



July 12, 2015

## **LEGISLATION ALLOWS CITIZEN REFERENDUM ON INCORPORATION**

Today we are poised to make history in the Town of Windsor. Legislation signed into law by Governor Scott Walker on July 12, 2015, gives the Town the ability to decide what form of governance is best for its future.

Under the new Wisconsin Statutes § 66.02162, the Windsor Town Board is authorized to adopt a resolution that will put the question of incorporation of the Town to a vote by all Town electors. The question on the referendum will be:

### **SHALL THE TOWN OF WINDSOR BECOME A VILLAGE?**

Voters mark their ballot as either “*For a village*” or “*Against a village*.” If a majority of votes are “*For a village*,” then the Town Clerk will certify the results as provided by the new Wisconsin Statutes § 66.02162, and the Secretary of State will issue a certificate of incorporation. The Town will become the Village of Windsor and have all the rights and powers conferred on villages by State law.

Under the new Wisconsin Statutes § 66.02162, ordinances continue in effect to the extent not inconsistent with State law, or until altered or repealed. There will be continuity in local law.

Similarly, all existing intergovernmental and cooperative boundary agreements entered under Wisconsin Statutes §§ 66.0301 and 66.0307 will continue in force until altered or repealed, all to the full extent allowed under the agreements. The new Wisconsin Statutes § 66.02162 states that the Village of Windsor “shall be considered the town’s successor with respect to such agreements.” The Town will keep its commitments and continue to collaborate with its neighbors.

The current Town Board will serve as interim officers of the new Village of Windsor until the first Village election. The transition process follows the same path that applies when a town incorporates as a city, all as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes § 66.0215(8).

A year ago, the Town Board held a four-part series of public listening sessions, completed an in-depth comparison of governance structures and recommended that the Town incorporate as a village. This year the electors of the Town of Windsor have been given the opportunity to vote and make this recommendation a reality. **Windsor can now grow forward as a village!**