

# News

## Macomb County Board of Commissioners



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nov. 19, 2020

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## BOC Adopts 2021 Budget Focused on Vulnerable Populations

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a balanced 2021 budget on Nov. 19 that further supports the needs of the County's most vulnerable populations.

The **\$275 million General Fund budget** is reflective of policies geared toward continuous adaptations needed to successfully and safely endure the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly each county department cut 5 percent from operating and personnel costs; there were no layoffs. Such collective actions by county departments, coupled with CARES Act Funding that gave the County about a \$30 million budget surplus for 2020 has allowed the County to increase its fund balance, reduce its debt and take additional actions to support County residents.

"I am proud that the 2021 budget truly addresses the needs of Macomb County citizens," said Board Chair Bob Smith. "This budget is lean yet it still ensures ongoing vital programs to protect the health and welfare of all citizens while also setting aside funds for long-term financial stability of the County."

The Board of Commissioners recognized the unprecedented times we as a society are facing and collectively approved allocating an additional **\$380,000** to support senior and disabled citizens of Macomb County through the Chore Program. This program, traditionally funded through the Area Agency on Aging-1B and Community Block Development Grant funds, provides grass cutting and snow removal services to these populations. A cut in AAA-1B funds and a redirection of local CBDG funds left this staple County program unfunded, until the Board voted to allocate surplus funds to ensure services remained.

"This program provides essential services to individuals throughout the County," said Commissioner Joe Romano. "The loss of this program would have been devastating to some of our most vulnerable populations. Protecting social services such as these is vital."

The Board also approved a **\$60,000** budget amendment to the Macomb County Animal Control budget to offset the costs some local communities pay to the department to provide services.

"Through our adopted amendments we have been able to fill in areas of need as a result of cuts by outside agencies," said Finance/Audit/Budget Chair Veronica Klinefelt.

With the addition of these amendments and surplus funds from 2020 County the County is expected to have a **\$66.6 million** fund balance at the end of 2021, bringing the percentage of the County's fund balance as compared to the County's General Fund expenditures to 24 percent.

To adopt the 2021 budget the Board deliberated in 14 public meetings, including budget workshops and committee meetings.

The approved 2021 budget in its entirety totals \$857.3 million.

"There was a very cooperative relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Office of the County Executive this year," said Klinefelt.