

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



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BOC Passes 2019 Budget, Enacts Policies to Ensure Future Financial Health

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich – On Nov. 8, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved the balanced Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget of \$769 million, \$246.4 million of which is General Fund dollars.

The adopted budget reflects the guiding principles set into place by the Board earlier this year, which included reviewing the budget based upon:

- The evaluation of goals and programs proposed by each department, comparison to historical budget proposals, actual year-to-date spending, evaluation of best practices and implementing strategic vision;
- The current performance and potential performance of departments/agencies and their programs;
- The long-term planning and long-term financial sustainability for the county.

Prior to the Nov. 8 meeting the Board held 25 meetings that included 39 department, agency and program reviews.

“As this County’s legislative body, we are charged by the Charter to oversee the budget; we committed ourselves to a thorough review of the budget to ensure tax dollars are being allocated efficiently and where needed,” said Board Chair Bob Smith.

Understanding the importance of being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars, the Board also adopted Fund Balance and Capital Improvement policies at the Nov. 8 meeting. The Fund Balance Policy states that the minimum level of unrestricted general fund balance shall be maintained at a range of 15-20 percent; this range is in line with national government accounting standards. The Capital Improvement Policy reflects a funding approach that will stabilize what monies are available for capital projects, enabling the County to better plan for project implementation and completion.

“I am proud that this Board continues to work to implement policies that will ensure the long-term financial health of the County,” said Smith.

Both policies passed 12-1, with Commissioner Andrey Duzyj voting against both. The FY 2019 budget passed 11-2, with Commissioners Leon Drolet and Rob Mijac voting against it.

Drolet’s and Mijac’s messages related to the budget were similar. Those two Commissioners said they did not feel comfortable spending \$8.8 million from the County’s fund balance (rainy day fund) to cover expenditures.

“This is a time when we are supposed to be saving,” said Mijac, referencing the County’s current economic situation compared to what it was a decade ago.

The County is not deficit spending, but rather spending from its savings that are funded at levels consistent with national government accounting standards.

With the approval of the FY 2019 Budget, the County’s fund balance will be at 18 percent, or \$44.8 million. Smith said he is confident the Fund Balance Policy will allow for further consistency in responsible spending and savings for the County.

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