NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

APRIL 7, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

2015 ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION 2

To amend section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution; **relating to:** election of chief justice (second consideration).

Whereas, the 2013 legislature in regular session considered a proposed amendment to the constitution in 2013 Senate Joint Resolution 57, which became 2013 Enrolled Joint Resolution 16, and agreed to it by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, which proposed amendment reads as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution is amended to read:

> [Article VII] Section 4 (2) <u>The chief justice of the supreme court shall be elected for a term of 2 years by a majority of the justices then serving on the court.</u> The justice so designated as chief justice may, irrevocably, decline to serve as chief justice or resign as chief justice but continue to serve as a justice of the supreme court.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution is agreed to by the 2015 legislature; and, be it further

Resolved, That the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be submitted to a vote of the people at the election to be held on the first Tuesday in April 2015; and, be it further

Resolved, That the question concerning ratification of the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be stated on the ballot as follows:

QUESTION 1: "Election of chief justice. Shall section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution be amended to direct that a chief justice of the supreme court shall be elected for a two-year term by a majority of the justices then serving on the court?"

EXPLANATION

The Wisconsin constitution currently provides that the chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court is its longest-serving member. The proposed constitutional amendment would instead select the chief justice through an election by a majority of the justices then serving on the Court.

A “yes” vote on this question would mean that the chief justice shall be elected for a term of two years by a majority of the justices then serving on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The justice who is elected may decline to serve as chief justice or resign the position, but still continue to serve as a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

A “no” vote would mean that the longest-serving member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court serves as chief justice of the Court. The justice designated as chief justice may decline to serve as chief justice or resign the position, but still continue to serve as a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

DONE in the City of Portage,
this 5th day of March, 2015.

Susan M. Moll, Columbia County Clerk
400 DeWitt Street, Portage, WI 53901