

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE  
AGENDA**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE ASSEMBLY  
ROOM, WAUSAU, WI**

**Task Force Purpose:** Determine the optimal number of Marathon County Supervisory Districts, each represented by one County Board Supervisor. In making this determination, the Task Force shall consider the expected impact of the proposed board size on: the ability to attract well qualified candidates and to foster competitive elections, the efficient functioning of county governance, and the cost of County Government.

**Members:** John Robinson – Chair, Craig McEwen - Vice Chair, Tim Buttke, Sandi Cihlar, Jacob Langenhahn, Arnold Schlei, Rick Seefeldt, David Eckmann, Deb Hager

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Task Force members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Task Force members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Task Force members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning **five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**PHONE NUMBER: 1-408-418-9388**

**Access Code / Meeting Number: 146 310 0421**

**Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an “Attendee Identification Number” enter the # sign.**

**No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.**

**If you would like to join this meeting virtually, you may join the meeting by clicking on the “join meeting” link below. When you enter the meeting, PLEASE MUTE YOUR DEVICE!**

[JOIN MEETING](#)

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. CALL TO ORDER;
2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS;

**POLICY DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

1. PRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE TASK FORCE;
2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS AND TIMELINES FOR COUNTY BOARD REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS;
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE OPTIONS (comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker);
4. ADJOURN.


**Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk’s Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail [infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.**

**FAXED TO:**

News Dept. at Daily Herald (715-848-9361), City Pages (715-848-5887),  
Midwest Radio Group (715-848-3158), Marshfield News (877-943-0443),  
TPP Printing (715 223-3505)

Date: November 6, 2020  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
By: Bl  
Time/By: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

  
Presiding Officer or Designee

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m.  
By: County Clerk

## OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING INPUT REGARDING THE PRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE TASK FORCE

The Marathon County Board has created a Task Force on County Board Size to recommend whether any change in the size of the board should be made. The current board has 38 members. Each member represents approximately 3,600 residents. The Task Force is collecting citizen feedback on three options under consideration include: reducing the size of the Board to 27 members; reducing the size to 32 members; and maintaining the present size of the Board at 38 members. Information relating to the options is available on the County's website.

There are several ways for you to provide your input.

**Option 1** – Attend the public listening session on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Assembly Room at the Courthouse 500 Forest St. Wausau. You can attend in person, by video, or by phone. If you would like to address the Task Force, you will need to register beforehand. You can register by emailing the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department at [cpz@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:cpz@co.marathon.wi.us). Let them know your name, address, and phone number you'll be using. You may also register the day of the listening session 15 minutes before the meeting starts. The host will begin asking anyone that has not yet registered to speak, if they intent to speak during the public comment section of the meeting. The meeting will begin with a presentation by the Task Force and public comments will be accepted after the presentation. Individuals will have three minutes to provide comments. Please mute your phone or computer when not presenting.

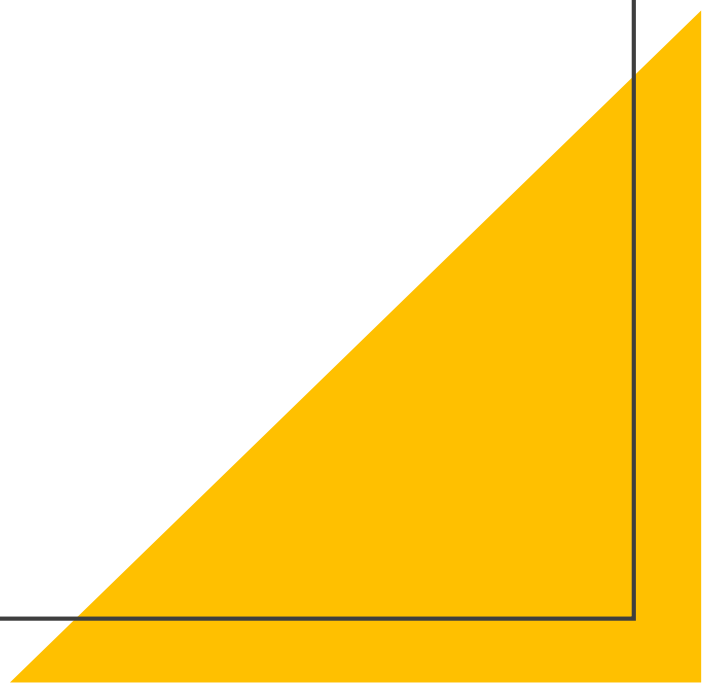
The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Marathon County website calendar and will contain a WebEx link for internet access and the phone number to call in.

**Option 2** – Send your comments in via the county website. The Task Force will be accepting comments via a webpage on the County website after the November 12<sup>th</sup> listening session thru November 27<sup>th</sup>. Go to the Marathon County home page at [www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us), click on the link on the Main page or in the Highlights section. You can also get to the link from the Announcements section.

**Option 3** – Call into 715-261-1444 between November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup> and leave your comments and suggestions on board size as a voicemail.

# MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE

November 12, 2020



# WHY

- Required to redraw boundaries after the census impacting 2022 elections
- Equal representation
- Past efforts to change the size of the board
- Potential for citizens to petition for downsizing of board (Wood, Fond du Lac and other counties)
- Amendment to 2020 budget to cut the size of the board in 1/2
- Concerns led to the creation of Task Force

# WHO

- John Robinson – Chair
- Craig McEwen - Vice Chair
- Tim Buttke
- Sandi Cihlar
- Jacob Langenhahn
- Arnold Schlei
- Rick Seefeldt
- David Eckmann, citizen member
- Deb Hager, citizen member

# DUTIES

- Familiarize with research/literature on effective governance
- Collect info from other WI Counties about governance structure
- Consider whether the county's current structure should be updated
  - Committee consolidation or new committees
- Estimate financial implications of various options

# DUTIES

- Predict how the new structure will:
  - Change the number of candidates that will seek election
  - Impact underrepresented groups such as women and minorities
- Actively seek out public opinion through a series of public Listening Sessions
  - Towns & Villages Association
  - Chamber of Commerce and other business groups
  - The general public

# DUTIES

- Predict the impact of any proposed change on:
  - Expectations of time commitments
  - Ability of county to interact with other
    - Local government
    - Community groups,
    - Individual constituents



# PROCESS

What information do members need?

- Organizational effectiveness
  - Number of committees
- Efficiencies/Cost
  - Cost savings
- Representation
  - Diversity
  - Contested seats
  - Size and population of districts

# PROCESS

- Other Counties experience
- Board self-evaluation
- Developing criteria to evaluate options
- Develop options
- Public input
- Final recommendations
- Presentation to County Board

# PROCESS

Committee reviewed information from:

- Wisconsin Counties Association
- Wisconsin County Officials Directory
- Local Government Education University of Wisconsin Division of Extension
- Washington County Board Structure Advisory Committee Summary Report 2019
- Evaluated Wood, Chippewa, St. Croix, and Fond Du Lac Counties
- Survey of County Board Leadership and Members
- Other sources

# TASK FORCE MEETINGS

- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 17
- October 7
- October 22
- November 12 Listening Session
- November 30

# OTHER COUNTIES

Board size changes occurred because of:

- Citizen petition/referendum (actual or perceived threat of)
- Part of decennial adjustments with census
- Looking at organizational effectiveness
- Based on number of functioning standing committees and members

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Efficiencies/Costs
- Representation
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Issues

# FACTORS

- Population per Supervisor
- Administration Type (Exec, Administrator, Coordinator)
- Square Miles per Supervisor
- Number of Standing Committee
- Size of Standing Committees
- Cost for Supervisors

# FINDINGS

- Marathon County Board at 38 is the largest in the nation
- State statutes allow between 3 and 47 members
- 1,600 County Board Supervisors in 72 counties, the Ave. is 22.2
- Average Board size of peer counties is 26.45 members
- Representation range from 369 in Florence Co. to 52,652 Milwaukee Co.



# FINDINGS

- Marathon County Supervisor represents approximately 3,600
- Districts are based on population not geographic size
- Several counties have reduced the size of their boards
- Changing board size did not have a significant impact on contested elections

# OPTIONS

- After reviewing information, the Task Force is seeking comments on the following three options:
- **27** members
  - 5 standing committees plus Board Chair and Vice-chair
- **32** members
  - 6 standing committees plus Board Chair and Vice-chair
- **38** members
  - Maintain present size and similar structure

# COSTS

Title	Annual Salary	#	Total 38	Total 32	Total 27
Chair	\$30,000	1	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Vice Chair	\$8,991	1	\$8,991	\$8,991	\$8,991
Committee Chairs	\$6,091	5-6	\$36,546	\$36,546	\$30,455
Members	\$5,491	20-30	\$164,730	\$131,784	\$109,820
			\$240,267	\$207,321	\$179,266
Social Security/Medicare 7.65%			\$18,380	\$15,860	\$13,714
Total			\$258,647	\$223,181	\$192,980

# TIMING

- 2020
  - June initial meeting
  - Summer research; develop evaluation criteria
  - Fall Develop options
  - November listening session
  - December recommendations to County Board
- 2021
  - Feb. – March County Board action on Board size. Redistricting process begins
  - Develop redistricting plan, public hearing
  - December nomination papers
- 2022
  - Elections

# NEXT STEPS

- Public Comment Period **November 12th – 27th**
  - In writing: Marathon County CPZ, 210 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403
  - Phone (715) 261-1444
  - Email: [cpz@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:cpz@co.marathon.wi.us)
  - County website
- Task Force will evaluate input and apply evaluation criteria
  - November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Develop final recommendation for Executive Committee
- Present report to County Board
  - Opportunity for public involvement

# COMMENTS

