

**NOTICE OF ADVISORY REFERENDUM
COUNTY OF BROWN
NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, at an election to be held in the County of Brown on November 6, 2018, the following proposed Resolution of the County Board will be submitted to a vote of the people:

WHEREAS, when a Big Box retailer gets a Dark Store tax break, residential homeowners, other businesses and other property owners are forced to pick up a greater share of the property tax levy, or needed services are forced to be cut. Over the past several months County, City and other Municipal Officials have been in contact with State Legislators, and have testified against the Dark Store tax loophole, stressing the need to oppose shifting the property tax burden from Dark Stores to other tax payer entities; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute Section 59.52(25) provides for a County Board to conduct a county-wide referendum for advisory purposes, and reads in its entirety as follows: "*Advisory and contingent referenda. The board may conduct a countywide referendum for advisory purposes or for the purpose of ratifying or validating a resolution adopted or ordinance enacted by the board contingent upon approval in the referendum.*", and

WHEREAS, an advisory Referendum would provide guidance to the State Legislature regarding the will of the Brown County electorate on this issue, and it is desirable for Brown County to hold such an advisory Referendum.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brown County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that a County-wide advisory Referendum be conducted, to be held with the November 2018 general election, that County staff and Officials take any and all action necessary to achieve this, and that the advisory Referendum question to be presented shall be as follows:

"Question: Should the state legislature enact proposed legislation that closes the Dark Store loopholes, which currently allow commercial retail properties to significantly reduce the assessed valuation and property tax of such properties, resulting in a substantial shift in taxes levied against other tax paying entities, such as residential home owners, and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality?", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Corporation Counsel shall prepare a *Notice of Referendum* to be published by the Brown County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements, that this Resolution and the Referendum shall be filed with the Brown County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the election at which the question will appear on the ballot, and that any other necessary actions be taken to hold this Referendum as stated above.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

"Should the state legislature enact proposed legislation that closes the Dark Store loopholes, which currently allow commercial retail properties to significantly reduce the assessed valuation and property tax of such properties, resulting in a substantial shift in taxes levied against other tax paying entities, such as residential home owners, and/or cuts in essential services provided by an affected municipality?"

EXPLANATION

A "YES" vote means that the State of Wisconsin **SHOULD** enact legislation closing Dark Store loopholes.

A "NO" vote means that the State of Wisconsin **SHOULD NOT** enact legislation closing Dark Store loopholes.

Done in the County of Brown
On August 13, 2018
County Clerk
Sandra L. Juno