

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF ROXBURY
Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to Limit
Corporate Campaign Contributions under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

Town of Roxbury, Dane County
Resolution No. 2024-01

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

Whereas, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states, and;

Whereas, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term “persons” has long denied We the People’s exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and;

Whereas, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*. The untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and;

Whereas, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore,

Resolved, that “We the People” of the Town of Roxbury, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unlimited political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

- 1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and**
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.**

Adopted this 19th day of February, 2024.

Signature of Town Chairman: _____

Attested by Town Clerk: _____

January 30, 2024

Town Board Members
Town of Roxbury
7167 Kippley Road
Sauk City, Wi 53583

RE: Petition for Resolution

Dear Board Members:

We are respectfully proposing to the board a resolution that calls for a United States Constitutional Amendment declaring that:

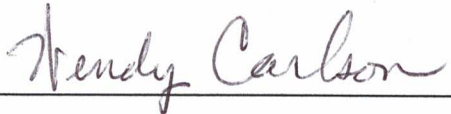
- 1) *Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights - not corporations, unions, nonprofits, or other artificial entities; and*
- 2) *Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.*

Please refer to the attached resolution for its complete language. This language has been used in most of the 170 Wisconsin municipalities that have already passed our requested resolution.

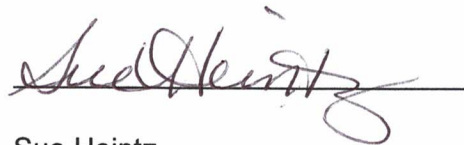
We have also included some information about the amendment we are working toward, for your information. If you'd like to learn more, we suggest the website: www.wiuta.org.

As the individuals presenting this resolution on behalf of *Wisconsin United to Amend*, please contact either of us directly should you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



Wendy Carlson
Resident of Town of Roxbury
Phone: 608-393-9355



Sue Heintz
Resident of Town of Roxbury
Phone: 608-225-5195

Why is corporate personhood a *local* issue?

Corporate personhood benefits only large corporations, disadvantaging the small and family-owned businesses that town governments most closely work with and support.

- Only large national companies, chain stores, and global corporations invoke 'corporate personhood' upon towns. Small businesses rely more on personal relationships and the legitimate *endowed* rights of their *human* owners when working with town governments.
- *Citizens United* threw out campaign finance laws that somewhat leveled the field between big and small donors giving to campaigns. Without limits, only large corporations, not small businesses, have the resources to flood local elections with out-of-district campaign funds.
- Only large corporations, not small businesses, have the staff and resources to pursue expensive civil-rights litigation to overturn actions of local governments. Example: When Florida tried to impose differential permit fees on locally-owned and out-of-state businesses, a national corporation took the matter to the Supreme Court, claiming that the 14th Amendment (each person has a right to equal protection of the laws) forbade governments from favoring locally-owned corporations in any way. The difference in the amount of the permit fees? \$25.¹

Town governments are the bulwark of local interests. The mission and interests of local governments—preserving local landmarks and identity, maintaining roads and sidewalks, supporting local businesses, enabling residents to participate in self-government, protecting the local environment, etc.—are the interests that large corporations are least likely to share.

- Decision-makers within large corporations are not local people. They typically reside in other states—often even in other countries—and they know nothing about your township interests. They often reap benefits from actions that harm the town's residents.
- Example: Large corporations have sued, or threatened to sue, local governments on 'equal protection' grounds when their residents seek local ordinances to control lighting, traffic, and land use to encourage small operations and discourage the "big-box" stores that destroy local character and put local merchants out of business.
- Example: In 2005, the Wisconsin state legislature passed the Livestock Sighting Law. This law effectively restricts local government from requiring environmental impact studies. Studies intended to protect the water and air in the community. This despite known factory farms that have had significant destructive environmental "accidents" and have polluted significant numbers of water wells in counties – over 40% in Kewaunee County. Factory farms are only profitable because so much of the cost and damage is externalized onto the environment, neighbors and wildlife. The monitoring, supervision, clean-up, restitution, fines are not happening, thus the true cost of factory farms never find the way onto the balance books

The Wisconsin legislature is regularly creating laws that remove rights of local municipalities to protect the rights of their citizens against corporations that fund state legislator's campaigns. Between 2010 and 2017 the Wisconsin State Legislature passed over 160 laws and rules that take away rights of local communities or create unfunded mandates – while reducing support to local communities.

Standing up for self-government and liberty has always been a local job. Americans have never relied—with good reason—on the national government to protect our right to self-government. From the invention of corporations in the 1500s throughout America's history, corporations have (as can be expected) struggled to gain control of the governments that the people created to "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty."

Periods when corporations increased their power over government have, so far, been followed by corrective periods when the people reassert control of the governments they created and rein in corporate excesses. These corrective periods have always been ushered in by the actions of grassroots people and the local governments closest to them. In addition, a majority of constitutional amendments arose with local citizens; rarely has action to amend the constitution been initiated at the national level.

¹ Lane Drug Store vs. State of Florida

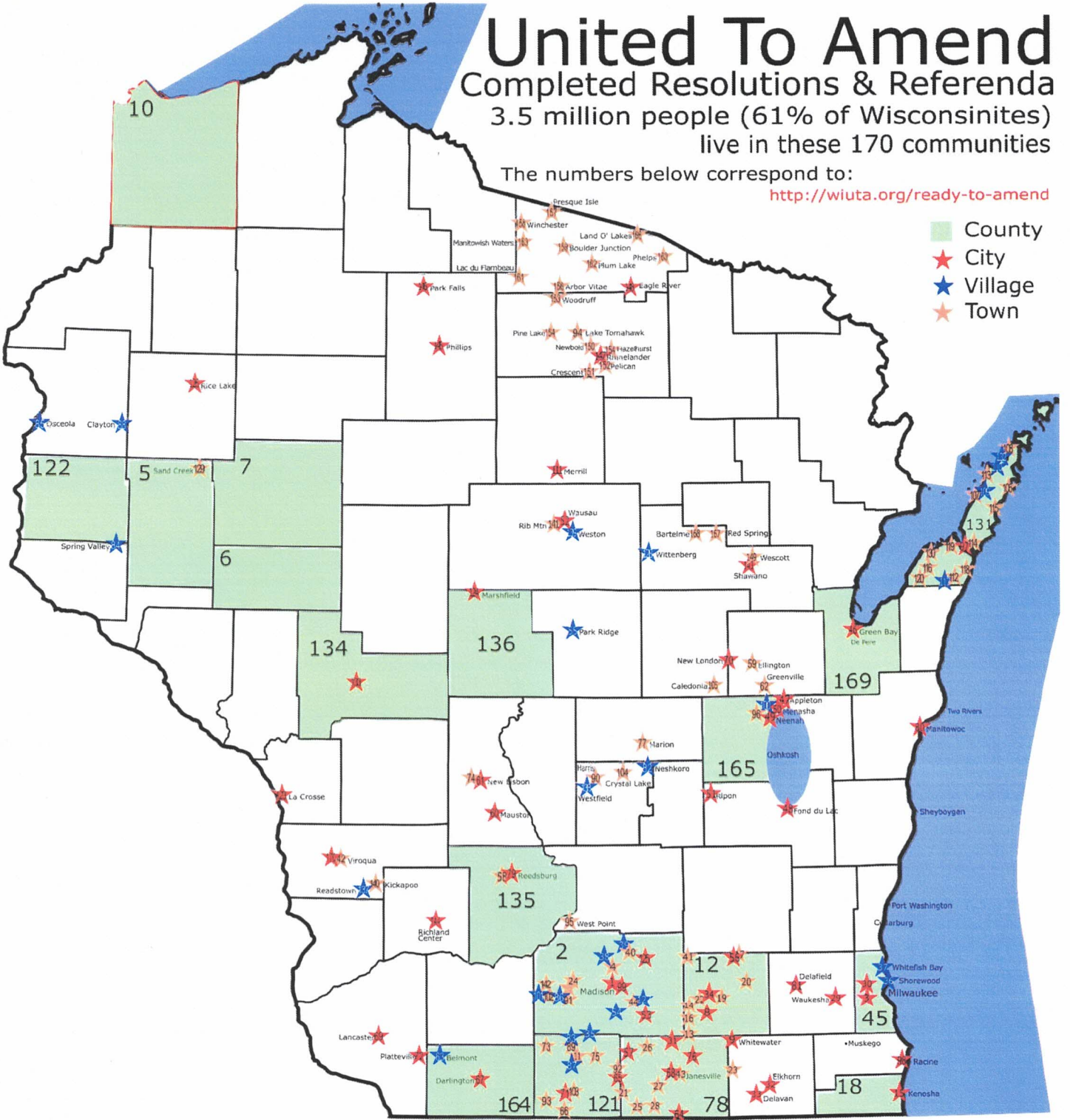
United To Amend

Completed Resolutions & Referenda

3.5 million people (61% of Wisconsinites)
live in these 170 communities

The numbers below correspond to:

<http://wiuta.org/ready-to-amend>





Wisconsin Communities that have Called for an Amendment

1. City of Madison – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2011, with 84% approval.
2. Dane County – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2011, with 78% approval.
3. City of West Allis – petition referendum on ballot April 3, 2012, with 70% approval.
4. Town of Westport – board passed resolution May 7, 2012.
5. Dunn County – board passed resolution July 25, 2012. Then put on ballot and passed 72% on Nov 4, 2014.
6. Eau Claire County – board placed referendum on ballot Nov. 6, 2012, with 71% approval.
7. Chippewa County – board placed referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 68% approval.
8. City of Fort Atkinson – petition forced referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 77% approval.
9. City of Whitewater – petition referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 84% approval.
10. Douglas County – board of supervisors unanimously approved resolution June 20, 2013.
11. Town of Exeter – town board unanimously approved resolution July 8, 2013.
12. Jefferson County – board of supervisors voted 23-5 to approve resolution July 9, 2013.
13. Town of Koshkonong – town board approved resolution with a July 10, 2013 80% ballot approval.
14. Town of Oakland – town board unanimously approved resolution July 16, 2013.
15. City of Kenosha – city council voted 13-2 to approve resolution August 5, 2013.
16. Town of Sumner – town board unanimously approved resolution August 12, 2013.
17. Town of Watertown – town board unanimously approved resolution August 12, 2013.
18. Kenosha County – board voted 19-4 to approve resolution August 20, 2013.
19. Town of Jefferson – town board voted 4-1 to approve resolution September 5, 2013.
20. Town of Farmington – town board unanimously approved resolution September 5, 2013.
21. Town of Spring Valley – town board unanimously approved resolution September 9, 2013.
22. Town of Lake Mills – town board unanimously approved resolution September 10, 2013.
23. Town of Richmond – town board unanimously approved resolution September 17, 2013.
24. Town of Cross Plains – town board unanimously approved resolution November 11, 2013.
25. Town of Avon – town board unanimously approved resolution December 2, 2013.
26. Town of Porter – town board voted 2 for and 1 abstaining to approve resolution December 16, 2013.
27. Town of Plymouth – town board unanimously approved resolution January 14, 2014.
28. Town of Newark – town board unanimously approved resolution February 10, 2014.
29. City of Waukesha – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 69% approval.
30. City of Wauwatosa – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 64% approval.
31. City of Edgerton – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 87% approval.
32. City of Elkhorn – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 69% approval.
33. City of Delavan – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 76% approval.
34. City of Lake Mills – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 73% approval.
35. Village of Belleville – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 85% approval.
36. Village of Shorewood – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 76% approval.
37. Village of Whitefish Bay – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 65% approval.
38. Village of Waunakee – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 79% approval.
39. Village of DeForest – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 70% approval.
40. Town of Windsor – town board approved resolution with an April 1, 2014 71% ballot approval.
41. Town of Waterloo – board placed referendum on ballot April 1, 2014 61% ballot approval.
42. Town of Viroqua – town board approved resolution per citizen unanimous vote April 20, 2014.
43. Town of Janesville – town board unanimously approved resolution July 7, 2014.
44. Town of Dunn – town board unanimously approved resolution Aug 28, 2014.
45. Milwaukee County – board placed referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 70% approval.
46. City of Green Bay – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 77% approval.
47. City of Appleton – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 74% approval.

48. City of Fond du Lac – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 73% approval.
49. City of Neenah – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
50. City of Menasha – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 80% approval.
51. City of Ripon – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
52. City of Wausau – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 77% approval.
53. City of Stoughton – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 82% approval.
54. Village of Oregon – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
55. Village of Park Ridge – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 83% approval.
56. City of Watertown – petition referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with a 69% approval.
57. City of Evansville – petition referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with an 80% approval.
58. Town of Reedsburg – board placed referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with a 63% ballot approval.
59. Town of Ellington – town board approved resolution April 21, 2015.
60. City of Mauston – city council unanimously approved a resolution June 23, 2015.
61. City of New Lisbon - city council unanimously approved a resolution July 20, 2015.
62. Town of Greenville – town board voted 3-2 to approve resolution October 12, 2015.
63. Village of Belmont – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 88% approval.
64. City of Beloit – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with a 74% approval.
65. City of Brodhead – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 85% approval.
66. Town of Clarno – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 85% ballot approval.
67. City of Darlington – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 81% approval.
68. City of Janesville – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 84% approval.
69. City of Lancaster – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 85% approval.
70. City of New London – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 81% approval.
71. City of Monroe – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 82% approval.
72. City of Platteville – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 84% approval.
73. Town of York – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 86% ballot approval.
74. Town of Fountain – town board approved resolution per citizen vote (8-1-1) April 20, 2016.
75. Town of Mt. Pleasant – unanimous board approval May 16, 2016. Referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
76. City of Milton – city council unanimously approved resolution August 16, 2016.
77. Town of Marion – town board unanimously approved resolution September 8, 2016.
78. Rock County – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
79. City of Reedsburg – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
80. City of Manitowoc – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 81% approval.
81. City of Delafield – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 79% approval.
82. Village of Neshkoro – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
83. Village of New Glarus – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
84. Village of Spring Valley – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 91% approval.
85. Village of Osceola – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
86. Village of Mount Horeb – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 84% approval.
87. Village of Monticello – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
88. Village of Clayton – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
89. Town of New Glarus – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 83% approval.
90. Town of Harris – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 65% approval.
91. Town of Springdale – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
92. Town of Decatur – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 89% approval.
93. Town of Cadiz – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 87% approval.
94. Town of Lake Tomahawk – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 91% approval.
95. Town of West Point – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 67% approval.
96. Town of Clayton – town board unanimously approved resolution January 18, 2017.
97. City of Sturgeon Bay – council unanimously approved resolution March 21, 2017.
98. City of Racine - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 81% approval.
99. City of Monona - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 91% approval.
100. Village of Fox Crossing - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 81% approval.
101. Village of Blue Mounds - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 88% approval.
102. Town of Blue Mounds - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 84% approval.
103. Town of Jordan - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 71% approval.

104. Town of Crystal Lake - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 79% approval.
105. Town of Caledonia - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 70% approval.
106. Town of Bailey's Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution June 12, 2017.
107. Town of Egg Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution June 19, 2017.
108. Town of Liberty Grove – board unanimously approved resolution July 5, 2017.
109. Village of Egg Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution July 10, 2017.
110. Village of Ephraim – board unanimously approved resolution July 11, 2017.
111. City of Merrill – board voted 7-1 to approve resolution July 11, 2017.
112. Town of Forestville – board unanimously approved resolution July 18, 2017.
113. Town of Gibraltar – board voted 4-1 to approve resolution August 2, 2017.
114. Town of Sturgeon Bay – board unanimously approved resolution September 4, 2017.
115. Town of Jacksonport – board unanimously approved resolution September 26, 2017.
116. Town of Brussels – board unanimously approved resolution November 8, 2017.
117. Village of Forestville – board unanimously approved resolution November 21, 2017.
118. Town of Clay Banks – board unanimously approved resolution December 14, 2017.
119. Town of Nasewaupee – board unanimously approved resolution December 15, 2017.
120. Town of Union – board unanimously approved resolution February 14, 2018.
121. Green County – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 78% approval.
122. St. Croix County – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 77% approval.
123. City of La Crosse – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 88% approval.
124. City of Marshfield – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 81% approval.
125. City of Sun Prairie – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 83% approval.
126. City of Rice Lake – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 81% approval.
127. Village of McFarland – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 79% approval.
128. Village of Wittenberg – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 83% approval.
129. Town of Sand Creek – ballot referendum passed April 3, 2018 with a 77% approval.
130. Town of Gardner – board unanimously approved resolution April 17, 2018.
131. Door County – board of supervisors voted 19-2 to approve resolution April 17, 2018.
132. Village of Sister Bay – board unanimously approved resolution May 24, 2018.
133. City of Black River Falls – board approved resolution 7-0 in support of the Jackson County referendum August 7, 2018.
134. Jackson County – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 69% approval.
135. Sauk County – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 72% approval.
136. Wood County – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 80% approval.
137. Village of Readstown – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 91% approval.
138. Village of Westfield – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 87% approval.
139. Village of Weston – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 83% approval.
140. Town of Kickapoo – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 85% approval.
141. Town of Rib Mountain – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 78% approval.
142. Town of Vermont – ballot referendum passed November 6, 2018 with a 86% approval.
143. City of Shawano – board voted 5-1 to approve resolution December 12, 2018.
144. City of Richland Center – board voted 6-1-1 to approve resolution December 18, 2018.
145. City of Phillips – board voted unanimously to approve resolution October 1, 2019.
146. City of Park Falls – board voted unanimously to approve resolution October 14, 2019.
147. City of Rhinelander - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 89% approval.
148. City of Eagle River - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 87% approval.
149. Town of Wescott - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.
150. Town of Newbold - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 87% approval.
151. Town of Crescent - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 83% approval.
152. Town of Pelican - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 85% approval.
153. Town of Woodruff - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 85% approval.
154. Town of Pine Lake - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.
155. Town of Hazelhurst - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.
156. Town of Arbor Vitae - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 87% approval.
157. Town of Presque Isle - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 79% approval.
158. Town of Winchester - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 79% approval.
159. Town of Boulder Junction - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 86% approval.

160. Town of Phelps - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 81% approval.
161. Town of Lac du Flambeau - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 85% approval.
162. Town of Plum Lake - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 82% approval.
163. Town of Manitowish Waters - ballot referendum passed April 7, 2020 with a 77% approval.
164. Lafayette County – board voted unanimously to approve resolution May 19, 2020.
165. Winnebago County – ballot referendum passed November 3, 2020 with a 76% approval.
166. Town of Land O' Lakes – ballot referendum passed November 3, 2020 with a 84% approval.
167. Town of Red Springs – ballot referendum passed April 5, 2022 with a 89% approval.
168. Town of Bartelme – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2022 with a 88% approval.
169. Brown County – board voted 22-2-1 to approve resolution December 21, 2022.
170. City of Viroqua – ballot referendum passed April 4, 2023 with a 91% approval.

Average “Yes” votes of all communities where citizens voted on a ballot = **80%**

In total, 3.5 million people (61% of Wisconsinites) live in jurisdictions that have called for the United To Amend Amendment. Nationwide, over **840 communities** have passed resolutions and **22 states** have called for an amendment.

Communities with Referendums on Ballot in April 2023

City of Viroqua

States that have Called for an Amendment

1. Hawaii (April 28, 2010)
2. Maryland (January 19, 2012)
3. New Mexico (February 7, 2012)
4. Vermont (April 19, 2012)
5. Rhode Island (May 30, 2012)
6. California (July 5, 2012)
7. Massachusetts (July 31, 2012)
8. Connecticut (September 12, 2012)
9. New Jersey (Oct. 18, 2012)
10. Montana (November 6, 2012)
11. Colorado (November 6, 2012)
12. West Virginia (April 10, 2013)
13. Maine (April 30, 2013)
14. Illinois (May 31, 2013)
15. Delaware (June 10, 2013)
16. Oregon (July 1, 2013)
17. New York (June 15, 2016)
18. Washington (November 8, 2016)
19. Nevada (May 25, 2017)
20. New Hampshire (June 6, 2019)
21. Alaska (November 3, 2020)
22. Virginia (January 28, 2021)