

# HICKMAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

## RESOLUTION NO. 10-05

### **OPPOSING UNFUNDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATES AND ADDITIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, counties have been hard hit by the economic downturn and are struggling to fund their budgets in the face of drastically diminishing revenue collections, just as the state is doing; and

**WHEREAS**, county governments in Tennessee are fundamental political subdivisions of our State and already are the primary providers of numerous essential government services including, but not limited to, public K-12 education, jails and law enforcement, road building and maintenance, election administration and voter registration, property assessment, solid waste disposal, record keeping and administration for the various state courts, and the many services provided by the offices of County Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk, Clerk and Master, Register of Deeds, Property Assessor, Elections Administrator, Trustee, Sheriff, and Highway Superintendent; and

**WHEREAS**, counties are required under existing laws to maintain certain levels of funding for numerous services they provide, including but not limited to education, law enforcement, highways and roads, and libraries; and

**WHEREAS**, county governments have limited taxing powers under state law and have limited sources of revenue available to them to fund the services they provide; and

**WHEREAS**, property values and income levels are declining, and increases in property taxes will be especially difficult in the current economic environment; and

**WHEREAS**, even before the current economic downturn, counties were struggling to find sufficient revenue sources to meet the growing demands of their citizens for services which are vital to the health, welfare, and safety of the people of this state, to provide improvements to infrastructure required by population and economic growth, and to meet constitutional responsibilities and state legislative mandates such as those required by the state's Basic Education Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Constitution, in Article II, Section 24, provides that "no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost"; and

**WHEREAS**, in dealing with the State's budget crisis it must be remembered that county governments are facing the same budget crisis coupled with an inability to secure alternate sources of revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, in balancing the state's budget, the General Assembly should not cut state funding to programs and pass the cost of funding those programs to counties;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Hickman County, meeting in regular session on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2010, that:

**SECTION 1.** The Tennessee General Assembly is strongly urged to pass no new laws imposing increased expenditure requirements on counties unless the General Assembly provides additional funding to cover the increased expenditures; and

**SECTION 2.** The Tennessee General Assembly is strongly urged either to eliminate programs or continue to fund them at the state level, rather than passing these responsibilities to county governments; and

**SECTION 3.** The Tennessee General Assembly is strongly urged to pass no laws that would increase above current levels any maintenance of local funding requirements ("maintenance of effort"), including but not limited to education funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the county clerk is hereby directed to mail certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor, and the members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing the people of Hickman County.

**SPONSORS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD ACTION:**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Aye**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Nay**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Pass**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Absent**

**ADOPTED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ronnie Sullivan, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Andrea Totty, County Clerk**

**APPROVED:**

**DISAPPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steve Gregory, County Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steve Gregory, County Mayor**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_