

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-37**

**RESOLUTION OF COMMON COUNCIL  
EXERCISING REFERENDUM OPTION**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on town, village, city and county levies for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) and thereafter under s. 66.0602, Wis. Stat.; and,

**WHEREAS**, s. 66.0602, Wis. Stat. limits the allowable local levy for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) to a percentage increase of no more than the greater of (a) zero percent of the 2023 payable 2024 adjusted actual levy as calculated under the state's levy limit or (b) a percentage equal to the percent change in equalized value due to net new construction less improvements removed, which for the City of Portage was 0.817% which results in a levy of \$6,952,873;

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Portage, believes that for the 2024 tax levy (to be collected in 2025) it is in the City's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than allowable **for the purpose of creating and ongoing funding of Fire Based Emergency Medical Services for the City of Portage** and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portage does not have the capacity to increase the City's property tax levy to pay for the Fire Based Emergency Medical Services under Wis. Stats. §66.0602(2) relating to local levy limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Portage has the authority to approve a referendum election ballot for regular or special election; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has reviewed and discussed a referendum election ballot for the February 20, 2024 Spring Primary Election at the regular City Council meeting on December 7, 2023 for that purpose

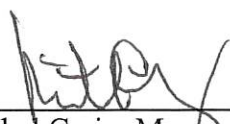
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Portage, Columbia County, does hereby order as follows:


1. The Common Council supports an increase in the City tax levy for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) that will exceed the amount allowed by the state levy limit by **21.319 percent** which would increase the City levy by **\$1,482,272** for this purpose. The requested increase would apply on an ongoing basis.

Referendum Question:

"Under state law, the increase in the levy of the City of Portage for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2025, is limited to 0.817%, which results in a levy of \$6,952,873. Shall the City of Portage be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for the purpose of Fire Based Emergency Medical Services, by a total of 21.319%, which results in a levy of \$8,435,145, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$1,482,272 for each fiscal year going forward?"

**Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023**

  
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Mitchel Craig, Mayor

  
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Rebecca C. Ness, City Clerk