



Office of the County Executive
Josh Schoemann, County Executive

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For Immediate Release

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#WashCoHero Update: County Employees Step-up for Local Restaurants

Employees order delivered lunches weekly from a locally owned restaurant

West Bend, WI – Sell cars. Take another mortgage. Lay off employees. Skip rent. Close.

County Executive Josh Schoemann heard those words and more when talking to area restaurants saddled with heavy-handed government mandates. After putting his head together with staff, the county executive enlisted County Treasurer-elect Scott Henke, the former Hartford Chamber Director, to develop a weekly lunch delivery so that employees could purchase their own lunches.

Henke recruited a half dozen county restaurants to participate in the pilot and on the first Wednesday delivery, the Chocolate Factory increased a normal lunch business by 33%. The next week, Pudgie's Food Truck sold enough to match a normal lunch event. West Bend's Pizza Ranch saw dozens of county employees purchase lunches. Now, in the fourth week, [Hartford's Perc Place](#) sold 70 lunches, which will be delivered today.

"I've spoken to well over 100 business owners in Washington County," said Schoemann. "By far restaurant, tavern, hospitality and lodging industries are suffering the most. One young restaurant owner, in tears, told me she was looking to sell her cars and mortgage her house because failure was not an option. Washington County cannot let our local businesses die."

The county's IT department created an ordering program for employees. The county will offer the code to any major business looking to begin a similar program.

Schoemann looks to expand the program in 2021 and add more businesses. Area businesses should contact his office at 262-306-2200 or county.exec@washcowisconsin.gov to partner with the county.

Media Availability:

What: #WashCoHero Lunch Delivery

When: Wednesday, December 16 | 11:45am

Where: Washington County Justice Center, 484 Rolfs Ave, West Bend, WI 53090

Who: Perc Place, Hartford and County Executive Josh Schoemann

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