

BEFORE YOU VOTE

FOR OR AGAINST

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD SIZE REDUCTION FROM 28 TO 7

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

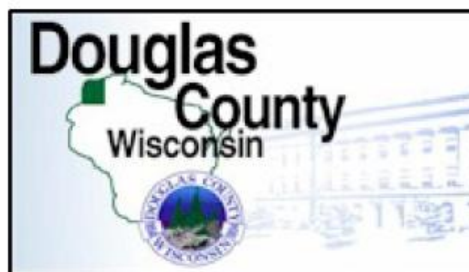
COUNTY SPENDING: A study performed in 2003 by the Wisconsin Taxpayer Alliance concluded that "the nearer the county board is to its legal maximum, the lower county spending is relative to similar-sized counties." The same study indicated that as a board increased its size by one, per capita spending would decrease by \$8 to \$10.

REDISTRICTING: In order for the county board to reduce its size, a redistricting process has to be done. If approved via referendum, this would not become effective until 2008. Redistricting will already be required in 2011 following the 2010 U.S. Federal Census. That would be a better time to consider changing the size of the county board.

ACCOUNTABILITY: It may be possible to hold fewer county board supervisors more accountable on controversial decisions. However, with a larger board and fewer constituents per supervisor, more citizens may personally know the supervisors which tend to make them more accountable.

BOARD EXPENSES: Douglas County spends less per capita on 28 county board supervisors expenses than does St. Louis County which has seven commissioners. A very small county board would likely require full-time supervisors who would be full-time "politicians" and be more likely influenced by special interests. Compensation would need to be higher. For example, commissioners in St. Louis County receive a salary of \$50,592 year, and have significant staff expenses. Douglas County supervisors receive \$3,000 annually, a stipend of \$25 per meeting (\$35, if committee chair), and mileage reimbursement.

CITIZEN REPRESENTATION: Douglas County is large and diverse. A large county board is more conducive to participating in activities, such as town/village board meetings, and is more likely to be diverse in backgrounds and experiences.



RECENT STUDY

A diverse group of county residents recently spent five months examining and researching the issue of County Board size. After fact finding, analysis and in-depth consideration of all available data and information, the following recommendations were made by the County Organizational Study Group:

1. Maintain the Douglas County Board at its current size of 28 members until after the 2010 U.S. Federal Census.
2. County board size should be reconsidered during the required redistricting process following the 2010 U.S. Federal Census.

The complete report of the Study Group can be found on line at www.douglascountywi.org or by contacting the UW-Extension office at (715) 395-1363.