



**RESOLUTION Opposing Anti-Local Control School Referendum Restriction Bills
(Senate Bill 191/Assembly Bill 282, Senate Bill 192/Assembly Bill 279, Senate Bill
193/Assembly Bill 285, Senate Bill 194/Assembly Bill 269, Senate Bill 195/Assembly Bill 268,
Senate Bill 187/Assembly Bill 274)**

WHEREAS, State Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Cedarburg), Sen. Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield), Rep. John Macco (R-Ledgeview), Rep. Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls), Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh), Rep. Thomas Weatherston (R-Caledonia), and Rep. David Murphy (R-Greenville) have recently introduced numerous pieces of legislation (Senate Bill 191/Assembly Bill 282, Senate Bill 192/Assembly Bill 279, Senate Bill 193/Assembly Bill 285, Senate Bill 194/Assembly Bill 269, Senate Bill 195/Assembly Bill 268, Senate Bill 187/Assembly Bill 274) to place restrictions on school district referenda; and

WHEREAS, such restrictions include a limit on when operating referenda and debt issuance referenda may be called, create a general aid penalty for exceeding revenue limits by referendum and allowing school boards to rescind revenue limit increases previously approved by referendum, require referenda to be scheduled on general election dates, and eliminate referenda to exceed revenue limits on a recurring (permanent) basis; and

WHEREAS, since the 1993-94 school year, school districts have been operating under state-imposed revenue limits that cap the amount that schools can collect in state aid and local property taxes combined, and thus serve to limit school spending. Referenda are the only way many districts can access resources to stay viable. These proposals will significantly impact declining enrollment districts which comprise over 60 percent of Wisconsin school districts. Most seriously affected will be small, rural school districts which lack economies of scale and have few places to make cuts; and

WHEREAS, the bills will further exacerbate the trend of creating “Haves” who can pass referenda and “Have Nots” who cannot, and opportunities for students will further be determined by their zip code; and

WHEREAS, many of these districts have come to rely on periodic referenda to maintain programming and, in some cases, to continue to exist. Legislators should know that supporting these bills might have the effect of forcing districts to consider dissolving; and

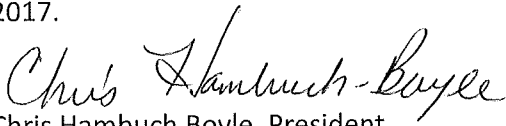
WHEREAS, these bills are anti-local control and do not show confidence in locally-elected officials, local elections, or local voters; and


WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) ranks 272nd out of 423 school districts in per pupil spending, and the ECASD passed a Referendum on November 8, 2016 with resounding support by over 64 percent of the voters; and

WHEREAS, investing in public education is an investment not only in our students' capacity for success beyond high school, but an investment in economic development and the future of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin and Nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire School Board calls on Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin Senate to oppose these pieces of legislation that would further curtail the already very limited set of revenue options available to Wisconsin school boards.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Education for the Eau Claire Area School District, have executed this resolution this 19th day of June, 2017.



Chris Hambuch Boyle, President

Kathryn Duax, Vice President 

Aaron Harder, Treasurer 

Joe Luginbill, Clerk 

Eric Torres, Board Member 

Charles Vue, Board Member 

Jennifer Fager, Board Member 