



# Jeremy Thiesfeldt

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 52nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Hariah Hutkowski

Phone: 608-266-3156

## Rep. Thiesfeldt Municipal Court Bill Signed into Law

*Allows a permissible fee increase of \$10 for municipal courts*

**Madison, WI** –Today, Assembly Bill 22, authored by Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R–Fond du Lac), was signed into law by Governor Walker. The bill would allow local jurisdictions an ability to increase the permissible threshold for municipal court fees by up to \$10. This cost would be borne by the party found guilty of an ordinance violation.

Rep. Thiesfeldt stated, “I want to thank Governor Walker for signing this measure just in time for local municipalities to finalize their 2014 budgets. I am also grateful for the near unanimous bi-partisan support the bill has received. If municipal courts were forced to close due to insufficient funding the circuit courts would be required to absorb their caseload causing delays and additional costs. This bill is overdue for many municipalities.”

There are approximately 350 municipalities served by 243 municipal courts in the State of Wisconsin hearing nearly half a million cases per year. Cases heard by municipal courts are primarily truancy issues, all traffic matters, ordinance and underage alcohol and drug violations.

Chuck Hornung, Village Administrator North Fond du Lac, who initially brought this to Rep. Thiesfeldt’s attention stated, “I am extremely happy to see that legislation has been signed into law allowing municipal courts to raise court fees from \$28 to a maximum of \$38. This action will help ensure the future of municipal courts in Wisconsin as operating costs continue to increase. Lakeside Municipal Court in North Fond du Lac processes around 12,000 citations annually from the fifteen area cities, villages, and townships that it services. Thank you to Governor Walker for signing the bill and to the elected officials who supported it.”

The last increase in the permissible fee was in 2005. No one registered in opposition or spoke against the measure. The bill had previously passed the State Assembly 95-1 and the State Senate unanimously.

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