

**Resolution 7-0700**

**CALLING FOR A COUNTYWIDE REFERENDUM ON WHETHER THE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN SHOULD ENACT COMPREHENSIVE  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

WHEREAS, Wisconsin must preserve its long tradition of clean and open government; and

WHEREAS, campaign spending is spiraling out of control and special interest groups are playing an increasingly dominant role in financing elections and referenda; and

WHEREAS, voter participation is declining and fewer people are willing to run for public office because of the high cost of campaigns; and

WHEREAS, the special interests that finance campaigns now enjoy disproportionate access to public officials at key times in the legislative process allowing for undue influence over public policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's current public finance system is severely underfunded and is providing only very small grants which neither give candidates incentive to accept spending limits nor relieve them of the obligation to raise funds from powerful special interests; and

WHEREAS, the current system lacks adequate contribution limits and reporting requirements to keep special interest in check; and

WHEREAS, without campaign finance reform that ensures public policy decisions will be determined on the merits of the issues, not the size of campaign contributions, the future of Wisconsin government is at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors that the following referendum be placed on the November 2000 election ballot:

“Do you support legislation to reform the state campaign finance system that would limit campaign spending, require stricter contribution limits and require full and prompt disclosure of election-related activities?”

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Tommy G. Thompson, Senators and Representatives representing all or a portion of our county, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.