



Badger State Sheriffs' Association, Inc.

An Association of Wisconsin Sheriffs
Dean C. Meyer, Executive Director
Bruce Daniels, Deputy Executive Director

President Sheriff Nate Dreckman
1st Vice President Sheriff Dale Schmidt
2nd Vice President Sheriff Todd Delain
Secretary Sheriff Rayn Waldschmidt
Treasurer Sheriff Chip Meister

March 1, 2021

Clerk of the Supreme Court Sheila Reiff
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

Re: Petition 20-09

Dear Honorable Justices,

I currently serve as the President of the Badger State Sheriffs' Association, which has a membership of all of Wisconsin's 72 Sheriffs. On behalf of those 72 Sheriffs, I wish to advocate for the adoption of Petition 20-09, which would allow for the use of video conferencing technology for court proceedings.

Many of the counties in Wisconsin currently use video conferencing within the jails for a variety of hearings. The COVID pandemic has dramatically expanded video conferencing technology usage, which has helped mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in jails and courtrooms. The appropriate continued and expanded use of video conferences will help to decrease costs and increase efficiencies.

The rapid advancement of technology in video conferencing and the increased use by many counties have shown many benefits. A primary benefit for Sheriffs is in the area of security for the courts and jail. With the increased use of video conferencing, transports to court are less, saving time, money and reducing security risks. Many Wisconsin counties have to travel a distance to get an inmate to a court hearing, so fewer transports is a risk reduction. The technology is at such a high level that it safeguards the rights of participants.

If Petition 20-09 is approved, it will significantly improve the Sheriff's response to the courts, assists victims who have challenges to get to court hearings, defendants will have quicker access to hearings and attorneys and added benefits to court personnel.

On behalf of the 72 Sheriffs in Wisconsin, I respectfully request the approval of Petition 20-09 for the expanded use of video conferencing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Dreckman', is written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Nate Dreckman
BSSA President