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Washington County to Intervene in City of Green Bay Federal Lawsuit *Executive committee votes to oppose postponing election, mail only election*

West Bend, WI – A quorum of Washington County’s executive committee unanimously approved proceeding to intervene in a federal lawsuit brought by the city of Green Bay to delay the April 7 election and move to a mail only ballot. Washington County will join with the Wisconsin Counties Association in opposition to the city’s position.

Represented by von Briesen & Roper, Washington County will file to appear at today’s scheduled 1:30pm scheduling hearing before Federal Judge William C. Griesbach.

“We need to protect the sanctity of the election,” said County Board Chairman Don Kriefall. “Elections are the basis of our republic and we need to ensure we have continuity in our government. Should this election be delayed, the statutes provide that our entire board would be vacant. We need to ensure continuity of government and operations. The rules of the game were established by the legislature. We have been working with our municipal clerks by sending county staff to assist and sourcing envelopes and other supplies to ensure the election moves forward. Local governments have an obligation to run these elections.”

In addition, Washington County is transitioning from the county administrator to an elected county executive. The county executive position is on the April 7 ballot. After April 21, Washington County may be left without a valid county board and an operational leader.

The executive committee also approved Washington County to intervene in substantially similar cases that may be filed in other jurisdictions.

As of this morning, 23,029 county residents, or 27% of registered voters, had requested ballots.

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