

## **NOTICE OF REFERENDUM**

**Village of Withee**

**April 6, 2021**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the Village of Withee, on April 6, 2021, the following proposed Resolution of the Village Board, will be submitted to a vote of the people:

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM FOR THE VILLAGE OF WITHEE TO ALLOW THE VILLAGE TO EXCEED THE STATE IMPOSED LEVY LIMIT BEGINNING WITH THE 2021 LEVY (COLLECTED IN 2022) AND ON AN ONGOING BASIS**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city, and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. § 66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602 limits the increase in 2021 to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy, or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value; which for the Village of Withee is (estimated) to be 0.235%; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Withee believes it is in the village's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than 0.235% for the purpose of hiring a third full-time police officer to replace a 30-hour per week part-time police officer position; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Withee's actual levy in 2020 (collected in 2021) was \$124,255; and state law would limit the increase to \$107, for a total allowable 2021 (collected in 2022) village tax levy of \$124,362; and

WHEREAS, replacing the part-time police officer position with a third full-time police officer will enhance the Owen-Withee Police Department's ability to fulfill all of the department's response and preventative responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, raising the statutory levy limit will allow the Village to enhance these protective services, which are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Village of Withee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Board of the Village of Withee, Clark County, Wisconsin, that the Village Board hereby supports an increase in the village tax levy for 2021 (to be collected in 2022) to exceed the state levy limit. The Village Board intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis by including it in the base used to calculate the limit for 2022, and succeeding years, as well. The purpose for which the increased levy will be used is to replace the current part-time police officer position with a third full-time police

officer position to enhance police protective services which are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Village of Withee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board directs that the question of increasing the village tax levy for 2021 (to be collected in 2022) by 8.248%, which would increase the village levy by \$10,257, for a total village tax levy of \$134,619, the increase to be used for hiring a third full-time police officer, shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum election to be held on April 6, 2021, in the following form:

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Village of Withee for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2022, is limited to 0.235% which results in a levy of \$124,362. Shall the Village of Withee be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2022, for the purpose of hiring a third full-time police officer to replace a part-time position, by a total of 8.248%, which results in a levy of \$134,619, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$10,257 for each fiscal year going forward?

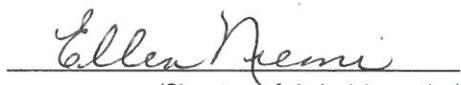
#### EXPLANATION

The Village of Withee is presently served by the Owen-Withee Police Department. The Owen-Withee Police Committee has recommended that the Owen-Withee Police Department hire a third full-time police officer to replace an existing 30-hour per week police officer position. In order to add a third full-time police officer, the Village's costs would exceed the maximum allowable levy.

A "Yes" vote allows the Village Board to exceed the state-imposed levy limits to provide additional funding to pay for a third full-time police officer. The increased levy would apply on an ongoing basis thereafter by including it in the base used to calculate the limit going forward.

A "No" vote does not allow the Village Board to exceed the state-imposed levy limits to providing additional funding to pay for a third full-time police officer. The Owen-Withee Police Department would continue to be staffed in the same manner it is presently staffed.

Done in the Village of Withee,  
On March 31, 2021

  
(Signature of clerk giving notice)  
Village Clerk