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Washington County Hires Ethan Hollenberger as Public Affairs Coordinator
County works to accelerate collaboration and innovation

West Bend – Washington County Administrator Josh Schoemann announced the hiring of Ethan Hollenberger as the County’s first Public Affairs Coordinator.

Hollenberger most recently served as Communications Director for State Senator Duey Stroebel and the committee clerk for the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Consumer Protection and Technology. He will serve as the County’s ambassador with area legislators, municipal officials, entrepreneurs, and non-profit leaders.

“Over the past five years, Washington County has established a culture of delivering economical and effective core government services by partnering with key stakeholders,” stated Administrator Schoemann. “We are excited to have Ethan on our team to even more proactively demonstrate our core values of ‘Innovation’ and ‘Collaboration’ in pursuit of our mission to ‘create an environment for residents and businesses to enjoy our authentic quality of life...’”

The Public Affairs Coordinator position was authorized by the County Board at its August meeting. The position is charged with relationship building as the County leads Wisconsin local government in collaboration and consolidation of services with public and private sector partners alike. The County Board will look to the Coordinator to help build upon recent collaboration successes, and has set a goal to propose \$400,000 in new taxpayer savings by the end of 2020.

Recent collaboration successes in Washington County include:

- Washington and Ozaukee Counties merged health departments (2015)
- County partnered with West Bend Mutual Insurance to build the Silver Lining Amphitheater at the Washington County Fair Park (2016)
- The County and City of West Bend opened an onsite health clinic with QuadMed (2017)
- Washington County Parks launched its “Counties without Borders” campaign with Waukesha County Parks (2018)
- The County, in partnership with five local municipalities and the State of Wisconsin are finalizing a jurisdictional transfer of over ten miles of road (2018)

“Having worked in the legislature for two sessions, it is exciting to start a new role,” said Hollenberger. “In the three plus years with Senator Stroebel, I worked with many of the same local leaders and officials. I look forward to working with our partners to continue to lead Wisconsin local government in collaboration and consolidation of services.”

Hollenberger began his duties on Monday, September 10 and was introduced to the County Board on Wednesday, September 12.

