



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Town of Windsor Takes First Step Towards Incorporation**  
*Referendum to be held November 3<sup>rd</sup>*

(Town of Windsor, WI) – On August 20, 2015, the Windsor Town Board voted unanimously to allow residents to decide whether the town should incorporate as a village. The Board’s action clears the way for a referendum on the question, which is to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, according to Bob Wipperfurth, Town of Windsor chairperson.

“The Board’s action comes as a direct response to citizen calls to preserve Windsor’s unique rural and agricultural identity,” said Wipperfurth. “Windsor residents value the unique diversity we have. We enjoy our mix of agricultural, local businesses, residential and conservancy areas and want to protect these areas for generations to come. We can preserve the tax base we have, and welcome responsible growth within our existing borders. To do so, we need the tools that villages have under the current laws. Incorporating as a village gives us the legal tools we need to achieve our goals and maintain an exceptional quality of life throughout the Windsor community.”

Located in Dane County, just minutes from downtown Madison, Windsor is home to a dynamic mix of business and agriculture. If it remains a town, Windsor’s distinct agricultural and rural identity could be jeopardized because of the continued urbanization of the region. In addition, the Town would remain subject to annexations and an erosion of its equalized value. Not only would annexations threaten Windsor’s character and identity, it would result in increased costs to its residents for services because of the lost tax base. If the Town incorporates as a village, it would be possible to maintain the same services and staff at no additional cost to residents.

“Incorporation gives Windsor the ability to control its future by protecting its boundaries and its tax base,” said Wipperfurth. “It allows Windsor to manage growth and development by reducing redundancies and overlap in governmental services and by unifying land use and zoning regulations. Without incorporating as a village, these efficiencies cannot be achieved.”

Numerous public meetings held last summer revealed that there is strong citizen support for protecting Windsor’s rural character, while engaging in well-planned growth and development. Becoming a village will allow Windsor to do both. Residents interested in preserving Windsor’s unique character and identity should vote in the referendum on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

“A number of open houses will be held over the next few months in order to provide information and answer questions about incorporation in advance of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> referendum vote,” explained Wipperfurth. “Due to its proximity to the City of Madison, Windsor continues to experience incredibly rapid growth. Based on the data and growth projections I’ve reviewed, incorporating as a village is the best option for Windsor. Incorporation will protect residents’ quality of life and allow for orderly growth in the future.”

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### **Timeline for Incorporation.**

In July 2014, Windsor held four listening sessions to seek input from residents on three governance options available to the town. Those options include: (1) remaining a town (no governance change); (2) consolidating or merging with the Village of DeForest; or, (3) incorporating as a village.

After receiving input and direction from the public, the Town undertook substantial analysis to assess the possible impacts of incorporation on service delivery, property values and finances. The studies concluded that Windsor already provides the expanded services of a village and that there are numerous fiscal benefits to incorporating. The reports can be viewed at [www.windsorwi.gov](http://www.windsorwi.gov).

On November 25, 2014, a town meeting was held to review the 2015 budget and to gather additional input from residents on Windsor’s future governance structure. Citizens at the meeting resoundingly directed the Town Board to move forward with the incorporation process.

On July 12, 2015, Governor Scott Walker signed Wisconsin Act 55 into law. Act 55 created Wis. Stat. § 66.02162, which gives Town electors the ability to choose the form of governance that best reflects the needs of the community. Wis. Stat. § 66.02162 further allows the Windsor Town Board to adopt a resolution that will authorize a referendum vote by all Town electors. The authorizing resolution was approved, Thursday, August 20, 2015.

The referendum question on the November 3, 2015, election ballot will ask: **SHALL THE TOWN OF WINDSOR BECOME A VILLAGE? Residents will determine Windsor’s future by voting on the referendum on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.**

For more information on the town of Windsor and its incorporation please visit the website at [http://www.windsorwi.gov/index.asp?SEC=E95CC075-449B-4F10-B64B-E0FCBA842EA4&Type=B\\_BASIC](http://www.windsorwi.gov/index.asp?SEC=E95CC075-449B-4F10-B64B-E0FCBA842EA4&Type=B_BASIC) .

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