (2) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, elections, and referendums?”

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS AS TO THE TWO QUESTIONS

### *1. Explanatory statement regarding Question 1:*

The Wisconsin Constitution does not limit the ability of the state or local governments to receive non-governmental grants, funds, or equipment to assist in carrying out election-related responsibilities. Question 1 would add a new provision to the Constitution to prohibit the state or local governments from applying for, accepting, expending, or using such funds to assist with carrying out “any primary, election, or referendum.” The question would appear to apply to any type of non-governmental grant or funding, no matter how general in scope.

A “yes” vote on Question 1 would vote to create a new provision of the Wisconsin Constitution—Wis. Const. art. III, § 7(1). That provision would prohibit a state agency or local government from applying for, accepting, expending, or using any non-governmental moneys or equipment in connection with the conduct of any election.

A “no” vote on Question 1 would vote not to add Wis. Const. art. III, § 7(1) to the Wisconsin Constitution.

### *2. Explanatory statement regarding Question 2:*

Wisconsin statutes define and regulate how clerks can designate individuals to serve as election officials and carry out various tasks relating to elections. The Wisconsin Constitution does not separately spell out which individuals can do that work.

Question 2 would add a new provision to the Constitution to prohibit individuals from performing tasks related to an election unless they are an “election official designated by law.” Under current statutes, clerks have the statutory power to designate individuals to carry out election-related tasks, and so such designated individuals could continue doing their work as an “election official designated by law.” But that power is only statutory, and if the statutes changed, the new constitutional provision would bar clerks from designating individuals to assist with election-related tasks.

A “yes” vote on Question 1 would vote to create a second new provision of the Wisconsin Constitution—Wis. Const. art. III, § 7(2), which would prohibit an individual from performing election-related tasks unless they are an “election official designated by law.”

A “no” vote on Question 1 would vote not to add Wis. Const. art. III, § 7(2) to the Wisconsin Constitution.

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### **2023 Green County Resolution 11-3-23**

#### ***Resolution Authorizing a Referendum to Exceed State Imposed Tax Levy Limits in 2025 through 2030 for the Benefit of Pleasant View Nursing Home***

**WHEREAS**, the Green County Board of Supervisors does proclaim its continuing support for county ownership and operation of Pleasant View Nursing Home for so long as it is practical for the county to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies for 2025 under Section 66.0602 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 66.0602 of the Wisconsin Statutes limits the increase to local property tax levy to the increase in net new construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the current state budget allows an increase in the 2025 tax levy of approximately 1.124% (\$148,155); and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance and Accounting Committee and the Pleasant View Nursing Home Committee have determined that it may be necessary to levy up to an additional \$790,000 above the levy limit for each of the next six years for the financial well-being and stability of Pleasant View Nursing Home; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 66.0602(4) of the Wisconsin Statutes allows a political subdivision to exceed the levy limit if the governing body adopts a resolution to that effect and if the resolution is approved in a referendum vote of the electors of the political subdivision; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance and Accounting Committee and the Pleasant View Nursing Home Committee have determined that it is desirable and in the best interest of Green County to conduct a county-wide referendum to determine whether the Green County taxpayers support the county exceeding the levy limit under Section 66.0602 of the Wisconsin Statutes, or any successor thereto, for the next six fiscal years, in recognition that Section 66.0602 of the Wisconsin Statutes may be amended or renewed in the future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Green County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Spring Election ballot as a binding referendum question:

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the County of Green for the tax to be imposed for the fiscal year 2025, is limited to 1.124%, which results in a levy of \$14,375,715. Shall the County of Green be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next six fiscal years, 2025 through 2030, for the exclusive purpose of paying for a portion of the cost of the operational and capital expenses of the county-owned Pleasant View Nursing Home, by a total of 5.495%, which amounts to a levy increase of \$790,000 per year, which results in an approximate total of county levy of \$15,165,715 starting 2025.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green County Board of Supervisors supports an increase in the county tax levy to exceed the state levy limit for the next six years, 2025 through 2030, up to \$790,000 per year.

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AND EFFECT OF VOTE:**

The April 2nd 2024 referendum ballot asks the county electors to vote “yes” or “no” on the referendum question above.

A “yes” vote on the question is a vote in favor of authorizing Green County to exceed the levy limit imposed under s. 66.0602, Wisconsin Statutes, by an amount between \$0 to \$790,000 for fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030. These amounts are intended to be used exclusively and for no other purpose than the operation of Green County’s Pleasant View Nursing Home.

A “no” vote on the question is a vote against authorizing Green County to exceed the levy limit imposed under s. 66.0602, Wisconsin Statutes, by an amount between \$0 to \$790,000 for fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030. These amounts are intended to be used exclusively and for no other purpose than the operation of Green County’s Pleasant View Nursing Home.

In the event a majority of the electors vote “yes” to the question, Green County would be authorized to exceed the levy limit imposed under s. 66.0602, Wisconsin Statutes, by an amount between \$0 to \$790,000 for fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030. It is the intention of the County Board that any amounts levied under the authority of this referendum be used exclusively for the purpose of operating Pleasant View Nursing Home.

In the event a majority of electors vote “no” to the question, Pleasant View Nursing Home may have to be closed or sold. If closing the facility becomes necessary, residents will be relocated to other facilities. Necessary expenses incurred in Green County’s operation of Pleasant View Nursing Home will result in a reduction of the operating budgets of other county departments. Green County will eliminate job positions, programs, and reduce services as necessary.

DONE in the County of Green,  
this 8th day of March, 2024.



Arianna L. Voegeli, Green County Clerk