



State of the County 2020

Presented by Kelli Scott
Calhoun County Administrator/Controller



Board of Commissioners

District 1: Kathy-Sue Vette (R) Vice Chair*

District 2: Rochelle Hatcher (D)

District 3: Jake Smith (D)

District 4: Steve Frisbie (R) Chair

District 5: Derek King (R)

District 6: Tommy Miller (R)

District 7: Gary Tompkins (R)

**The County will elect or re-elect its 2020 Vice Chair on Thursday, Jan. 16.*



2020 State of Community



Countywide Elected Officials

Clerk and Register of Deeds: Anne Norlander (retiring Jan. 30, 2020) (R)

Prosecutor: David Gilbert (R)

Sheriff: Matt Saxton (R)

Treasurer: Brian Wensauer (R)

Water Resources Commissioner: Fred Heaton (R)



2020 State of Community

2019: Year of Collaboration

- Within County Government
- With Other Governments and Nonprofits
- With the Private Sector



In 2019, we relocated our CareHere Employee Health & Wellness Center, a successful partnership with private companies in Battle Creek



2020 State of Community

Working With Employees to Address Challenges

- County has ~725 employees, 10 unions
- \$45M operating budget plus \$80M budgets in other funds including Road Dept
- S&P ‘AA’ credit rating and solid outlook
- Recruitment and Retention especially challenging with low unemployment and other demographics and national trends
- Providing employees with good benefits is a top priority, along with the need to control compensation costs



Working With Employees to Address Challenges

- Challenge: \$23.5M in unfunded pension liabilities (79% funded) has meant increasingly high costs from employee paychecks and from county budget
- Solution: recent agreement with employee groups to close defined benefit plans to new hires, who will be offered our 401k with match
- Planned 2020 issuance of pension obligation bonds will restructure existing debt, with long-term savings and lower costs to employees
- No impact to current employees' pensions



New Public Defender's Office

- David Makled--Public Defender; Karen Kelly--Deputy Public Defender; total staff of 18
- Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) created and oversees new standards
- Goals: fair, cost-effective, constitutional, accountable representation, while protecting public safety
- State must appropriate funds to reimburse the county for everything above our average historical spending on this service
- Began taking all indigent defense cases since Sept. 2019; estimates 3,300 cases to represent each year



Economic and Community Development

- Approved tax capture for City of Marshall to create Northeast Neighborhood Improvement Authority
- Approved a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Agreement for Battle Creek YMCA to help finance \$3M in energy and facility upgrades
- Working with BCU and MAEDA to administer state awarded Site Readiness Grants for vacant properties in Marshall and Emmett Twps.

Countywide Transportation

- Calhoun County Transit Study nearly complete
 - 2 Scenarios being evaluated, both with dial-a-ride concept throughout county by zone, coupled with existing fixed route system in Battle Creek
- MDOT grant-funded with local match from numerous local governments and nonprofits
- Will recommend ways to consolidate and collaborate with existing public transportation providers
- Goals: expand access and create efficiencies

<https://www.calhouncountytransit.com/>



Opioid Epidemic

- Calhoun County's opioid overdoses, ED visits, serious infections and death rates are too high. We had 35 fentanyl related deaths in 2018.
- Our Coalition's Strategies: Prevention and education, supply and control, treatment, and harm reduction
- County joined in June 2019 national Prescription Opiate Litigation to recover costs related to opioid usage, mainly focused on high prescription rate and marketing efforts
- County's Health Department is assessing a potential new Syringe Support Services Program, funded through the blitz of new state and federal initiatives to combat the epidemic



Emmett Township Local Road Project

- 3-year resurfacing 2020-2022
- All 75 miles of local roads
- 50% cost share county and township
- \$24-\$28M investment, 2019 voter approved bonds
- Approx. 3.4 mills, avg. homeowner cost of \$138/year
- County's financing would not be possible if we had a separate Road Commission



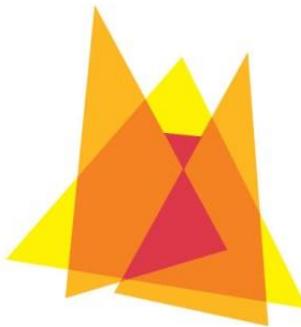
2020 State of Community



FireKeepers Local Revenue
Sharing Board

Year	Distributions Tiers 2, 3 and 4	
2010	\$	1,887,551
2011	\$	4,777,155
2012	\$	4,732,868
2013	\$	4,999,487
2014	\$	5,316,953
2015	\$	4,868,095
2016	\$	5,332,758
2017	\$	5,160,646
2018	\$	5,501,790
2019	\$	5,997,899
Total 10 years	\$	48,575,202

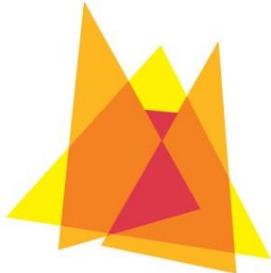
Does not include Tier 1, which are administrative expenses



FireKeepers Local Revenue
Sharing Board

Discretionary Grants

Year	# of Grants	Total Awarded
2013	9	\$ 187,875
2014	16	\$ 185,000
2016	33	\$ 200,000
2019	23	\$ 329,202
		\$ 902,077



FireKeepers Local Revenue
Sharing Board

Board:

- NHBPI Tribe
- Calhoun County
- Emmett Township
- City of Battle Creek
- Athens Township
- City of Marshall

- Upjohn Institute completed in Dec. 2019
Update to 2008 Casino Impact Study
- Annual 2% “Net Win” Payments due
Feb.14
- Impact of new “Lawful Sports Betting
Act” effective Dec. 2019?
- Per HFA re HBs 4916, 4917 and 4918:
***It is unknown whether the adjusted gross
receipts from sports betting would also be
included in the calculation for local
government payments under the Tribal-State
Gaming Comacts.*

(1) “Net Win” means the total amount wagered on each electronic game of chance, minus the total amount paid to players for winning wagers at such machines.

2020: Year of Public Voice

- County Ballot Initiatives
- May, November Elections:
 - 5 Countywide elected officials
 - 3 Judges
 - 7 Commissioners
- Census
- New county website



The Elections Team, which works with the Clerk of Elections to provide real-time results on Election Night



County Ballot Initiatives

- Senior Millage
 - Voter approved since 1996
 - Asking for 10 year Renewal of 0.7452 mill
 - Nearly \$3M to fund 22 programs for seniors, with some of the largest being:
 - ✓ Meals
 - ✓ Transportation
 - ✓ Dental

August 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Tuesday, Aug 4th 2020



2020 State of Community

County Ballot Initiatives

- Parks
 - First time consideration, 0.2 mill, 5 years
 - Approx. \$750K, with half to be distributed to local municipalities



Historic Bridge Park

August 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Tuesday, Aug 4th 2020



2020 State of Community

New County Website

- Accessible and mobile-friendly
- Site Map organized in a service-oriented way, instead of county org chart navigation
- Better online services:
 - Pay taxes
 - Get public records
 - Apply for a job
 - Bid for contracts



2020 State of Community

Stay Informed

- Email newsletters from County Administrator/Controller
- Communications Manager Lucy Blair--Press releases, social media
- Apply to serve on one of nearly 50 boards and committees appointed by our Board of Commissioners!



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Thank You

Lucy Blair

Communications Manager

lblair@calhouncountymi.gov

269-781-0926



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