



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
586.469.5125 ~ Fax: 586.469.5993  
www.macombBOC.com

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015, 7 P.M.

### FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner Andrey Duzyj**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated 12-18-14, 1-12-15 (Organizational Meeting) **(previously distributed)**  
and 1-22-15
7. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the  
Chairperson related only to issues contained on the agenda)
8. Correspondence from Executive **(page 1)** **(attached)**
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a) Health & Human Services, January 26 **(no report)**
  - b) Economic Development/Infrastructure, January 27 **(no report)**
  - c) Finance, January 28 **(page 4)** **(attached)**

## MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair  
District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair  
District 11

Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms  
District 10

Andrey Duzyj – District 1  
Don Brown – District 7

Marvin Sauger – District 2  
Kathy Vosburg – District 8

Veronica Klinefelt – District 3  
Fred Miller – District 9

Robert Mijac - District 5  
Bob Smith – District 12

James Carabelli – District 6  
Joe Sabatini – District 13

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FINAL AGENDA  
JANUARY 29, 2015**

**PAGE 2**

10. Amendment to 2015 Meeting Schedule (page 17) (attached)
11. Board Chair's Report (page 18) (attached)
12. Update on Martha T. Berry MCF Transition/Jennifer Morgan, Director
13. New Business
14. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
15. Roll Call
16. Adjournment



---

# Macomb County Executive

## Mark A. Hackel

---

Mark F. Deldin  
Deputy County Executive

TO: Members of the County Commission  
FROM: Mark A. Hackel, County Executive  
DATE: January 28, 2015  
RE: Organization Plan

Section 3.6 of the Macomb County Home Rule Charter provides in part:

**3.6.1** Except as provided in Article XI, within 90 days after the start of a new term of office the Executive shall submit a proposed Organization Plan to the Commission which includes an explanation of the reasons for the plan and an evaluation of its financial impact.

**3.6.2** The Organization Plan may provide for the creation or abolition of any Agency except for the departments and offices created by Article VII of this Charter and any others expressly exempted by this Charter or prohibited from being created or abolished by law. The Organization Plan may also transfer powers, duties, and functions of the County among the Agencies, including those created by Article VII of this Charter, if not prohibited by this Charter or law. The Executive may submit proposed amendments to the Organization Plan to the Commission at any time.

The purpose of the memorandum is to satisfy the requirements of Section 3.6 and to inform the Commission that I am not proposing any changes at this time.



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
586.469.5125 ~ Fax: 586.469.5993  
www.macombBOC.com

January 28, 2015

TO: Mark Hackel, County Executive  
FROM: Dave Flynn, Chairman *DF*  
RE: 01-28-15 Memo, "Organization Plan"

Thank you for the transmission of your memo, "Organization Plan," dated January 28, 2015.

Macomb County Charter Section 3.6.4 states:

*The Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed Organization Plan or any proposed amendment within 50 days after its submission and must either approve, with or without amendment, or reject the proposed Organization Plan or any proposed amendment within 75 days after its submission.*

Please transmit the Organization Plan to which you refer in the 01-28-15 memo, so the Board of Commissioners may provide the necessary materials for review at a Public Hearing which can be scheduled within 50 days once we receive the items.

Your prompt response is appreciated.

Thanks.

## MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair  
District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair  
District 11

Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms  
District 10

Andrey Duzyj – District 1

Marvin Sauger – District 2

Veronica Klinefelt – District 3

Robert Mijac - District 5

James Carabelli – District 6

Don Brown – District 7

Kathy Vosburg – District 8

Fred Miller – District 9

Bob Smith – District 12

Joe Sabatini – District 13



# Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel

Mark F. Deldin  
Deputy County Executive

TO: Members of the County Commission  
FROM: Mark A. Hackel, County Executive  
DATE: January 29, 2015  
RE: Organization Plan

Section 3.6 of the Macomb County Home Rule Charter provides in part:

**3.6.1** Except as provided in Article XI, within 90 days after the start of a new term of office the Executive shall submit a proposed Organization Plan to the Commission which includes an explanation of the reasons for the plan and an evaluation of its financial impact.

**3.6.2** The Organization Plan may provide for the creation or abolition of any Agency except for the departments and offices created by Article VII of this Charter and any others expressly exempted by this Charter or prohibited from being created or abolished by law. The Organization Plan may also transfer powers, duties, and functions of the County among the Agencies, including those created by Article VII of this Charter, if not prohibited by this Charter or law. The Executive may submit proposed amendments to the Organization Plan to the Commission at any time.

### Organization Plan

Submitted by Mark A. Hackel, County Executive  
January 29, 2015

This Plan is being submitted as required by the Macomb County Home Rule Charter. I am not proposing any changes to the organization of County government at this time for the simple reason that I don't believe any changes are necessary at this time. Since no changes are being proposed, there is no financial impact on the County. Public access to the expenditure records of the County will continue to be provided in the same manner as outlined in the Organizational Plan approved by the Commission in 2011.



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
 586.469.5125 ~ Fax: 586.469.5993  
 www.macombBOC.com

January 28, 2015

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FROM: FRED MILLER, CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 1-28-15**

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, held Thursday, January 28, 2015, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the January 29, 2015 Full Board meeting for approval:

## **1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Sauger, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners concur in the recommendation of the County Executive and approve JP Morgan as Senior Underwriters for the 2015 Retiree Health Care Bonds at a fee not to exceed \$349,840; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

## **2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Sauger, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners concur in the Sheriff's request to approve the contract with PowerPhone, Inc., in the amount of \$145,668.70 to purchase, install and provide training and materials for a new Emergency Medical Dispatch and Call Taker Software; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Brown, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the contract between the Department of Roads and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for the mowing of Metropolitan Parkway from Jefferson to Schoenherr at a total cost of \$117,532.85; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

## **MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

David J. Flynn – Board Chair  
 District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair  
 District 11

Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms  
 District 10

Andrey Duzyj – District 1  
 Don Brown – District 7

Marvin Sauger – District 2  
 Kathy Vosburg – District 8

Veronica Klinefelt – District 3  
 Fred Miller – District 9

Robert Mijac - District 5  
 Bob Smith – District 12

James Carabelli – District 6  
 Joe Sabatini – District 13

**4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Mijac, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the MDOT contract and Kimley-Horn Engineering Contract outlining the scope of work and funding for traffic signal optimization projects on 10 Mile, 12 Mile, 15 Mile, Mound and Schoenherr for 2015; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the ratification of language changes for the AFSCME Local 411 (Head Start) January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 labor agreement; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Smith, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners concur in the recommendation of the Macomb County Executive and the Human Resources and Labor Relations Department and approve ratification of the labor agreements, from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016, as tentatively agreed to and ratified by the membership of the following bargaining groups: Adtech Association (Department of Roads) and Road Technician Association (Department of Roads); further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MARINO VOTING "NO."**

**A MOTION TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE REPORT WAS MADE BY CHAIR MILLER, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR BROWN.**



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Resolution Number:</b> | <b>Full Board Meeting Date:</b> |
|                           |                                 |

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Concur with the recommendation of the County Executive and approve JP Morgan as Senior Underwriters for the 2015 Retiree Health Care Bonds at a fee not to exceed \$349,840.

**Introduced By:**

Fred Miller, Chair, Finance Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

The PFM Group was approved as financial advisors on the Retiree Health Care bond issue in June 2014. PFM subsequently solicited competitive bids for senior underwriting services on behalf of the County. Eight bid responses were received as indicated in the attached documentation. PFM reviewed the bids and recommended that three of the eight firms be interviewed based on a combination of experience, fees and interest rates. The three firms interviewed were JP Morgan, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Citigroup. The interview panel consisted of Kari Blanchett from PFM, Deputy County Executive Mark Deldin, Board Chair Dave Flynn, County Treasurer Ted Wahby and Interim Finance Director Steve Smigiel. After careful consideration, the panel selected JP Morgan. Kari Blanchett from The PFM Group will be in attendance to address questions.

| Committee  | Meeting Date |
|------------|--------------|
| Finance    | 1-28-15      |
| Full Board | 1-29-15      |
|            |              |





# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Concur with the Sheriff's request to approve the contract with Powerphone, Inc. in the amount of \$145,668.70 to purchase, install and provide training and materials for a new Emergency Medical Dispatch and Call Taker Software.

**Introduced By:**

Kathy Vosburg, Chair, Justice and Public Safety Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

The Sheriff's Dispatch Center has expanded dispatch responsibilities with the addition of Clinton Township Police and Sterling Heights Police in the near future. Sheriff's dispatchers will assume dispatching responsibilities for two additional fire departments. This new software will provide the ability for dispatching EMD, police and fire under one format to provide more efficient dispatching to meet the needs of the communities.

The purchase cost of the software, installation, training and materials is \$117,258.70. This amount will be funded by a 2010 COPS Grant. The annual support contract (warranty) for three years totals \$28,410.00 (\$9,470.00/year). This amount will be paid for with E911 funds.

**Committee**

**Meeting Date**

Justice and Public Safety

1-21-15

Finance

1-28-15

Full Board

1-29-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for the mowing of Metropolitan Parkway from Jefferson to Schoenherr at a total cost of \$117,532.85.

**Introduced By:**

~~Commissioner James Carabelli, Infrastructure Committee~~

Commissioners Jim Carabelli and Robert Mijac, Co-Chairs  
Economic Development/Infrastructure Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

This work has always been contracted out as Dept of Roads does not have equipment or manpower to conduct this mowing.

Economic Development/Infrastructure

1-27-15

~~Infrastructure~~

~~01/20/2015~~

Committee

Meeting Date

Finance

1-28-15

Full Board

1-29-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

| Resolution Number: | Full Board Meeting Date: |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                    |                          |

## RESOLUTION

| Resolution to:  |
|---|
| <p>Approve the MDOT Contract and Kimley-Horn Engineering Contract outlining the scope of work and funding for traffic signal optimization projects on 10 Mile, 12 Mile, 15 Mile, Mound and Schoenherr for 2015.</p> |

| Introduced By:  |
|---|
| <del>Commissioner James Carabelli, Infrastructure Committee</del> |

Commissioners Jim Carabelli and Robert Mijac, Co-Chairs  
Economic Development/Infrastructure Committee

| Additional Background Information (If Needed):   |
|--|
| <p>Project is estimated at \$870,000 and covered 100% by Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality federal funds. This is budgeted for 2014-2015 FY.</p> |

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Economic Development/Infrastructure | 1-27-15               |
| <del>Infrastructure</del>           | <del>01/20/2015</del> |
| Committee                           | Meeting Date          |
| Finance                             | 1-28-15               |
| Full Board                          | 1-29-15               |



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

| Resolution Number: | Full Board Meeting Date: |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                    |                          |

## RESOLUTION

| Resolution to:   |
|--|
| <p>Recommend the ratification of language changes for the AFSCME Local 411 (Head Start) January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 Labor Agreement</p> |

| Introduced By:  |
|---|
| <p>Commissioner Fred Miller, Chair, Finance Committee</p> |

| Additional Background Information (If Needed):   |
|--|
| <p>The Parties agreed to language changes for the Head Start Program. These changes are operational in nature and benefit the Head Start Program's ability to meet its mission.</p> <p>Actual Tentative Agreements are available in the Human Resources and Labor Relations Department for review.</p> |

| Committee  | Meeting Date                  |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Finance    | 1-28-15 <del>01/22/2015</del> |
| Full Board | 1-29-15                       |
|            |                               |



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

| Resolution Number: | Full Board Meeting Date: |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                    |                          |

## RESOLUTION

| Resolution to:   |
|--|
| <p>Recommend, on behalf of the Macomb County Executive and the Human Resources and Labor Relations Department, that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners ratify Labor Agreements, from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016, as tentatively agreed to and ratified by the membership of the following bargaining groups:</p> |

| Introduced By:  |
|---|
| <p>Commissioner Fred Miller, Chair, Finance Committee</p> |

| Additional Background Information (If Needed):   |
|--|
| <p>Adtech Association (Department of Roads)<br/>                 Road Technician Association (Department of Roads)</p> <p>*see attached Summary</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">1-28-15</p> <p>*At the 1-28-15 Finance Committee meeting, Commissioner Marino voted "No."</p> |

| Committee  | Meeting Date                  |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Finance    | 1-28-15 <del>01/22/2015</del> |
| Full Board | 1-29-15                       |



Mark A. Hackel  
County Executive

## HUMAN RESOURCES AND LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

120 N. Main Street  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
Phone: 586-469-5280 Fax: 586-469-6795  
www.human.resources@macombgov.org

January 13, 2015

Eric A. Herppich  
Director  
469-5281

Karlyn R. Semlow  
Service Director  
469-6160

Karen L. Bathanti  
Service Director  
469-7248

TO: Commissioner Fred Miller, Chair  
Finance Committee and Committee Members

FROM: Eric A. Herppich  Director  
Human Resources and Labor Relations

RE: Ratification Summary for Adtech Association (Department of Roads)

The following is a ratification summary that applies to the Adtech Association bargaining unit with a tentative agreement as identified on this Resolution:

**Duration:** January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016

**Compensation:**

1. As soon as possible after ratification: A lump sum payment of \$2,500 will be paid to each full time employee, including DROP participants.
2. No later than February 28, 2015: A lump sum payment of \$1,000 will be paid to each full time employee, including DROP participants.

2016: A lump sum payment of \$500 will be paid to each full time employee, including DROP participants, in the first regular paycheck in 2016. The Parties agree to a wage re-opener for 2016.

3. Eliminate weekly pay cycle.

**Benefits:**

1. Modify Life Insurance Program for full-time Employees, including DROP Participants as follows:
  - a. The Life Insurance benefit provided by the Employer shall be \$50,000.
2. Modify Health Insurance Program:
  - a. Full-time employees who hire into the County after January 1, 2012 will have a reduced monthly employee premium contribution to \$100 for a 2-person contract or \$150 for a family contract.

January 13, 2015  
Page 2

- b. The Parties agreed to eliminate the, 100% paid, Road salary continuation plan.

**Retirement:**

1. Modify retirement factors consistent with other County units, as outlined in the October 31, 2014 Actuarial Report.
2. Modify the Retirement Program so that full-time employees hired into the County on or after January 1, 2016:
  - a. Will be eligible to receive a one-time fixed payment of \$1,000 from the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System. This payment will be made to an employee who separates employment and meets the Employer contribution vesting requirements as outlined in Paragraph e.
  - b. Will not be eligible for or participate in the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System for any other benefit, including DROP, other than for the fixed payment as outlined in Paragraph a.
  - c. Will participate in a Defined Contribution Retirement Plan. Employees shall contribute 3% of his/her base pay and the Employer shall contribute 6% of the employee's base pay.
  - d. Will not be eligible for Employer provided retiree medical, prescription drug, dental or vision coverage. The eligible employee, however, shall receive \$100 per pay period deposited into the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan, not to exceed \$2,600 per year.
  - e. Employees shall be 100% vested in their contributions from date of hire. Employees shall be 100% vested in the Employer contributions after five (5) years of actual service with the Employer.

**Miscellaneous:**

- During the course of negotiations, the Parties also reached agreement on numerous language changes, many of which result in meaningful administrative efficiencies.
- Actual Tentative Agreements are available in the Human Resources and Labor Relations Department for review.



Mark A. Hackel  
County Executive

## HUMAN RESOURCES AND LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

120 N. Main Street  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
Phone: 586-469-5280 Fax: 586-469-6795  
www.human.resources@macombgov.org

January 13, 2015

Eric A. Herppich  
Director  
469-5281

Karlyn R. Semlow  
Service Director  
469-6160

Karen L. Bathanti  
Service Director  
469-7248

TO: Commissioner Fred Miller, Chair  
Finance Committee and Committee Members

FROM: Eric A. Herppich  Director  
Human Resources and Labor Relations

RE: Ratification Summary for Road Technicians Association (Department of Roads)

The following is a ratification summary that applies to the Road Technicians Association bargaining unit with a tentative agreement as identified on this Resolution:

**Duration:** January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016

**Compensation:**

1. As soon as possible after ratification: A lump sum payment of \$2,500 will be paid to each full time employee, including DROP participants.
2. No later than February 28, 2015: A lump sum payment of \$1,000 will be paid to each full time employee, including DROP participants.

2016: A lump sum payment of \$500 will be paid to each full time employee, including DROP participants, in the first regular paycheck in 2016. The Parties agree to a wage re-opener for 2016.

3. Eliminate weekly pay cycle.

**Benefits:**

1. Modify Life Insurance Program for full-time Employees, including DROP Participants as follows:
  - a. The Life Insurance benefit provided by the Employer shall be \$50,000.



January 13, 2015  
Page 2

2. Modify Health Insurance Program:
  - a. Full-time employees who hire into the County after January 1, 2012 will have a reduced monthly employee premium contribution to \$100 for a 2-person contract or \$150 for a family contract.
  - b. The Parties agreed to eliminate the, 100% paid, Road salary continuation plan.

**Longevity:**

This Program will be re-instated consistent with all other County units in 2016.

**Retirement:**

1. Modify retirement factors consistent with other County units, as outlined in the October 31, 2014 Actuarial Report.
2. Modify the Retirement Program so that full-time employees hired into the County on or after January 1, 2016:
  - a. Will be eligible to receive a one-time fixed payment of \$1,000 from the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System. This payment will be made to an employee who separates employment and meets the Employer contribution vesting requirements as outlined in Paragraph e.
  - b. Will not be eligible for or participate in the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System for any other benefit, including DROP, other than for the fixed payment as outlined in Paragraph a.
  - c. Will participate in a Defined Contribution Retirement Plan. Employees shall contribute 3% of his/her base pay and the Employer shall contribute 6% of the employee's base pay.
  - d. Will not be eligible for Employer provided retiree medical, prescription drug, dental or vision coverage. The eligible employee, however, shall receive \$100 per pay period deposited into the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan, not to exceed \$2,600 per year.
  - e. Employees shall be 100% vested in their contributions from date of hire. Employees shall be 100% vested in the Employer contributions after five (5) years of actual service with the Employer.

January 13, 2015  
Page 3

**Miscellaneous:**

- During the course of negotiations, the Parties also reached agreement on numerous language changes, many of which result in meaningful administrative efficiencies.
- Actual Tentative Agreements are available in the Human Resources and Labor Relations Department for review.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FULL BOARD MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_

**MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION TO** approve amendment to 2015 meeting schedule: Health and Human Services Committee meetings will be held on Monday where the **second** week of meetings are held each month, unless it falls on a holiday (February) (see revised dates below)

**INTRODUCED BY:** Dave Flynn, Board Chair

**Revised HHS Meeting Dates**

February 9 (first Monday)  
 March 16  
 April 27  
 May 11  
 June 22  
 July 20  
 August 17  
 September 14  
 October 19  
 November 9  
 December 14

**Background**

The following action was taken at the 1-12-15 Full Board meeting:

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sabatini, to approve the 2015 Meeting Schedule and to move JPS or HHS to the first Monday, but if that Monday is a holiday, then to the second Monday, supported by Commissioner Brown.

**COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE**

Full Board 1-29-15

**MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN**RESOLUTION TO receive and file report from Board Chair for January 2015INTRODUCED BY: Dave Flynn, Full Board

- The following is a report on activities within the Board Office which do not usually appear on committee agendas.

**Current Issues**

- Martha T. Berry Medical Facility
- Campus Renovations
- RHC Interim Trust
- Finance Director – Update from OCE on 02-12-15 at Finance
- Jail Needs Meeting (Flynn, Vosburg, Sheriff, OCE)

**Office**

- Presidents Day Holiday – February 16<sup>th</sup>; County Holiday – Offices closed
- Green Schools Program – Applications from schools due March 1; Ceremony at MISD April 1<sup>st</sup>
- April is National County Government Month (NACo)
- Volunteer Recognition in planning stages
- #FactSnack Book Drive – Please turn in info to Courtney

**Regional Events**

- Jan 14<sup>th</sup>: BBTB Regional Transit Meeting (C. Flynn) – Upcoming Public Hearings
- Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>: 2015 Macomb County Economic Forecast (Flynn, Brown, Marino, Mijac, Miller)
- Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Project Lazarus meeting (P. Dib)

**Upcoming Items**

- Feb. 3-5<sup>th</sup>: Pension Conference NYC (Flynn)
- Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 8am-10am: MCTEAA Annual Award Breakfast – Please sign Tributes/letters, return to Laura
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> 12pm: Legislative Caucus meeting, RSVP to OCE
- Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> : NACo Annual Conference (Flynn, Marino)
- Feb 26<sup>th</sup> : Detroit Policy Conference (A. Kim)

**Correspondence:**

- 01-28-15 Memo received from OCE; 01-28-15 BOC Response Memo
- Casual Day appreciation letters; see attached.
- Resolutions shared by other entities; see attached.

**Media:**

- See attached articles.

**Board Chair Report – January 2015 – Page 2****BOC – Independent Counsel:** Expenditures for Outside Legal Counsel Professional Services

| Litigation      | Legal Svcs      | Legal Services                              | Budget        |            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|---------------|------------|
| InvoiceCharges: | Budget Amount:  | Invoice Totals:                             | Remaining:    | %Utilized: |
|                 | \$72,500 (2014) |   |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$ 161.00 (Clark Hill final)                |               |            |
|                 |                 | <u>3,174.00</u> (January, Dickinson Wright) |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$ 3,335.00                                 | \$ 69,165.00  | .046       |
|                 |                 | <u>2,377.00</u> (February)                  |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$ 5,712.00                                 | \$ 66,788.00  | .078       |
|                 |                 | <u>3,013.00</u> (March)                     |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$ 8,725.00                                 | \$ 63,775.00  | .120       |
|                 |                 | <u>3,887.00</u> (April)                     |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$12,612.00                                 | \$ 59,888.00  | .173       |
|                 |                 | <u>5,405.00</u> (May)                       |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$18,017.00                                 | \$ 54,483.00  | .248       |
|                 |                 | <u>3,775.00</u> (June)                      |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$21,792.00                                 | \$ 50,708.00  | .300       |
|                 |                 | <u>4,807.00</u> (July)                      |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$26,599.00                                 | \$ 45,901.00  | .366       |
|                 |                 | <u>4,220.00</u> (August)                    |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$30,819.00                                 | \$ 41,681.00  | .425       |
|                 |                 | <u>6,923.00</u> (Clark Hill Sept)           |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$37,742.00                                 | \$ 34,758.00  | .520       |
|                 |                 | <u>10,225.00</u> (Sept.)                    |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$47,967.00                                 | \$ 24,533.00  | .661       |
|                 |                 | <u>3,541.00</u> (Clark Hill Oct)            |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$51,508.00                                 | \$ 20,992.00  | .710       |
|                 |                 | <u>12,015.00</u> (October)                  |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$63,523.00                                 | \$ 8,977.00   | .876       |
|                 |                 | <u>11,039.00</u> (November)                 |               |            |
|                 |                 | \$74,562.00                                 | \$ - 2,062.00 | 1.02       |

(Professional Svcs account 80142)

**\*Note: Waiting for final December billing.****COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE**Full Board 01-29-14

###

# #FactSnack Book Drive

Sponsored by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners

**What:** A Book Drive that will benefit Macomb County schools to provide reading resources that will further enrich students' lives with knowledge, confidence, and creativity.

We will be accepting donations of **NEW** and **SLIGHTLY USED** books geared toward **K-10 students**.

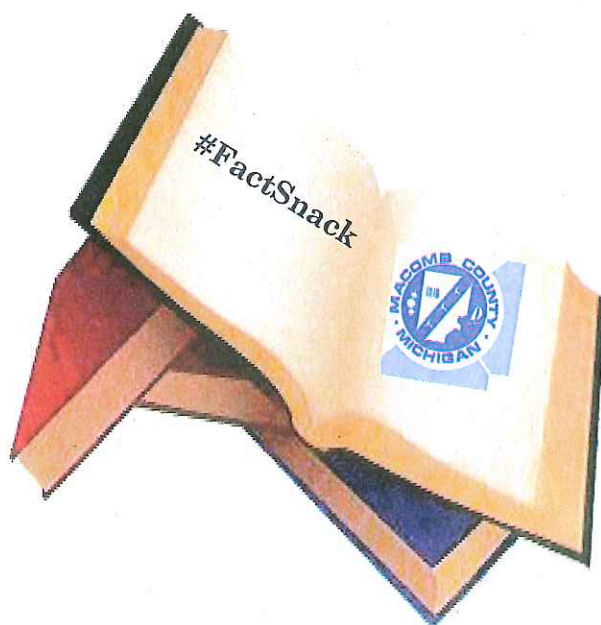
**When:** Donations will be accepted from *March 2 to March 27*

*"Research shows that children typically learn to read by the third grade – then read to learn after that," Michigan Department of Education.*

Contact: BOC Communications Coordinator Courtney Flynn at  
(586)469-5713 or [Courtney.flynn@macombgov.org](mailto:Courtney.flynn@macombgov.org)

## Drop-off Locations

- **Eastpointe:** Memorial Library: 15875 Oak Ave.
- **Fraser:** Public Library: 16330 E. 14 Mile Rd.
- **Mount Clemens:** County Administration Building: One South Main St., First Floor
- **New Baltimore:** MacDonald Public Library: 36480 Main St.
- **Romeo:** District Library: 65821 Van Dyke
- **Warren:** Civic Center Library: 1 City Square





Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all residents of Macomb County by helping to eliminate adult illiteracy.

January 12, 2015

David J. Flynn  
Board of Commissioners  
1 S. Main St., 9th Floor  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

RECEIVED

JAN 15 REC'D

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dear Mr. Flynn,

Thank you so much for forwarding Debra Safian's check to Macomb Literacy Partners for her "Casual Day" donation. Your thoughtful support helps us work toward improving adult literacy in Macomb County. Through the support of our donors, we are able to reach hundreds of adults each year and help them learn to read traffic signs and warnings, fill out job applications, or read to a child for the first time.

Macomb Literacy Partners is committed to our mission of eliminating illiteracy in Macomb County. We bring together volunteer tutors with adult students who need help learning to read or learning English as a second language. Your generous donation will help to provide the resources needed for our tutors and students to effectively work during their weekly tutoring sessions.

Please note for your records that Ken Lampar is no longer at Macomb Literacy Partners. I am the new Director.

Sincerely,

Alisa Diez  
Director  
Macomb Literacy Partners

| Amount | Date     | Check No. |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| \$4.00 | 12/29/14 | 1885      |

No goods or services were provided, in whole or in part, for this contribution. Macomb Literacy Partners is a non-profit charitable corporation with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in the United States. Our address is 16480 Hall Road, Clinton Township, MI. Our U.S. tax-exempt number: 38-2894271

*President, James R. Goerlich, Jr.*  
Rehmann

*Vice President, Geary Maiuri*  
Macomb Community College

*Secretary, Pam Lavers*  
Assistant Macomb County Executive

*Treasurer, Maria Bianchini*  
Sterling Green Solutions LLC

**Terri Giampetroni**  
Legal Strategies PC

**Joe Kozlowski**  
JGK Associates

**Steve LaPorte**  
Continental Services

**Diane McNamara**  
Sorooptimist

**Frank L. McNelis**  
Attorney at Law

**Denise Mennucci**  
Utica Community Schools

**Russ Milne**  
Russ Milne Ford, Inc.



RECEIVED

JAN 1 2 REC'D

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 19, 2014

Ms. Kathy Vosburg  
Macomb County Board Of Commissioners  
1 S Main St  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043-2306

Dear Ms. Vosburg,

Thank you for your donation to The Rainbow Connection in the amount of \$44.35 from the Macomb County Casual Day Program.

As we strive each day to make a positive difference in the lives of courageous and brave children, it is extremely gratifying to know that you too believe in our mission to grant the special wishes of Michigan children.

Since 1985 we have made over 2,800 dreams come true and have created many tender memories for families. Through the support of people like you, The Rainbow Connection is able to touch the lives of our Wish children and fulfill their dreams.

Again, we thank you for helping us make dreams come true for Michigan children stricken with life threatening illnesses.

Most sincerely,

Mary Grace McCarter  
Executive Director

**Making dreams come true for *Michigan* children**





# OAKLAND COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

WWW.OAKGOV.COM/CLERKROD

ELECTIONS DIVISION

LISA BROWN  
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

JOSEPH J. ROZELL, CERA  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

December 17, 2014

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find your certified copy(s) of the Miscellaneous Resolution(s) adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on December 11, 2014.

Please forward the Miscellaneous Resolution(s) to the appropriate person(s). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Rozell  
Director of Elections  
County of Oakland

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
1200 N. TELEGRAPH RD., DEPT. 415  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341-0415  
(248) 858-0561  
CLERK@OAKGOV.COM

**ELECTIONS DIVISION**  
1200 N. TELEGRAPH RD., DEPT. 417  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341-0417  
(248) 858-0564  
ELECTIONS@OAKGOV.COM

**LEGAL & VITAL RECORDS**  
1200 N. TELEGRAPH RD., DEPT. 413  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341-0413  
(248) 858-0581  
CLERKLEGAL@OAKGOV.COM

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**  
1200 N. TELEGRAPH RD., DEPT. 480  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341-0480  
(248) 858-0605  
DEEDS@OAKGOV.COM



January 12, 2015

The Honorable David Flynn  
County Commissioner Dist 4  
1 S. Main Street 8th Floor  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Dear County Commissioner David Flynn,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the recent grant award of \$2,675 from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. It is because of your continued support of MCACA that we are able to provide our community with a quality cultural event.

Your support will allow us to use this funding to conduct a project called "A Day in the Life Project" where members of CARE's youth advocacy group, Teens Talking Truth also known as T3, and the Peer Recovery Coach Program will be provided with education and equipment to take photographs of what inspires them to remain above the influence and sober every day. Photographs will then be selected, framed, and displayed at CARE's upcoming Parenting Conference and at their Fraser office.

As you know, a grant from MCACA must be matched with other dollars. The grant has helped us leverage nearly \$5,000 of support from sponsorships and admissions from our annual Parenting Conference, as well as in-kind supporters providing their time and talents to benefit the event.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Parenting Conference where the finished photographs will be displayed so you can see first-hand what we do and how vital state support is to our efforts. The conference will be held on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the MISD in Clinton Township. To RSVP or to receive more information about this event, please contact Teresa Sandner at 586.541.2273/[tsandner@careofsem.com](mailto:tsandner@careofsem.com) or visit [www.careofsem.com](http://www.careofsem.com).

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Monique Stanton  
President/CEO

Meghan Kindsvater  
Development Director

#### MAIN OFFICE

31900 UTICA ROAD  
FRASER, MI 48026  
TEL 586.541.CARE (2273)  
FAX 586.541.0034

#### WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE

17108 MACK AVENUE  
GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230  
TEL 313.332.0972

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Curt Harder CHAIRPERSON  
First Place Bank  
Patti Steele  
VICE CHAIRPERSON, EXTERNAL OPERATIONS  
MISD  
Harry Kalogerakos  
VICE CHAIRPERSON, INTERNAL OPERATIONS  
Allen Brothers, PLLC  
Patrick McLogan SECRETARY  
Health Department (retired)  
Paula Roman TREASURER  
PNC Bank  
Karen Beger  
St. John Providence Health System  
Angie Freeman  
First State Bank  
Mary Kingsley  
Chrysler  
Peter Kolat  
Dominate Net  
Dr. Janet Reed  
Clinical Neuropsychologist  
Debbie Smith  
Community Representative  
Lucia Smith  
MISD (retired)

#### AMBASSADORS

Dr. Donald Amboyer  
Becky Bolander  
Barb Browe  
Karen Corey  
Tom Denewith  
Anthony Forlini  
Eric Jackson  
Tim Killeen  
Marilyn Lane  
Maryanne MacLeod  
Linda O'Hockney  
Trev Pawl  
Betty Risher  
David Saad  
Judge Steve Sierawski  
Sheriff Anthony Wickersham  
Robert Wirsing Jr.



January 16, 2015

Ms. Kathy Vosburg  
 Macomb County Board Of Commissioners  
 1 S Main St  
 Mount Clemens, MI 48043-2306

RECEIVED

JAN 26 REC'D

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dear Ms. Vosburg,

Thank you for your donation to The Rainbow Connection in the amount of \$216.00 from the Macomb County Casual Day Program.

As we strive each day to make a positive difference in the lives of courageous and brave children, it is extremely gratifying to know that you too believe in our mission to grant the special wishes of Michigan children.

Since 1985 we have made over 2,800 dreams come true and have created many tender memories for families. Through the support of people like you, The Rainbow Connection is able to touch the lives of our Wish children and fulfill their dreams.

Again, we thank you for helping us make dreams come true for Michigan children stricken with life threatening illnesses.

Most sincerely,

Mary Grace McCarter  
 Executive Director



**Making dreams come true for Michigan children**

**REPORT**

December 11, 2014

BY: General Government Committee, Christine Long, Chairperson

**IN RE: MR #14287 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – APPROVAL AND SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT #1 – ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY**

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

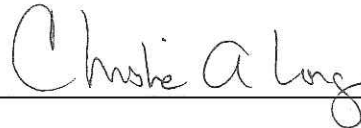
The General Government Committee, having reviewed the above referenced resolution on December 1, 2014, reports with the recommendation the resolution be adopted as follows:

Under Article 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS,

“B. Each Charter or 1973 PA 139 County that adopts these articles of incorporation shall appoint one member who shall be a resident of the County from which appointed. The **initial** appointments shall be made by the Executive or Administrative authority designated under the respective Charters or 1973 PA 139 and the appointees shall serve at the appointing authority’s pleasure. **Following the expiration of the term of the initial appointee, the Executive or Administrative authority of each Charter or 1973 PA 139 County shall submit appointments to the respective legislative body of authority of that County and appointments shall be effective upon the concurrence of the legislative body of authority of that County.** The initial term for the appointees from the Counties with the highest and second highest population shall be two (2) years and all subsequent terms shall be for four (4) years. The initial term for the appointees from any other county shall be one (1) year and all subsequent terms shall be four (4) years.”

Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee, I move the acceptance of the foregoing report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



---

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Spisz absent and Crawford voting no.

Miscellaneous Resolution #14287

**BY:** Commissioner David Woodward, District # 19 *Marcus Gustafson #13*  
**RE:** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – APPROVAL AND SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT #1 - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY  
**TO:** Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

**WHEREAS** the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted the Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Water Authority on October 8, 2014; and

**WHEREAS** the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Macomb County Board of Commissioners and the Detroit City Council have adopted the Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Water Authority; and

**WHEREAS** Article 19 – Amendments of the Articles provides that “amendments may be made to these Articles of Incorporation at any time if adopted by the legislative body of each Incorporating Municipality of which the Authority is composed.”; and

**WHEREAS** the Wayne County Board of Commissioners stated in Resolution 2014-594, adopting the Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Water Authority, the following provision:

*“WHEREAS, the Wayne County Commission will work with the other legislative bodies that are members of the authority to amend the Articles of Incorporation to include the Wayne County Commission in the approval process for Wayne County's appointee to the GLWA.”; and*

**WHEREAS** members of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners have expressed support of an amendment to the Articles to include the legislative body in the approval process for appointments to the Great Lakes Water Authority Board; and

**WHEREAS** the Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Water Authority were drafted without the input of the respective legislative bodies; and

**WHEREAS** the Articles were submitted to the respective legislative bodies of the Incorporating Counties of the Great Lakes Water Authority with limited time for review and no opportunity to make amendments; and

**WHEREAS** the Great Lakes Water Authority Board have been invested with authority to make decisions that will have a significant and lasting impact on the future of the region; and

**WHEREAS** the Great Lakes Water Authority Board will have the authority to make decisions that will have direct financial implications for the citizens and property owners of Oakland County; and

**WHEREAS** PA 139 of 1973 Section 6. (H), expressly permits the Board of Commissioners to appoint members of a board, commission or authority; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Commissioners have delegated the appointment authority granted under PA 139 of 1973 to the County Executive in the adoption of the Articles; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Commissioners reserves their rights under this delegation of authority to review and approve by majority vote appointees of the County Executive.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners amends the Great Lakes Water Authority Articles of Incorporation, adopted per MR #14229, as follows:

#### ARTICLE 7- BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The governing body of the Authority shall be a Board of Directors (the “Board”) composed of six voting members selected in the following manner:

A. Two members of the Board shall be residents of the City of Detroit, shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City and shall serve at the appointing authority's pleasure. The initial term for the members appointed under this paragraph shall be three (3) years and all subsequent terms shall be for four (4) years.

B. Each Charter or 1973 PA 139 County that adopts these articles of incorporation shall appoint one member who shall be a resident of the County from which appointed. The appointments shall be made by the Executive or Administrative authority designated under the respective Charters or 1973 PA 139 and the appointees shall serve at the appointing authority's pleasure. **The Executive or Administrative authority of each Charter or 1973 PA 139 County shall submit appointments to the legislative body of authority of that County and appointments shall be effective upon the concurrence of the legislative body.** The initial term for the appointees from the Counties with the highest and second highest population shall be two (2) years and all subsequent terms shall be for four (4) years. The initial term for the appointees from any other county shall be one (1) year and all subsequent terms shall be four (4) years.

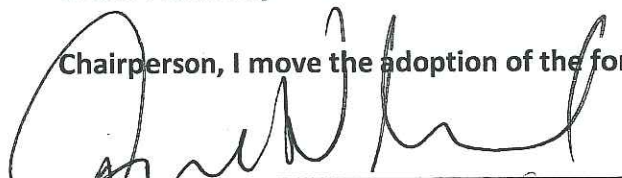
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall be submitted to the Incorporating legislative bodies of the Great Lakes Water Authority and shall be effective upon their approval.**

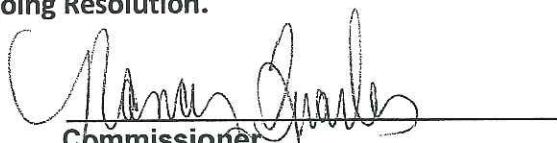
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County of Oakland is directed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, the President of the Detroit Council, the Clerk of the County of Wayne, the Clerk of the County of Macomb and the Clerk of the City of Detroit.**

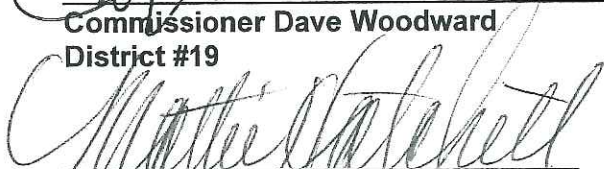
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon notification of adoption of this amendment by the legislative bodies of all Incorporating Members, the Clerk of the County of Oakland shall publish this amendment in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Articles of Incorporation.**


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County of Oakland shall file the adopted amended Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State and the recording officer of the Great Lakes Water Authority Board.**

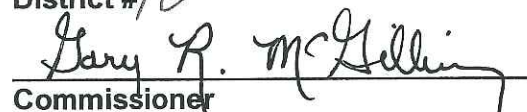
Chairperson, I move the adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

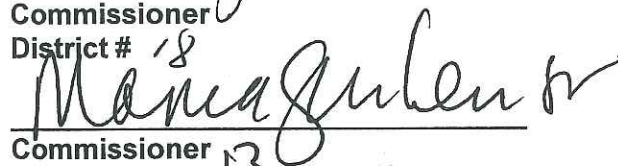
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Dave Woodward  
District #19

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District # 17

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District # 18

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District # 18

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District # 20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District # 13

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

---

Commissioner  
District #

Resolution #14287

November 19, 2014

Moved by Woodward supported by Gershenson to suspend the rules and vote on Miscellaneous Resolution #14287 – Board of Commissioners – Approval and Submission of Amendment #1 – Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Water Authority.

Vote on motion to suspend the rules:

AYES: Jackson, McGillivray, Quarles, Woodward, Zack, Gershenson, Hatchett. (7)

NAYS: Long, Matis, Middleton, Runestad, Scott, Spisz, Taub, Weipert, Bosnic, Dwyer, Gingell, Gosselin. (12)

A sufficient majority not having voted in favor, the motion to suspend the rules and vote on Miscellaneous Resolution #14287 – Board of Commissioners – Approval and Submission of Amendment #1 – Articles of Incorporation of the Great Lakes Water Authority failed.

Discussion followed.

The Chairperson referred the resolution to the General Government Committee. There were no objections.



Resolution #14287

December 11, 2014

Moved by Long supported by Woodward the resolution be adopted.

Moved by Long supported by Woodward the General Government Committee Report be accepted.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the report was accepted.

Moved by Long supported by Woodward the resolution be amended to coincide with the recommendation in the General Government Committee Report.


A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the amendment carried

Vote on resolution, as amended:

AYES: Gershenson, Gingell, Gosselin, Hatchett, Hoffman, Jackson, Long, Matis, McGillivray, Middleton, Runestad, Scott, Spisz, Taub, Weipert, Woodward, Zack, Bosnic, Crawford, Dwyer. (20)

NAYS: None. (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

 12/10/14  
**I HEREBY APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION**  
**CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
**ACTING PURSUANT TO MCL 45.559A (7)**

STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

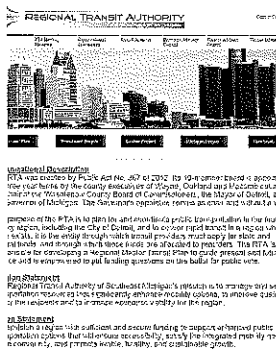
I, Lisa Brown, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Oakland at Pontiac, Michigan this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.

  
 Lisa Brown, Oakland County

# Transit authority launches new home on the Web

Eric D. Lawrence, 8:41 a.m. EST December 18, 2014



(Photo: Region Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan)

The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan has a new home on the Web.

The authority, which acts as an umbrella organization for transit agencies in Detroit as well as Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties, on Wednesday launched its own website, [www.rtamichigan.org](http://www.rtamichigan.org) (<http://www.rtamichigan.org>). The organization had been using a page on the website of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

A new release about the site said it would be updated regularly with "news, board meeting notices, board minutes, business activity, milestones, events, job postings, request for proposals and all financial information."

Michael Ford, the authority's chief executive officer, called the site a dynamic resource.

"Transparency is a major goal of mine. Examples of this objective are clearly visible with our recently revised procurement policy, the conflict of interest policy and the availability of all board materials for the public's

viewing prior to our board meetings," Ford said in the release.

The site currently lists two job openings — a manager of financial analysis and transit planning and a community outreach manager. The organization is also seeking bids for a regional master transit plan and accounting services

The RTA, which was created by the Legislature in 2012, incorporates the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, Detroit Department of Transportation and Detroit People Mover. M-1 Rail is considered a partner agency.

The organization is in the process of developing a plan that is likely to include a proposal for a bus-rapid transit system. The organization is expected to seek voter approval for an as-yet-undetermined millage in 2016.

Contact Eric D. Lawrence: [elawrence@freepress.com](mailto:elawrence@freepress.com). Follow him on Twitter: [@\\_ericdlawrence](https://twitter.com/_ericdlawrence)

Read or Share this story: <http://on.freep.com/16vzqXe>

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

## Macomb County hit \$1.5 million in Obamacare fees

Expense is likely to drop in the coming years

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Monday, December 22, 2014



County officials are starting to feel the pain of Obamacare.

The Board of Commissioners has learned the various fees levied on large employers by the Affordable Care Act will cost the county nearly \$1.5 million for 2014.

In a memo to the commissioners, county Risk and Insurance Manager John Anderson said the fees are based on the county's nearly 3,000 full-time employees who receive health care benefits.

The largest cost, by far, is a 2.5 percent fee tacked onto health insurance premiums to help pay for the ACA's online insurance exchanges and overall implementation costs. The first year price tag: more than \$680,000.

A second charge, the so-called transitional re-insurance fee, is designed to stabilize premiums in the individual insurance policy market as people with pre-existing conditions attain coverage. The cost to the county is \$63 per employee. About \$98,000 is due the federal government by Jan. 15. This is a 3-year fee that drops in price annually.

A third fee assessed on large employers will go toward a new federal trust fund that will finance research into the relative effectiveness of various medical treatments. Medicare may consider this government research institute's findings in determining what sorts of therapies it will cover.

The cost to employers is \$2 per worker receiving insurance benefits. For the county, these fees will equate to about \$6,000.

Anderson said Macomb's total cost should fall by about \$360,000 next year. The research fee and the re-insurance charge will be phased out by 2019. The 2.5 percent fee on premiums is permanent.

"From the political perspective, with Republicans taking over the majority in Congress, I don't think any of these fees will (go up)," he said.

Still, Republican commissioners were not happy with the news.

Commissioner Don Brown, a Washington Township Republican, suggested the county consider gradually reducing some employees below the ACA definition of a full-time employee – meaning less than 30 hours per

week. Some companies are moving in that direction.

According to the county Human Resources Department, labor contracts negotiated with unionized workers now allow the county to fill nearly any vacant, full-time position with two part-time employees.

“It’s going to be the natural inclination to avoid paying these taxes. And those (employment) changes can’t be good for the economy,” Brown said.

GOP Commissioner Jim Carabelli of Shelby Township said the fees will also hit the private sector with some force. Large employers provide health coverage to 59 percent of private sector workers. Estimates of the cost of Obamacare for large employers over the next decade range from \$151 billion to \$186 billion.

“The cost of doing business just went up,” Carabelli said, shaking his head.

Experts say some private firms might continue providing coverage to most of their workforce but nudge their sickest, costliest employees onto the Obamacare exchanges by making the company insurance plan unattractive to them.

Under this scenario, a company could shrink its network of doctors, raise co-payments or deductibles, or even offer a chronically ill employee a raise to opt out of the employer plan.

Commissioner Fred Miller, a Mount Clemens Democrat, reminded his colleagues the ACA so far has provided coverage to 482,000 previously uninsured Michigan residents — some 36,000 in Macomb County — which allows them to gain access to doctors and hospitals.

“For those people, those families,” Miller said, “that is a transformative event.”

---

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/government-and-politics/20141222/macomb-county-hit-15-million-in-obamacare-fees>

© 2014 The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

# The county economic recovery, in 5 maps and charts

By Niraj Chokshi January 12

The recovery is continuing moderately for the nation's counties, but on one measure most are behind: In 19 out of 20 counties, unemployment has yet to recover.

While economic activity and housing prices have recovered in about half of the nation's counties, unemployment rates are still below pre-recession levels in 95 percent of counties, according to [a new report from the National Association of Counties](#). ([Click here for individual county profiles](#).) Nearly four in five Northeastern and Midwestern counties still have a jobs gap. And the report makes clear the uneven nature of the national economic recovery.

“The national economic numbers look great, but the national numbers mask the reality on the ground. They tell only part of the story. And this uneven and sluggish recovery explains why most Americans don't feel the good national economic numbers,” says Emilia Istrate, the report's lead author. “The U.S. economy happens on the ground.”

There is no recipe for success, Istrate says. Large counties perform well on some indicators and poorly on others. The same goes for medium and small counties.

That's not to say counties aren't generally creeping forward: Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) saw faster job growth last year than the year before. Here's a look at how the recovery is playing out among the nation's counties, according to the report:

## Only 65 county economies are fully recovered

Just 65 of the nation's 3,069 counties have achieved a recovery to pre-recession levels among all four indicators — jobs, unemployment rates, economic output and median home prices. But the majority of those fully recovered counties are smaller ones with fewer than 50,000 residents. Most, such as those in North Dakota, Texas, Alaska, Kansas and Montana, are driven by strong energy and agriculture sectors.

But even though they haven't all fully recovered, almost half of all counties saw growth along all four indicators, an 11 percent improvement from the year before. And 72 percent of counties saw at least one indicator return to pre-recession levels.

## Unemployment hasn't recovered, but job growth is accelerating

The pace of job growth improved in almost two out of three counties — 63 percent — last year from the year before. That acceleration in job growth was strongest in medium-sized counties, and it helped drive down unemployment — though not necessarily to pre-recession levels — in nearly all counties last year.

## In many cases, job growth came with wage growth

Overall, 2 million new jobs were created by county economies, 1.5 times the number created the year before. And many of those new jobs were better-paying: Two in five were in industries with above-average wages for their home county. Most of the new jobs were in Southern and Western counties, while larger counties were disproportionately home to the new jobs. While large counties are home to 49 percent of all county employment, they generated 57 percent of the new jobs.

That new jobs were often in higher-paying industries is welcome news, given that average annual wages dropped in half of the nation's counties from 2012 to 2013.

That said, in almost one in three counties the wages workers did earn went further,<sup>37</sup> with purchasing power growing by more than 10 percent due to the low cost of living. Most of those low-cost-of-living counties were in the Midwest and South.

---

Niraj Chokshi reports for GovBeat, The Post's state and local policy blog.

---

### **Get the GovBeat newsletter**

Sign up for twice-weekly updates from GovBeat.

---

# ECONOMICS OF PLACE

FIND ME ON      

Home

About Dan

## PLACE MATTERS.

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

— Jane Jacobs



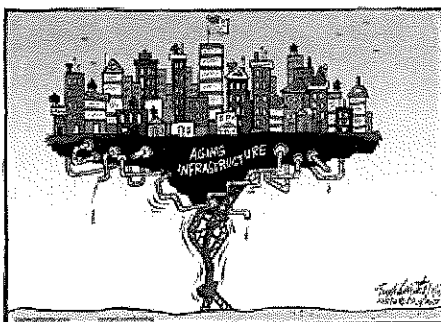
## Why the War on Infrastructure?

Posted on January 14, 2015 by Dan Gilmartin

### in·fra·struc·ture ('infɹə, strək(t)SHər/)

#### noun

1. **the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g., buildings, roads, and power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.**
  - The United Arab Emirates has announced over US\$300 billion in construction projects (pipelines, ports, transportation).
  - Japanese trains will soon carry passengers at speeds greater than 300 MPH.
  - China's five-year plan calls for 82 new airports.
  - London's comprehensive infrastructure strategy runs through 2050. The report affirms that, "Infrastructure is fundamental to every Londoner, every day, from turning on the taps in the morning, to traveling to work, to switching off the lights at night."



So what is happening in the U.S., you ask? Not much. Sure there are projects. Some of them are sizable. The current political climate, however, makes a long term, strategic infrastructure plan near impossible. As a result the American economy suffers, innovation lags and quality of life suffers.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in urban America. Roads and bridges are crumbling, water and sewer systems are outdated and communication technology is applied in an inadequate, hopscotch pattern. The sprawling deployment of government funds over the last half century has left many cities

(and villages) with outdated bones. To make matters worse, the sprawling pattern is unsustainable in the long run, too. Signs of this are everywhere. (Building a road is the easy part because nobody builds a road without funding in place. RE-building it twenty years later is an entirely different matter)

Which leads us to where we are in the U.S. today. The "built environment" (i.e. cities, traditional downtowns, inner-rings



suburbs) is infrastructure deprived. The newer stuff is in need of updates. And nobody wants to pay to fix it, as evidenced by the recent (in)actions of the Michigan Legislature and the refusal of Congress to pass anything resembling a long term solution.

Without appropriate support from the Federal and state governments cities must fend for themselves. There are obvious deficiencies with the "go-it-alone" model. Skewed tax burdens and a lack of regional coordination top the list. The end results, I fear, are less competitive cities.

One note on the elephant in the room- taxes. Infrastructure should not be a victim of ideological fights over the role of government and the size of budgets. In any society government plays a central role in providing the basics. Transportation, clean water, and public safety are base level services that American cities have offered from the start. It's the stuff that allows for commercial activity to flourish and for people to enjoy their surroundings. State and Federal leaders who erroneously insert these essential services into the ideological war over more supplemental government functions demonstrate a failure in leadership. Whichever side of the political spectrum they find themselves is immaterial.

We need to fix things. Fast.

Share this:

21

28

This entry was posted in Green Initiatives, Messaging & Technology, Physical Design & Walkability, Uncategorized and tagged Cities, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Stephen Henderson Editorial, Sustainability, Transportation, Urbanism. Bookmark the permalink.

---

---



## Why Michigan's road funding proposal may 'be in trouble' before the campaign really begins

Jonathan Oosting | [joosting@mlive.com](mailto:joosting@mlive.com) By Jonathan Oosting | [joosting@mlive.com](mailto:joosting@mlive.com)

Follow on Twitter

on January 15, 2015 at 7:58 AM

LANSING, MI — A bipartisan coalition promoting **Michigan's road funding ballot proposal** got a notable vote of confidence Wednesday when the Detroit Regional Chamber pledged support, but the campaign may already "be in trouble," according to a researcher at Michigan State University.

"The amount of money spent on a 'no' campaign against an initiative is just a much better predictor of whether it will pass than the amount spent in its favor," said Matt Grossman, an associate professor of political science at MSU. "Initiative campaigns don't tend to raise support for proposals, they tend to usually just hold support."

Grossman, as detailed in a new issue of the **Politics & Policy** academic journal, conducted a study to determine whether public support from specific figures or groups would influence voter opinions over a potential tax increase to fund road repairs in Michigan.

Only one person significantly impacted the results — President Barack Obama, who won't play any role in the campaign. When told that Obama supported a tax increase for roads, support from survey respondents tended to fall more along partisan lines.

But support from Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, business groups and unions — who have each advocated for more road funding in recent years — failed to move the needle.

"Long running public opinion is that people want the roads fixed but they want somebody else to pay for it," said Grossman. "They have personal experience with driving and paying taxes, and they don't tend to move based on new information of bipartisan support from interest groups or businesses."

The study, which piggybacked on a previous State of the State survey from MSU, was conducted before lawmakers sent the road funding proposal to the ballot. It specifically asked subjects about a gas tax increase rather than the sales tax increase that will go before voters.

While there hasn't been fresh polling released since lawmakers sent the proposal to the ballot last month, **an October survey** from EPIC-MRA showed that a plurality of likely voters believed some form of tax increase was warranted.

The May 5 proposal would increase the state sales tax from six percent to seven percent but exempt fuel. If approved, the state would increase gas taxes to replace the sales tax on fuel, holding at-pump prices relatively even but ensuring all revenue would be earmarked for transportation infrastructure.

The sales tax increase would benefit schools and cities that would otherwise lose revenue if fuel was exempt. All told, the state would generate an extra \$1.2 billion for roads, \$300 million for the School Aid Fund, \$130 million for mass transit and \$95 million for municipal revenue sharing, according to the House Fiscal Agency.

Low- and moderate-income residents would also see some targeted tax relief through expansion of the **Earned Income Tax Credit**, a move designed to minimize the "regressive" impact of a sales tax increase.

Snyder, who will campaign for a "yes" vote, this week signed related legislation that will only take effect if voters approve the May ballot proposal. He was joined by lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, along with public safety and school officials.

"I think we'll have even more people standing together to support this, but I think if you look at the cross-section of legislators and groups being represented up here, it shows how broad this is in terms of people wanting to do this," Snyder said.

"The primary people against this largely, in my view, are people who simply don't want a tax increase under any circumstance. This was not something that was done lightly."

A ballot committee called "Protect Michigan Taxpayers" filed paperwork with the state last month allowing it to raise funds for an opposition campaign.

Committee treasurer Keith Allard played a lead role in an unsuccessful fight against a local streets tax in Grand Rapids last year. Americans for Prosperity-Michigan, a conservative advocacy group, **helped fund the opposition**, which was outspent, and is likely to be involved in the statewide fight as well.

"If there's any sign of organized opposition that's willing to spend money against the proposal, that's a bad sign for it," said Grossman.

"There's still open questions about how organized the opposition will be. If they're disorganized, take time to get going, don't raise enough money to go on TV, all of those things would be good for the proposal. But if they are able to get their act together, get on TV, that would be bad for the proposal."

*Jonathan Oosting is a Capitol reporter for MLive Media Group. **Email him**, find him on **Facebook** or follow him on **Twitter**.*

© 2015 MLive.com. All rights reserved.

# Macomb bonds to boost retiree health care, site updates

Ursula Watson, The Detroit News

11:56 p.m. EST January 17, 2015



(Photo: Todd McInturf / The Detroit News)

**Mount Clemens** — Macomb County officials are moving ahead with plans to issue up to \$300 million in bonds to cover an unfunded retiree health care liability and, they hope, transform downtown Mount Clemens by renovating several county-owned buildings.

The county's proposed sale awaits state Treasury Department approval. That could come by mid-February, said Treasury spokesman Terry Stanton.

But what the bonds are expected to accomplish could be felt for a long time.

"There is no question that this is important for our finances, guaranteeing promises made for retiree health care will be promises kept," said Mark Hackel, county executive.

He added: "We came up with a great plan and I am confident it will be applauded 20, 30 years from now, when the bonds are taken care of and the finances are set and when there is no more liability for retiree health care or pension in Macomb County."

Under the county's plan, bonds would be sold to finance its estimated \$260 million unfunded retiree health care liability.

A separate bond issue would be proposed to cover the downtown revitalization plan, which could cost an estimated \$35 million, said Mark Deldin, deputy county executive.

The infrastructure improvements were recommended by Plante Moran CRESA planners as part of a five-year county capital plan in a study presented in fall 2013.

The downtown revitalization plan includes renovations to the Administration, Old County, Circuit Court and Talmer buildings and the Clemens Center.

The study suggests changes to the Administration Building, which has two floors dedicated to storage. The ever-growing Prosecutor's Office takes up two floors, while the finance department is in the Talmer Building. The study proposes dedicating one of those storage floors to the Prosecutor's Office and the other to the finance department.

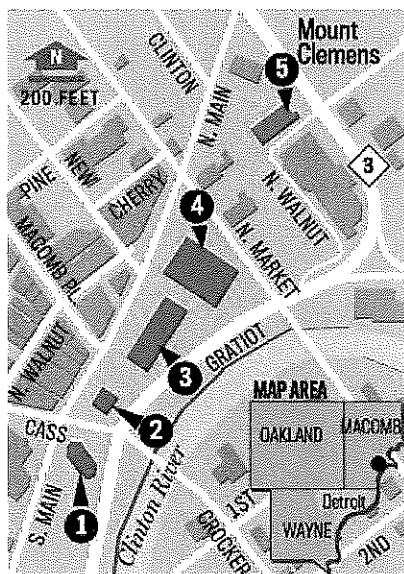
The two-story Talmer Building would be home to the Register of Deeds and the planning department.

Friend of the Court and Juvenile Court would be moved out of the 16th Circuit Court and into the Old County Building. The Circuit Court building would then be dedicated strictly to courts.

## Mount Clemens changes

County officials are one step closer to cementing a proposal to sell \$295 million in bonds for health care costs and capital improvements in downtown Mount Clemens.

- ① **Administration Building**  
1 S. Main
- ② **Old County Building**  
10 N. Main
- ③ **Circuit Court building**  
40 N. Main
- ④ **Clemens Center**  
32 N. Market
- ⑤ **Talmer Building**  
120 N. Main



The Detroit News

The study also addressed public parking. The county has a 100 percent employee-dedicated parking system, making it difficult for the public to find a spot near county departments. The study found that 300 parking spaces could be reallocated to the public.

Plante Moran CRESA planners also suggested the 37-year-old parking structure adjacent to the 16th Circuit Court be replaced since the county spends up to \$300,000 a year maintaining the 600-vehicle structure. A new parking structure would cost up to \$25 million and accommodate 700 vehicles. The structure would drive the cost of the downtown revitalization plan up to \$60 million.

"Where we are at right now is the architects are completing the design and development phase and our construction manager and program manager from Plante Moran are in the process of estimating the cost for all of the design development," said Deldin. "We are refining all of those numbers now. We expect that will be done at the end of January."

When completed, a full presentation and cost estimate will go before the Board of Commissioners.

Funding will come from a combination of the \$9 million insurance settlement from the April 2013 electrical fire that closed the Old County Building, the capital project fund and the issuance of bonds, Deldin said.

Barb Dempsey, mayor of Mount Clemens, said capital improvements are not beneficial only to Macomb but to the county seat.

Buy Photo



Macomb County officials are closer to finalizing a proposal to sell \$295 million in bonds for healthcare costs and capital improvements to downtown Mount Clemens. The downtown revitalization plan includes renovations to the Administration, Old County, Circuit Court, shown, and Talmer buildings and the Clemens Center. (Photo: Todd McInturf / The Detroit News)

Dempsey, who is in support of demolishing the 37-year-old parking structure adjacent to the 16th Circuit Court, wants to open up the downtown and draw more attention to the Clinton River.

"It would be tremendous for the city," Dempsey said about a park. "It would become an economic boon along the river."

Stephen Saph Jr., Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority chairman, is excited about the plan.

"When they are talking about finishing the two floors of the new Administration Building that were never finished, we can only assume that you will see more personnel, which means more traffic and the ringing of cash registers."

Last June, Peter Provenzano, former county finance director, presented the proposal to sell bonds for health care costs to the Board of Commissioners. The amount was then an estimated \$295 million. The county reduced the unfunded retiree health care liability by closing the retiree plan to new hires starting in 2016.

But the bond approval to cover the liability didn't come easily, as the County Executive's Office and the Board of Commissioners squared off over control of the Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility.

planet fitness

**JOIN NOW FOR JUST \$10 A MONTH**

**JOIN NOW**

Home club only. Participating locations only. Planet Fitness facilities are independently owned and operated. See club for details. © PFIP, LLC 2014

The 217-bed long-term care facility is owned, operated and financially supported by the county. It is governed by the Board of Commissioners and overseen by an appointed Human Services Board.

Hackel wanted to end that arrangement, but in August, a Macomb County Circuit Court judge ruled against him. Hackel said either the county or the Human Services Board should run the facility, not the commissioners.

The commissioners' approval of the bond resolution in December came soon after Hackel sent a memo to board members pointing out that for every month of delay in selling bonds, the county's general fund has to contribute \$2 million more from the fund balance.

"That letter woke them up," Hackel said.

He said the holdup in receiving board approval was Commission Chairman David Flynn's concern for the long-term financial viability of Martha T. Berry.

"He was holding hostage this issue," Hackel said. "Then the light bulbs went on with many of the commissioners. They forced him to put this on the agenda. Separate the issue and let's move forward with bonding. "

Flynn, for his part, said he has full confidence in the Human Services Board, in the administration and especially in the employees of Martha T. Berry.

"They have everything they need to become self-sufficient and I know that they will continue to run a top-notch medical care facility, ensuring residents receive the best of care," Flynn said. "As they move forward, they will remain county employees and we will keep our promises to them."

uwatson@detroitnews.com

(313) 222-2613

Read or Share this story: <http://detne.ws/1CbMixe>



# County execs rip Detroit over new water authority

Lauren Abdel-Razzaq and Christine Ferretti, The Detroit News 3:55 p.m. EST January 20, 2015



(Photo: Charles V. Tines / The Detroit News)

*Detroit* — County executives expressed concerns Tuesday over whether Detroit is pulling its weight in a new regional water authority, saying numbers initially presented by the city don't appear to be "real."

The issue arose during the annual "Big Four" luncheon sponsored by the Detroit Economic Club at the North American International Auto Show. The panel included Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, who took office earlier this month.

"You only have a deal if everyone does their part of the bargain," Patterson said. "Right now, there is no guarantee they are going to continue paying the bills and (Detroit) is having a challenge getting their part of

the money."

The Great Lakes Water Authority, announced in September amid negotiations over Detroit's bankruptcy, has the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department providing maintenance and service in the city and the authority handling responsibilities for about 3 million suburban customers.

Under the agreement, Detroit will retain ownership of the area's water and sewage system, but the suburbs agreed to a 40-year, \$50 million annual lease that gives them a bigger stake in operations.

But, the county executives said, the numbers that were presented to them when the counties were offered a seat on the authority don't match what they are seeing now.

They were not specific about which financial details had them concerned. But Bob Daddow, Oakland's deputy county executive who sits on the water authority board, told The News after the event that the city still has not provided crucial financial information. The counties are concerned that rate increases they agreed to for 2016 are not going to generate enough revenue to offset water department losses from last year alone, Daddow said.

"I was always worried about the Great Lakes Water Authority — it was hammered out in a judge's chamber and it was very fragile to begin with," Patterson said after the event. "The slightest blip can cause it to fail. Right now, we're seeing a blip."

Hackel, too, had his concerns.

"We voted to have a member on the regional authority not because we thought it was the best thing to do," Hackel said after the panel discussion. "It's so (the counties) could see the numbers."

And now that Macomb has access to the books?

"Right now it's very concerning to us," said Hackel. "It doesn't look like the numbers they gave us (during negotiations) are real."

Contacted by The News after the panel discussion, Detroit's Chief Operating Officer Gary Brown, who serves as a board member for the water authority, said he's "disappointed" by the county executives' statements.

"We were open and transparent," Brown said. "We shared all of our financial data with them. All parties have signed off on it. Now, to come forward with this allegation is extremely disappointing and it's the reason we need a federal judge to resolve these types of issues."

There are six members on the authority: two from Detroit, one each from Macomb, Wayne and Oakland, and an appointee by Snyder.

Evans and Duggan did not stay to answer questions after the panel discussion. During the event, however, Duggan did say Detroit has done a better job managing the water system for the city and dealing with water main breaks.

Evans said the authority needs to be put on "stable financial footing we can all be comfortable with."

## Sales tax concerns

Meanwhile, all four leaders expressed concerns about the state's projected deficit and plans to ask voters to raise the sales tax, hours before Gov. Rick Snyder is to deliver his State of the State address.

"How do I say no or argue against this when it's going to bring \$27 million a year to Macomb County to fix our roads?" Hackel said of the proposed plan to raise the sales tax to 7 percent. "But listening to the voters, I am hearing a lot agitation."

Duggan said by passing on the plan to raise the gas tax, the Michigan Legislature lost a major opportunity.

"If they had just put 12 cents on the gas tax to fix the roads, I think the people of the state would have supported it," he said. "I think a sales tax is a lot more complicated but I am going to support it because it's the best option we have in front of us."

Other topics addressed included the difficulty of funding regional mass transit, the importance of attracting and retaining young talent, and the challenges with overcrowded jails in the region.

For his part, Evans said it isn't likely that Wayne County will have enough money to finish the jail project, which has already had \$130 million put into it and needs another couple hundred million to finish.

"The reality is I can't see how I'm going to pay the bills next week," Evans said of the county's dire financial situation. "If someone were to come along to offer money for the jail I would listen, but I don't see anyone coming along offering that kind of money."

Evans said he is about a week away from releasing information about the county's debt, saying it's much worse than he anticipated. One of the biggest parts of that, he said, is unfunded pensions worth at least three quarters of a billion dollars.

"Everything is on the table in terms of where we cut, what we do," he said. "All the options for getting out of it are on the table, because I don't know how deep the hole is yet."

#### **Limited talk of future campaigns**

The discussion Tuesday wasn't entirely serious. Patterson, who is known for his wry sense of humor, was asked to give advice to Evans, now that he is county executive.

"Ask for a recount," Patterson said.

"Don't sit next to Brooks Patterson," Hackel pitched in.

Patterson wouldn't confirm that he'll seek another four-year term as county executive. Duggan and Hackel also wouldn't confirm intentions to run for governor. But they did briefly talk about endorsements for presidential candidates.

"I'm not in the habit of endorsing someone before they've announced they are running," Duggan said in response to assumptions that, as a Democrat, he'd back Hillary Clinton.

Patterson, who backed Mitt Romney in the last election, was a bit more outspoken.

"I have a theory: if you can't do it, and Obama was pretty weak, I don't know how you come back a second time," he said. "I'm not saying (Jeb) Bush is going to do it. He's cursed by his last name."

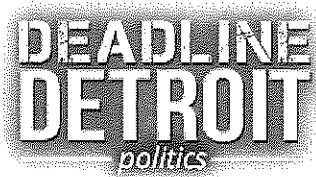
Added Hackel, "And I'm going to wait to see what Brooks does and do the exact opposite."

lrizzaq@detroitnews.com

(313) 222-2127







Read or Share this story: <http://detne.ws/1BANyv6>





- [Home](#)
- [Sections](#)
  - [Sports](#)
  - [Business](#)
  - [Tech](#)
  - [Lifestyle](#)
  - [Politics](#)
  - [Renaissance](#)
  - [Cityscape](#)
  - [Media](#)
  - [Crime](#)
  - [Etcetera](#)
  - [Bankruptcy](#)
  - [Deadline TV](#)
  - [Home Improvement](#)
  - [Bernstein](#)

• [Columnists](#)

-  [Allan Lengel](#)
-  [Ben Duell Fraser](#)
-  [Damy Fenster](#)
-  [Bill McGraw](#)
-  [Karolina Powalka](#)
-  [Darrell Dawsey](#)
- [More Columnists](#)

- [Trending sections:](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Tech](#)
- [Business](#)

We're focused on



# Selweski: After Lansing's Snub, Macomb Ready to Flex Muscles

January 20th, 2015, 10:46 PM

Log In [Tweet](#) 1

2

*The writer covered state and regional politics for The Macomb Daily for nearly 30 years, earning 50 honors from journalism organizations, including national Suburban Journalist of the Year Award. This is his first commentary for Deadline Detroit.*

**By Chad Selweski**

Entering his fifth year in office, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel has raised the profile of his county and successfully promoted Macomb as an economic force in the southeast Michigan region.

Hackel is not shy about trumpeting his administration's accomplishments. When Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson broke his arm a few years ago he pointed to his cast and joked that "This is what happens when you get between Mark Hackel and a TV camera."

But Macomb's first county executive has not managed to extend his political clout to Lansing. In recent weeks the state's third largest county received the silent treatment when it was largely shut out of all leadership positions in the state House.

The Hackel administration is determined to change that dynamic.

Time to flex some Macomb muscles.

The plan calls for creating a bipartisan Macomb County caucus in the House that will stand together and leverage support on key issues.

The 10-person caucus would vote as a bloc to sway the outcome of legislation, giving Macomb more bang for the buck. Bills that would impact manufacturing, Lake St. Clair, roads and community college-based job training would be at the top of the priority list.

For Hackel, No. 1 on the list, at least in the short term, is a proposed \$2 million state allocation to allow plans to proceed for a minor league baseball park in Utica. The county executive said more Macomb unity is needed among the county delegation rather than parochialism and infighting.

### More People Than Detroit

"I say, 'Hang on. It's not about your partisan politics, it's about Macomb County,'" said Hackel, a Macomb Township Democrat. "I don't want to hear about Republicans and Democrats."

Ideally, the goal is to replicate the political impact that the Detroit caucus has displayed for decades at the Capitol. Hackel quickly reminds Lansing leaders that Macomb now exceeds Detroit in population by more than 160,000 people.

The snub by those leaders came as a one-two punch. When the new Republican Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter announced the GOP's 10-member leadership team for 2015-16 in November, Macomb received just one spot -- far down the list -- at the deputy whip position.

The second half of the snub came two weeks ago when House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel left Macomb representatives off his leadership list. (It's important to note that the Detroit caucus automatically receives a spot within the leadership.)

The shutout infuriated some Macomb lawmakers, though Assistant County Executive Melissa Roy politely described the Democrats' decision as "disappointing." Hackel said he is unfazed.

Though the county executive hosted a major fundraiser for the House Democrats in the spring and Greimel, from Auburn Hills in neighboring Oakland County, promised a key role for Macomb in the coming two years, the rebuff served as a reminder of the county's lowly status prior to creating an elected executive position, when Macomb was labeled by some pundits as the redheaded stepchild of the tri-county area.

"Once again, Macomb is a bit of an afterthought, whether it's on regional issues or statewide issues," said state Rep. Henry Yancz, a Sterling Heights Democrat who is a leading proponent of creating a Macomb caucus. "Macomb County has been completely shut out among the Democrats in making policy and driving the narrative."

### Consolation Prizes

In the selection process for legislative committee seats, Macomb again failed to gain more muscle. The new lineup of House committee chairs announced last week represents a mixed bag for the county -- largely a status quo outcome.

Some in the Hackel administration had responded to the leadership shutout on the Democratic side by focusing on how many committee vice chairs the county would receive from the minority party. That's setting the bar low. At that point, Hackel's team wasn't eyeing the prize, they were seeking consolation prizes.

One local political consultant with ties to Lansing put it bluntly: "Being a vice chair, it's like getting a handicapped seat at the football stadium. You're close to the action but they're not going to let you call any plays."

In the end, the lineup of 23 Democratic vice chairs included two from Macomb County.

The Macomb County delegation -- five Republicans, five Democrats -- sits in a good position to unite as a caucus. In addition to their bipartisan makeup, the 10 lawmakers already work as a team on some issues.

### Eyes on 2018 Race?

As for Hackel, a potential 2018 candidate for governor, he has just completed his first 4-year term as an executive who preaches bipartisanship on a daily basis. A moderate Democrat who enjoys extraordinary popularity among Macomb Republicans -- as his landslide re-election victory in November demonstrated -- the former county sheriff takes his approach to governing one step further, often extolling the virtues of non-partisan politics.

Yet, Hackel's hopes of forming a caucus in the House is not a certainty. Six of the county's 10 House members are term-limited, and they may be more interested in engaging in some horse-trading during their final two years in office than taking a stand on certain issues and riling their non-Macomb colleagues.

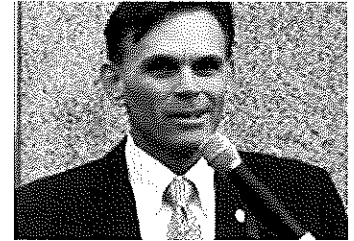
"The problem we run into, over and over again, is that Macomb is big -- but small," Roy said. "There are 82 other counties. And, at the same time, we're not the biggest, the most powerful."

The coming weeks and months will determine if Macomb lawmakers get pumped up about the idea that there is strength in numbers.

Recent Politics Articles [More Politics Articles](#)



Chad Selweski



Mark Hackel: "I don't want to hear about Republicans and Democrats."