



Racine County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

**VOLUNTARY COMPACT OF  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL  
FOR RACINE COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES**

THIS VOLUNTARY COMPACT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (“Compact”) is entered into as of the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 (the “Effective Date”), by and between Racine County, Wisconsin (“County”) and the undersigned municipalities (collectively, “Municipalities”).

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the residents of Racine County expect and are entitled to the best and most economic government possible; and

WHEREAS, an expanded population, now exceeding two hundred thousand people, has led to the municipal incorporation of all lands in the County of Racine into seventeen cities, villages and towns; and

WHEREAS, such expansion has emphasized the need for improved communications among all units of local government to better serve their respective citizens; and

WHEREAS, residents view the boundary lines of their respective municipalities as cherished symbols of local autonomy and home rule, but do not consider them as barriers to travel, communication, business or friendship; and

WHEREAS, elected officials reflect the sentiments of their electorate, especially as aforesaid; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned are firm in their belief that governments are obligated to best serve their people and that greater benefits may accrue to more people by an amicable exchange of problems and a friendly search for valid areas of cooperative effort at all levels of government;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0301 authorizes and encourages cooperation by and among Wisconsin counties and its cities, towns, and villages;

NOW, THEREFORE, to better meet the increasing complexities of population growth and expansion and craft solutions through rational and democratic procedures, it seems only fitting and proper that the executive heads of Racine County and its municipalities join together in a voluntary compact of cooperation, and for that purpose they make these articles to guide their procedure.

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Council" refers to Intergovernmental Cooperation Council.
- B. "Intergovernmental Cooperation" is the coordination of public functions and programs between two or more governmental units through formal and informal arrangements which are voluntary and without remuneration and jointly operated, but within contemporary political structures.

## 2. NATURE OF AGREEMENT

All members entering into this compact do so with the following principles in mind:

- A. This organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members.
- B. Its members recognize that the well-being of each of the constituent political jurisdictions is dependent on the sound growth and development of the County.
- C. Nothing contained in this agreement shall authorize the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any member without their consent.
- D. This agreement and actions of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council shall be within the framework of the laws of the State of Wisconsin and laws of the municipalities involved,
- E. The actions of any committee or group authorized by this agreement are of an advisory nature only and not binding on any member of the Council.
- F. All members, in order to ensure to each of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with this compact.

## 3. PURPOSE

- A. To attain the greatest degree of intergovernmental cooperation possible within Racine County in order to foresee and prevent the problems created by growth and expansion in this region and to encourage efficient use of mutual resources in the provision of services to local communities in a mutually advantageous manner.
- B. To develop among the several governmental units the ultimate in communication, and

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understanding while effecting cooperation and coordination of services, programs and facilities.

- C. To assure, through co-operation and the pooling of common resources, by mutual aid, maximum efficiency and economy in governmental operations which will provide every citizen with the utmost value for every tax dollar without the loss of governmental identity.
- D. To explore and utilize jointly the various tools of intergovernmental co-operation, such as joint enterprises, mutual aid, parallel action and the furnishing of service to one another, on a voluntary basis through formal and informal agreements within contemporary political structures in an effort to achieve economies of scale that would not be possible without mutual cooperation.

## **4. FUNCTIONS**

- A. The Council may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of its purposes concerning Racine County and the towns, villages and cities within its boundaries.
- B. Members may bring matters involving intergovernmental cooperation to the attention of the Council for discussion and possible recommendations.
- C. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Council may request any governmental unit to take certain action or actions if it will benefit overall intergovernmental cooperation in this County.
- D. Private and quasi-private agencies may by invitation of this Council, be included in discussions and recommendations concerning intergovernmental cooperation.
- E. The Council may sponsor and promote agreements between governmental units it deems appropriate to further intergovernmental cooperation.
- F. The Council shall initiate and/or request studies deemed necessary to gain an intelligent understanding of any matters or problems brought to its attention.
- G. The Council may seek research assistance from non-partisan, non-profit research organizations, civic foundations and organizations and institutions of higher learning.
- H. The Council should submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to all governing bodies in Racine County and to the citizens therein.

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- I. It is anticipated that, for the time being, the Council will function without incurring significant expenses, except for the nominal items of printing, space rentals, refreshments, etc. Staff will be provided by Racine County. A nominal membership fee, of which the amount and source thereof will be considered and determined by the members, is expected to be collected yearly.
- J. The Council may establish or designate any such committees or subsidiary groups deemed necessary to assist it in carrying out Its purposes and functions.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The initial membership of the Council shall be composed of eighteen permanent members who shall be the elected executive head of the County and the Mayor, President, or Chair of the municipalities within said County, who shall also have authority to appoint a designated representative to act for him/her in event of his/her absence.
- B. Composition and membership of the Council may be changed at any time and in any manner deemed appropriate by affirmative vote of all members.
- C. Specifically, and without limitation by reason of this enumeration, the Council may expand its membership or may create new classes of membership with or without voting rights as may be deemed appropriate, by including representatives from the legislative branch of the governmental units within the County, or representatives from the State Legislature elected from within the County, or any other officials whose addition to the Council may improve the work or further the objectives of the Council.

## **6. VOTING**

- A. Each permanent member of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council shall have one vote.
- B. Decisions of the Council shall be made by an affirmative majority vote of the permanent members present provided that a quorum is present, unless otherwise provided.
- C. Decisions of the Council which involve specific recommendations or agreements for cooperative endeavors between two or more participating council members shall require an affirmative vote of the participating members.
- D. Council members may abstain from voting on decisions which adversely affect their relationships with other governmental units.

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## 7. COMMITTEES OR SUBSIDIARY GROUPS

- A. The Council shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all division and committees drawn from cooperating jurisdictions. The Council shall designate all committee chairs and other personnel deemed necessary.
- B. Committees or other personnel cannot commit the Council on any matter or question of general policy. If committees are appointed to conduct a study they may return both a majority and minority report to the Council.
- C. Committee members need not necessarily be members of the Council

## 8. PROCEDURE

- A. The Council shall meet in regular sessions which shall be open to the public and the press, and which shall be held on the third Thursday of January, March, May, August, and November;
- B. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Chair or upon written request of a majority of the members elect specifying the time and place of such special meetings as well as the purpose.
- C. All meetings shall begin at 3:30 p.m. unless a different time is established by the Chair or by a majority vote of the members present.
- D. The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
- E. At the organizational meeting in May of each year, the Council shall elect one (1) of its members Chair for a term of one (1) year or until a successor is elected and qualified.
- F. The Council, immediately following the election of the chair, shall then elect one (1) of its members as Vice-Chair for the same term, who in the absence or disability of the Chair shall perform the duties of his/her office.
- G. The Council may utilize the technicians, departments, planning groups or other official bodies for information to promote its objectives.
- H. Reports should be made to the Council on any present active cooperative ventures or any that are proposed by the cooperating units.

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## 9. AGENDA

A. The Council shall follow a regular agenda which shall be established by the Chair and Vice-Chair. At the close of each meeting of the Council, the Chair shall entertain suggestions to place items on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.

## 10. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Compact may be made by majority vote of the permanent members.

## 11. DURATION OF COMPACT

Any of the initial permanent members may withdraw from the compact by notifying all other members in writing of such withdrawal.

## 12. RATIFICATION

It is understood and so stated that the work of this Council will be purely administrative and advisory. However, to further the interests of good government through cooperative effort and friendly discussion of mutual problems, and to enhance the possibility of success and continuity for the Council regardless of future changes in personnel, and to give tangible evidence of support to its principles and objectives, each initial permanent member will request ratification of his participation from the legislative body of his government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Compact to be duly executed as of the date first written above.

### CITY OF BURLINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeannie Hefty  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diahn Halbach  
City Clerk

### TOWN OF BURLINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Lang  
Town Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne Rennie  
Town Clerk

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## VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

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Jim Dobbs  
Village President

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Joslyn Hoeffert  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF ELMWOOD PARK

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Ernie Rossi  
Village President

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Christophe Jenkins  
Village Administrator

## TOWN OF DOVER

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Sam Stratton  
Town Chairman

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Camille Gerou  
Town Clerk

## VILLAGE OF MT. PLEASANT

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David DeGroot  
Village President

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Stephanie Kohlhaugen  
Village Clerk & Treasurer

## VILLAGE OF NORTH BAY

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Mark Schall  
Village President

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Dori Panthofer  
Village Clerk

## TOWN OF NORWAY

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Jean Jacobson  
Town Chair

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Patricia Campbell  
Town Clerk

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## CITY OF RACINE

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Cory Mason  
Mayor

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Tara Coolidge  
City Clerk

## VILLAGE OF RAYMOND

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Kari Morgan  
Village President

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Linda M. Terry  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER

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Edward Chart  
Village President

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Sandra Swan  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF STURTEVANT

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Mike Rosenbaum  
Village President

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Cheryl Zamecnik  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE

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Steve Wicklund  
Village President

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Rebecca Wallendal  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF WIND POINT

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Susan Sanabria  
Village President

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Casey Griffiths  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer



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## TOWN OF WATERFORD

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Tom Hincz  
Town Chair

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Tina Mayer  
Town Clerk

## VILLAGE OF WATERFORD

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Don Houston  
Village President

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Rachel Ladewig  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE

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Douglas Nelson  
Village President

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Michael McKinney  
Village Clerk

## RACINE COUNTY

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Jonathan Delagrave  
County Executive

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Wendy Christensen  
County Clerk