

AJR 10

Creates four-year terms for county constitutional officers:

- Clerks
- Treasurers
- District Attorneys
- Registers of Deeds
- Clerks of Circuit Court
- Coroners

Second consideration – 2005

Ratification – 2005 (spring or fall election)

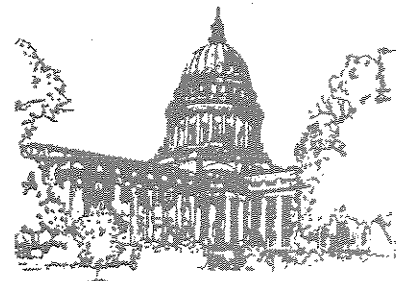
Following ratification, applies at:

- first general election for governor
 - coroners
 - clerks of circuit court
- first general election for president
 - clerks
 - treasurers
 - district attorneys
 - registers of deeds

MARY WILLIAMS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Committees: Agriculture (Vice Chair) • Rural Affairs (Vice Chair)
Forestry • Natural Resources • Small Business • Tourism



Four-Year Terms for County Officials

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military
Affairs and Government Reform
May 28, 2003

Chairperson Brown and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Assembly Joint Resolution 10.

This resolution is the first consideration of a constitutional amendment which will provide certain county-wide elected officers with the same four-year terms sheriffs currently serve. Four-year terms have worked for sheriffs and they will work for these locally elected officials as well.

These public servants will be able to focus their efforts on providing the highest level of service to their constituents rather than constantly running for re-election. These elected positions are not as politicized as the positions we hold as state representatives. Therefore, they deserve the opportunity to focus on their job responsibilities.

These important positions are relied upon on a daily basis. Two years isn't really enough time to learn a new job and put into practice any type of long-range planning. For example, upgrading computer hardware and software is a project that can take years to implement from beginning to end.

Allowing these officials more time to acclimate to their job duties will result in less time campaigning and may have the added benefit of attracting more qualified people to run for office. Few people want to spend time and money for a job that changes every two years. Hopefully, this constitutional amendment will encourage more individuals to run for public office.

This proposal has consistently garnered strong bipartisan support, a version introduced by Representative Krawczyk last session passed the Assembly on a vote of 78-18, as well as the endorsement of many local government and advocacy groups. Earlier this month this proposal passed the Assembly 81-17.

Simply stated, Assembly Joint Resolution 10 allows our local officials to rightfully focus on the jobs they were elected to do. I urge your support of this constitutional amendment.

Thank you.

Vote Record
**Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military
 Affairs and Government Reform**

Date: 5/28/03

Moved by: Breske

Seconded by: Zien

AB _____

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR 10 _____

SJR _____

Appointment _____

AR _____

SR _____

Other _____

A/S Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

Senator Ronald Brown, Chair

Aye No Absent Not Voting

Senator David Zien

Senator Scott Fitzgerald

Senator Robert Wirch

Senator Roger Breske

Totals: 5 0 0 0

Motion Carried

Motion Failed