

Benton County Board of Commissioners
Resolution # 40
A Resolution Proposing State Mandate Reform

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §6.79 allows local governments to submit to the State Auditor proposed reforms to state mandates, and

WHEREAS, mandate proposals will be listed on the State Auditor's website, along with the name of the local government submitting the proposal, and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Commissioners supports the concept of mandate reform and urges the Minnesota Legislature to give serious consideration to all proposals made by Cities, Townships and Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Benton County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following mandate proposals and directs the County Administrator to submit this listing to the State Auditor:

Mandate Relief Requested	Statutory Citation	Comments
Eliminate the requirement that local governments pay state sales and use taxes	MN Statutes §§297A.61, 297A.62, and 297A.63	Shifts a tax burden from a consumption tax to the property tax
Allow <u>all</u> counties the option of bidding out the annual audit to private CPA firms	MN Statutes §6.48	Not all counties have been provided the opportunity by the State Auditor to use a private CPA firm for the audit; every county should have the opportunity to potentially lower its costs
Allow counties to publish their annual budget summary and financial statements on their websites rather than in the official newspaper; or allow a more condensed format (summarized statements)	MN Statutes §375.169	Benton County spent <u>\$2,158</u> to publish the 2003 financial statements; the format prescribed by the State Auditor for the financial statement requires substantial column space
Allow counties to publish their Board minutes on their websites rather than in the official newspaper	MN Statutes §375.12	Publishing Board minutes cost <u>\$13,500</u> in 2004; Benton County already places Board minutes on the County website
Repeal the Truth in Taxation requirement for mailing parcel-specific notices; eliminate the required Truth in Taxation hearing and published hearing notice	MN Statutes §275.065	Public hearings on both the proposed and final levy (meetings in September and December) provide opportunities for public input; the Board also holds multiple public budget meetings during the annual budget process