

Proposed verbiage for Town of Conover Advisory Referendum (5 member Board) – April 7, 2015 election:

The advisory referendum is a direct vote in which an entire electorate is asked to vote on a particular *proposal*. This *may* result in the Town of Conover Board deciding to increase the board size from the current 3 member (2 Supervisors and 1 Chairperson) to 5 members (4 Supervisors and 1 Chairperson). This vote does not mean that there will be an automatic increase in the Board size. This vote is strictly for the current members of the Town Board to consider to adopt an Ordinance to increase the size of the Conover's Town Board.

The voter should take all things into consideration:

Increasing the size of the Town Board will result in an election every year (instead of one election every two years). Currently, the 3 member board is elected in odd numbered years. Because the Town of Conover has numbered supervisors, (e.g. Thomas Timken, Jr. appointed as Supervisor I, Karl Jennrich elected as Supervisor II), the "new" supervisor positions would be labeled, 'Supervisor III' and 'Supervisor IV,' and would be elected in even numbered years. George Champeny was appointed as the Town Chairperson when then-Chairperson Steven Rhode, Jr. resigned. The new positions could then be placed on the ballot as soon as the Spring election in 2017 (with nomination papers taken out in December 2016). The Town Board has a couple of options where the details of the election can be outlined in the Resolution that *may* be adopted. See Wisconsin Statute 60.21 (2)(b-e).

The cost of an extra election would be approximately: \$1,680 every *two* years (even numbered years) based on 2014 data.

The cost of two extra Supervisors would be approximately: \$15,616/year (based on 2014 data and budget increase for 2015). This cost includes: Salary, FICA, Dues, Payroll, administrative expenses (copies, mailings, etc.) and training. This does *not* include any reimbursed expenses for gas reimbursement.

A 3 member board is very restricted in their communication with each other. Two members, of a 3 member board, constitute a quorum. [A **quorum** is the minimum number of members of a [deliberative assembly](#) (a body that uses [parliamentary procedure](#), such as a [legislature](#)) necessary to conduct the business of that group. According to [Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised](#), the "requirement for a quorum is protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number of persons."]

Two members of a 5 member board may talk to each other regarding town business, without violating the ‘open meetings law.’ However, they still use caution as to not determine an outcome of an issue before a town meeting. 3 members of a 5 member board represent a quorum; meaning 2 other members of the board do not have to be present to vote or take action on an item (by an excused absence/emergency/vacation).

The voter should also be aware that increasing the size of the Town Board does not replace their own involvement in local government. The voter should know that their responsibilities as voters is needed and their participation in committees that the Town Board requests is also needed (along with your input). As you vote for your representative(s) in the local election, the elected officials are your public servants and are available for your scrutiny and advice. Having a larger Town Board may give the voter a wider range of individuals with expertise, opinions, wisdom, etc. to bring about the greater good for the Town of Conover.

Informational Purposes Only:

<u>Vilas County Towns</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>No. of Board Members</u>
Arbor Vitae	3,321	5
Boulder Junction	938	3
Cloverland	1,032	5
Conover	1,265	3
Eagle River (City)	1,381	5
Lac du Flambeau	3,453	3
Land O’Lakes	865	3
Lincoln	2,432	5
Manitowish Waters	569	3
Phelps	1,204	5
Plum Lake	500	3
Presque Isle	627	3
St. Germain	2,083	5
Washington	1,458	3
Winchester	387	3