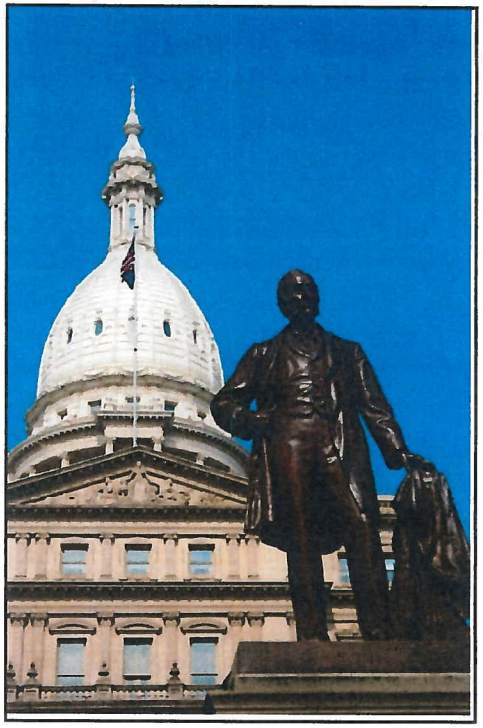
MAC

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



MAC is the counties' voice at the State Capitol, providing legislative support on key issues affecting counties.

www.micounties.org

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Counties 101

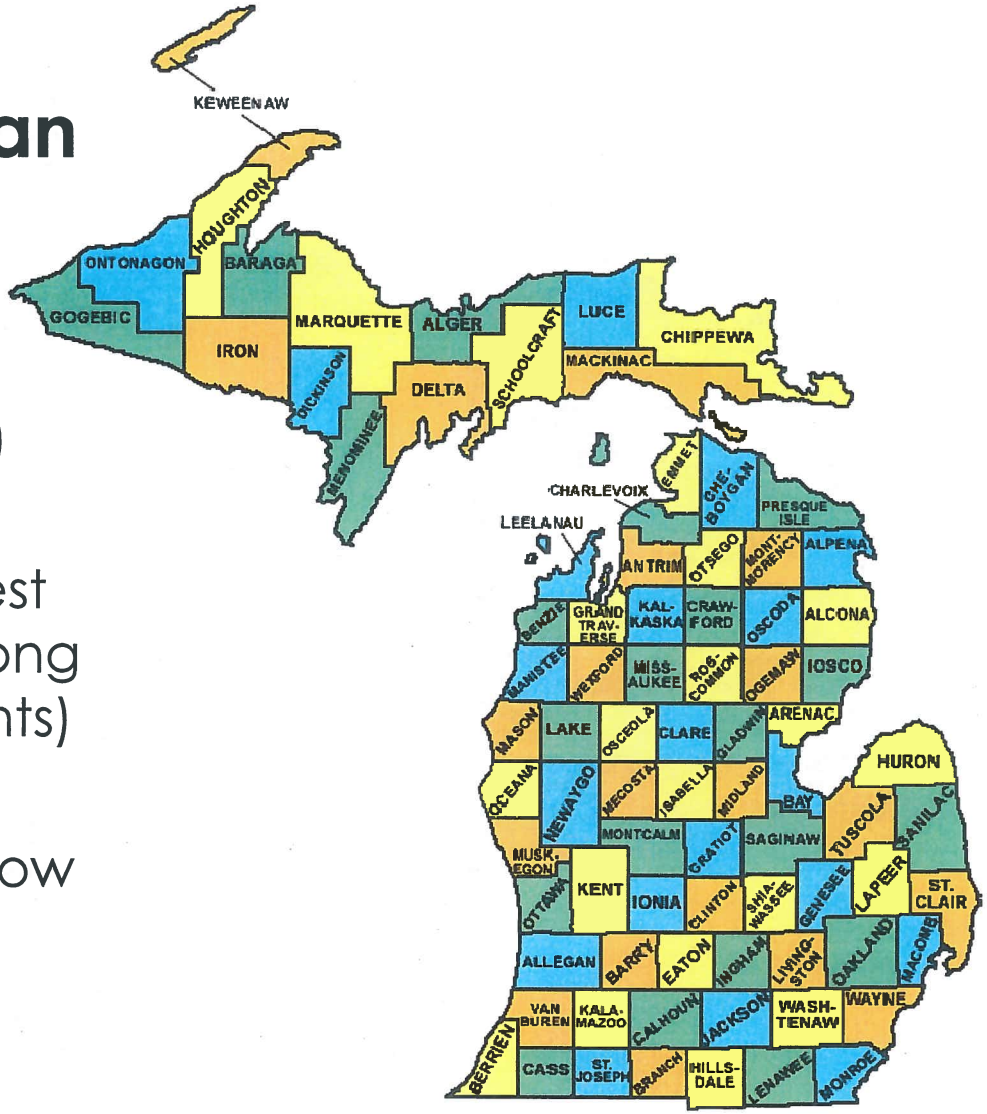
83 counties in Michigan

Big: Wayne (pop. 1,764,804)

Small: Keweenaw (pop. 2,217)

Wealthy: Oakland (12th highest per-capita income in U.S. among counties with 1 million+ residents)

Not: Isabella (26.1 percent below poverty line, 2015)



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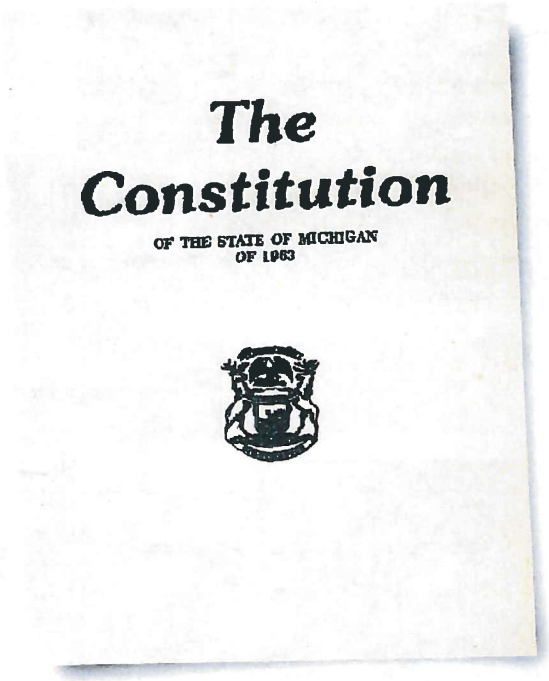
Counties 101

The Michigan Constitution of 1963

Two major roles for counties

1. Exist to extend some powers of state government throughout the state.(For example, enforcement of criminal laws.)

2. Carry out programs that benefit primarily the local population. (For example, health and welfare activities.)



Source: *Guide to Michigan County Government*, by Kenneth VerBurg

Although counties act as "agents of the state" for required functions, they remain separate and with their own legal identity.

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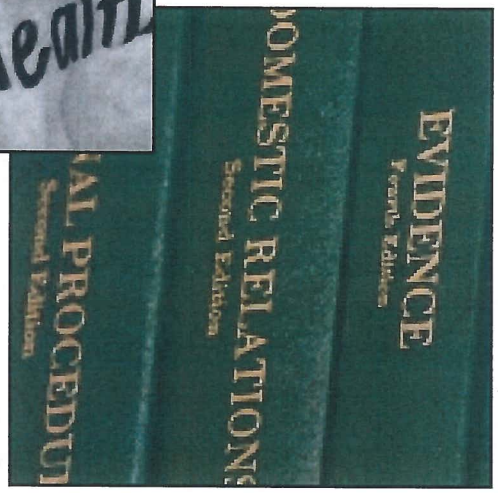
Counties 101

- Counties are front-line agencies in providing social and public safety services:
  - Foster care system
  - Public health
  - Circuit courts
  - Jail operations
  - Infrastructure

- Counties collaborate every day with other local units on tax assessment and collection, sheriff road patrol, tech support

- Counties receive **STATUTORY REVENUE SHARING ONLY**



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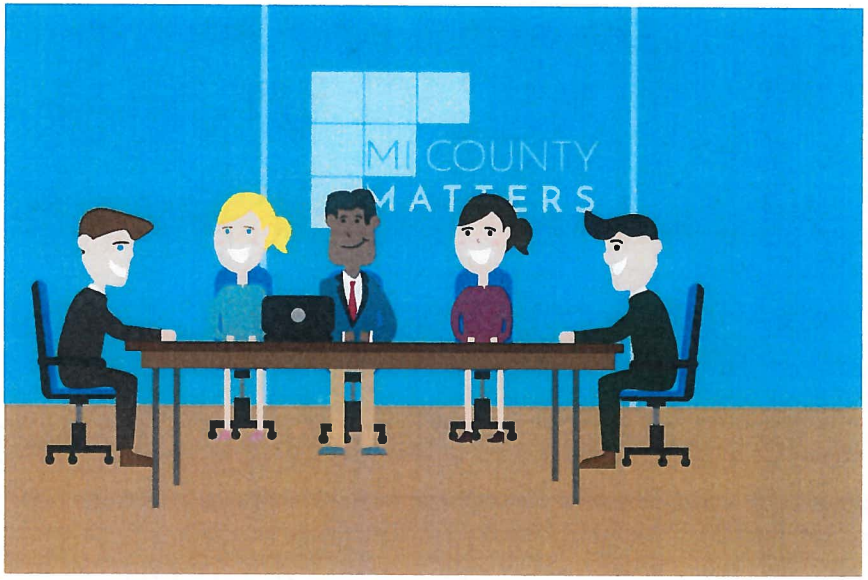
County Boards

Central, but not all-powerful

- Legislative body with authority over "most aspects" of county
- Central policy-making body
- Can pass ordinances, though limits to actions related to "county affairs"
- Oversight of administrative functions



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County Budget

Power of the purse

- Board determines the county's budget for the year
- **Uniform Budget and Accounting Act requires county to have a balanced budget each year**
- Budget includes restricted and unrestricted funds
- "Most important part of a budget is the revenue plan"

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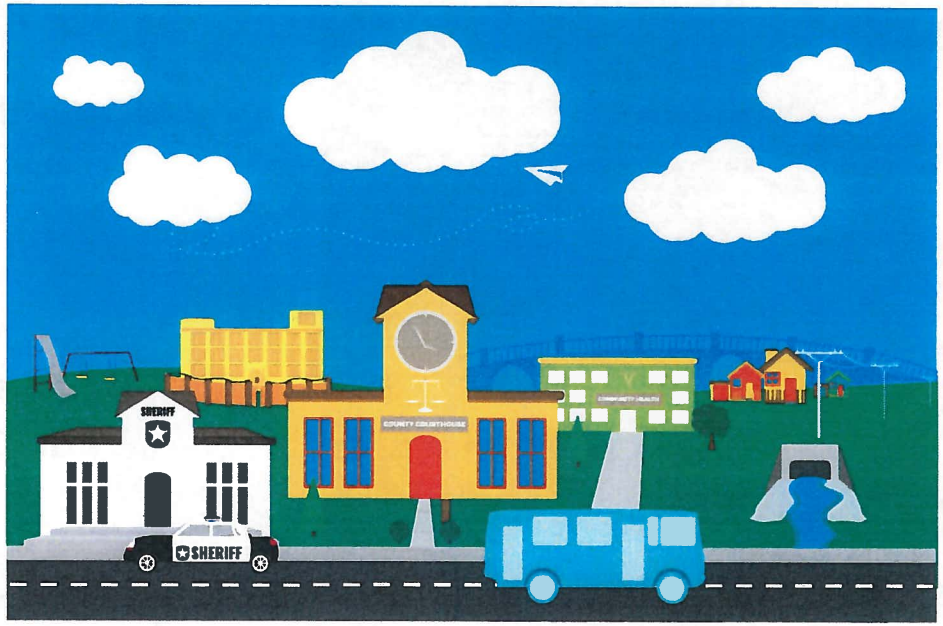
County Spending

Michigan's 83 counties ...

- Spend $1.6 billion per year on security duties
- Spend $2.4 billion per year protecting public health
- Spend $1.5 billion per year on networks linking our communities.



Learn more at www.micountymatters.org

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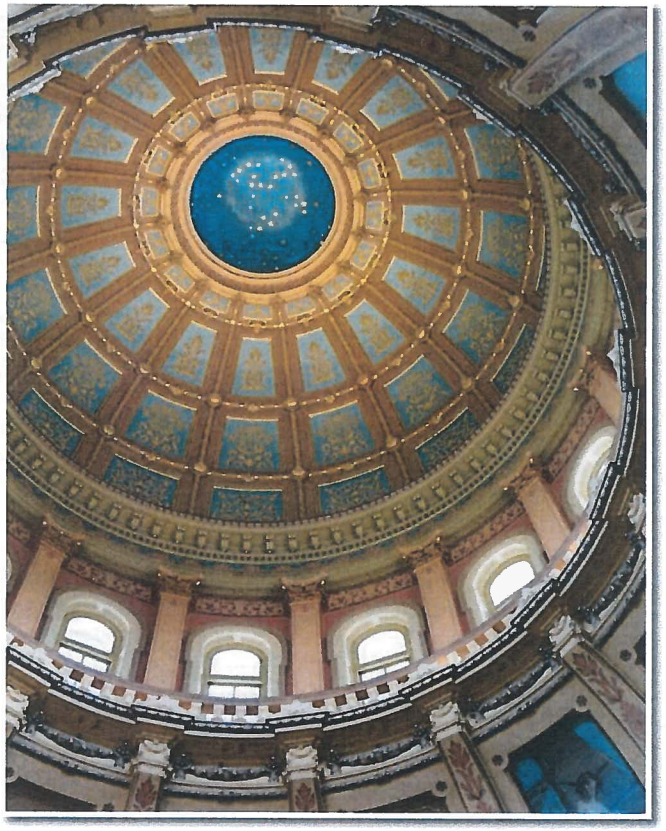
Basic MAC Facts

- Represents 83 counties in Michigan (622 county commissioners)
- Governed by 16-member board, which is advised by 7 committees in developing policy platforms:
    - *Finance*
    - *General Government*
    - *Environmental and Regulatory Affairs*
    - *Health and Human Services*
    - *Judiciary and Public Safety*
    - *Transportation*
    - *Agriculture*



- Conducts educational and advocacy efforts across Michigan

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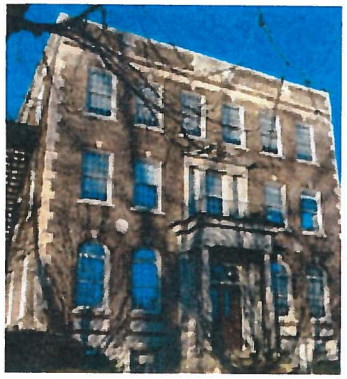
MAC Government Team

Deena Bosworth
bosworth@micounties.org



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County Issues

Agriculture
Farm Land Preservation
Farm Markets/Wineries/Tourism

Courts
Abuse & Neglect
Bail Bonds
Child Welfare
Circuit Court
Costs, Fees, & Fines
Criminal Procedure
District Court
Documents/Records
Family Law
Friend of the Court
Indigent Defense
Judicial Tenure/Salary
Jury Issues
Juvenile Court
Probate Court
Probation
Prosecutor
Specialty Courts
Video Requirements

Economic Development
Authorities
Brownfields
DDAs
Housing Issues
Land Banks
Placemaking
TIFAs
Tourism
Zones (Renaissance, Neighborhood)

Environmental
Air Pollution
Bovine TB
Brownfields
Drains
Dredging
Fracking
Gas & Oil
Indoor Air Quality
Invasive Species
Landfills
Low-Level Radioactive Waste
Mineral Rights
Pest Control (Pesticides)
Recycling
Scrap Tires
Septage Waste
Severance Tax
Soil Erosion & Sedimentation
Solid Waste Management
Wetlands

Finance and Budgeting
Audits
Bonding/ Financing Projects & Debt
Budget, Reserves & Balances
Emergency Management
Local Fees
Pension Obligation Bonds

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County Issues (cont.)

General Government
Animal Shelters
Cemeteries
County Commissioners
County Elected Officials
Digital Records/Technology Requirements
Disaster Management
Elections
FOIA

Intergovernmental Cooperation
Open Meetings Act/Public Notices
Planning & Zoning
Regionalism
Remonumentation
Tribal Agreements
Unfunded Mandates

Health and Human Services
ACA Implementation
EMS
Foster Care
Home Health Agencies
Indigent Burials
Medicaid
Medical Care Facilities
Medical Examiners
Mental Health
Public Health Department
Seniors/Aging
Substance Abuse Treatment
Veterans
Public Health
Health Screening
Immunizations
Infectious Disease Control
Restaurant Inspections
STD Testing
Water Testing

Labor and Retirement
Arbitration
Labor Contracts
Liabilities (UAL)
Medical Benefit Plans
MERS
Multipliers
Unions
Workers Compensation
Workforce Development
Workforce Investment

Natural Resources
DNR Trust Fund
Hunting, Fishing, Snowmobiles
Lakes and Streams
Land Management
Land Purchase
Land Use
Local Conservation Districts
MSU Extension
Parks and Recreation
Timber Management

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Public Safety

911
Act 312
Community Corrections
Contracting with CVTs for law enforcement
Jails
Prisoner Re-Entry
Probation
Public Safety Officers
Secondary Road Patrol
Sentencing Guidelines
Swift & Sure Sanctions (Probation Violations)
Tethering

Taxation

Assessing/Assessors
Condemnation
Defending Tax Appeals
Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund
Equalization
Foreclosure
Headlee
Manufactured Housing
Millages
Personal Property Tax
PILT
Property Tax
Sales Tax
Special Assessments
Tax Administration
Tax Exemptions
Tax Tribunal
Use Tax

Transportation

Act 51
Airports
Aviation Fuel
Bike Trails
County Road Commissions
Diesel Tax
Gas Tax
MI Transportation Fund
ORV's
Public Transit
Rails to Transportation
Regional Transit Authority
Registration Fees
Roadkill
Road Maintenance
Sales Tax on Gas
Speed Limits

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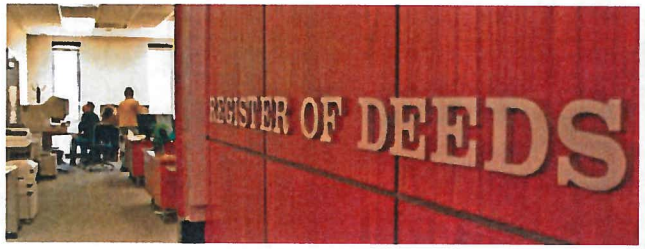
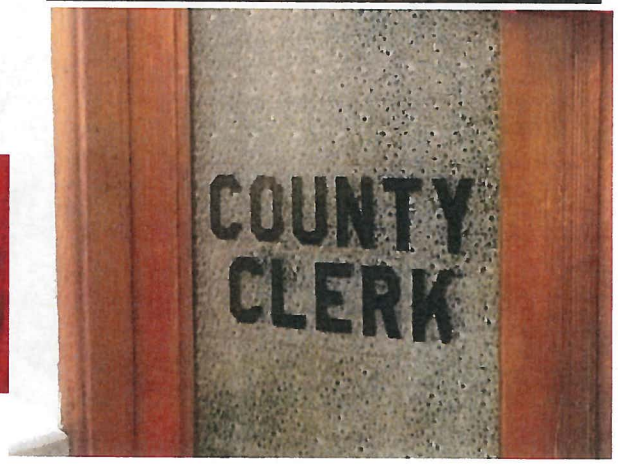
County Elected Officials

- Sheriff
- Prosecutor
- Treasurer
- Clerk
- Register of Deeds
- Drain Commissioner
- Executive*





*Four counties (Bay, Macomb, Oakland and Wayne) provide for direct election of a county executive

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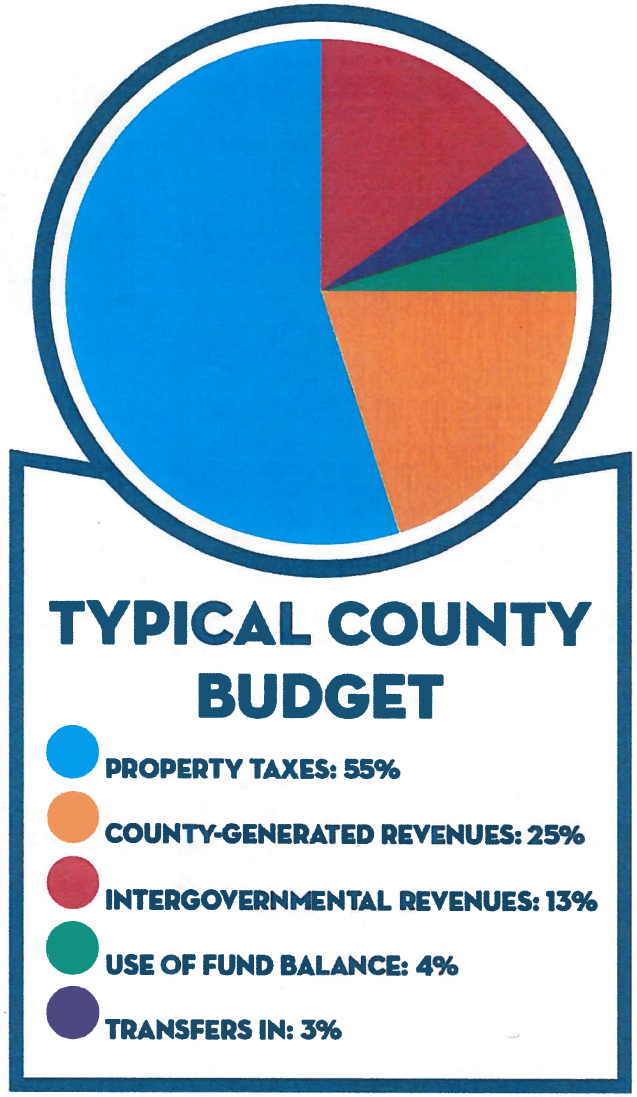
County Finances

Trends are challenging

- Revenue sharing improving, but far below turn of the century levels
- **Great Recession slammed property values**
- Demands on county services haven't lessened
- Legislature and Snyder administration looking at broad reform of financing of local government



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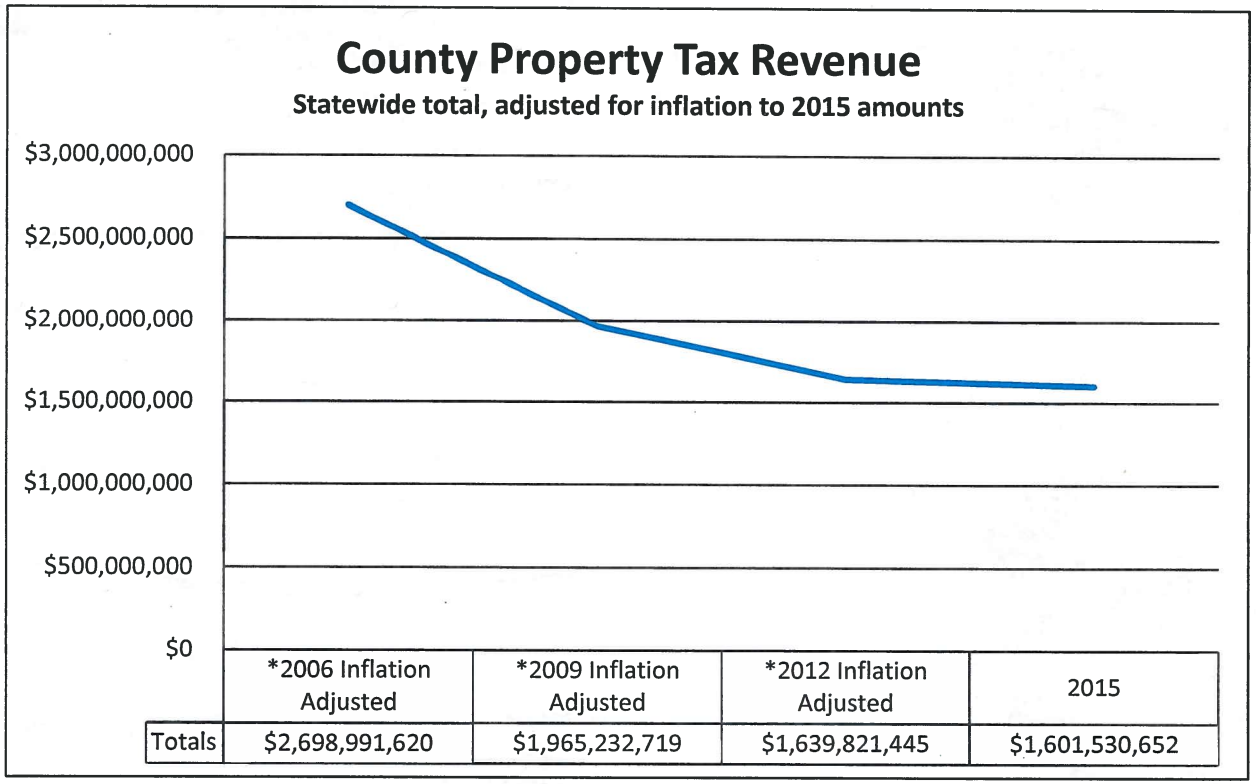
Property Taxes

- Counties have

60%

of the revenue they did 10 years ago!



	*2006 Inflation Adjusted	*2009 Inflation Adjusted	*2012 Inflation Adjusted	2015
Totals	$2,698,991,620	$1,965,232,719	$1,639,821,445	$1,601,530,652

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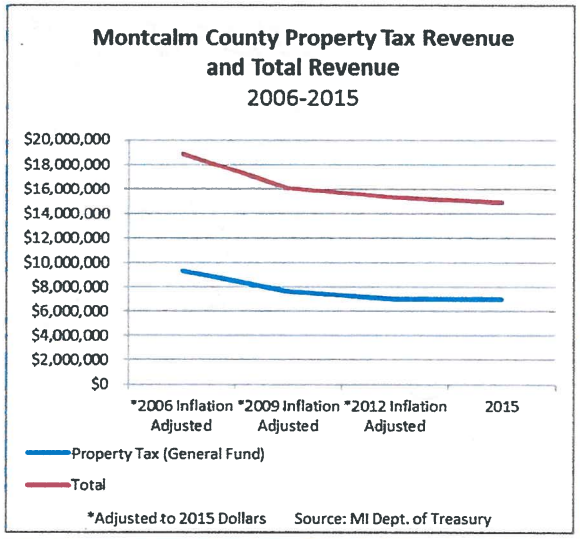
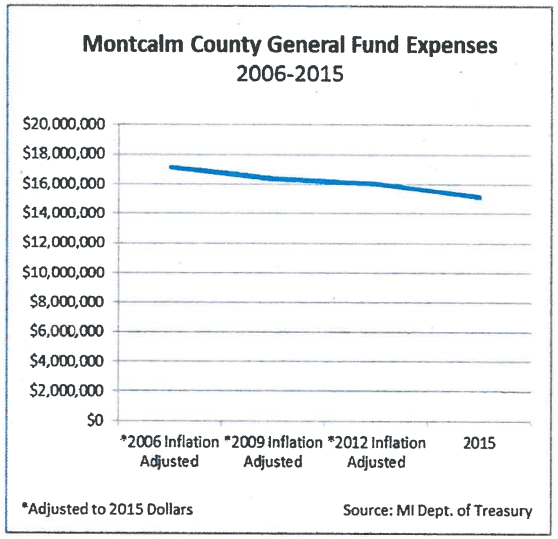
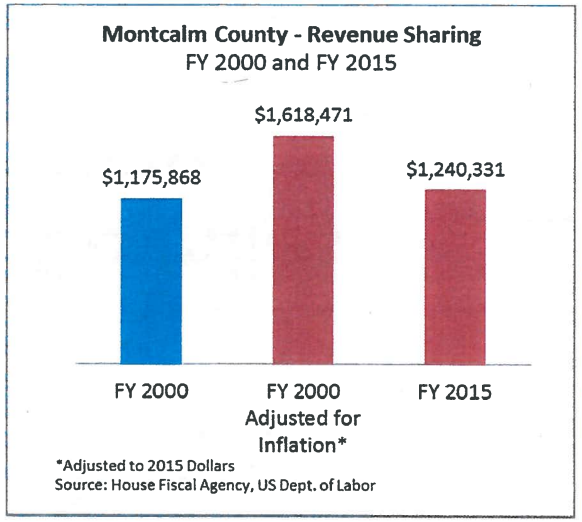
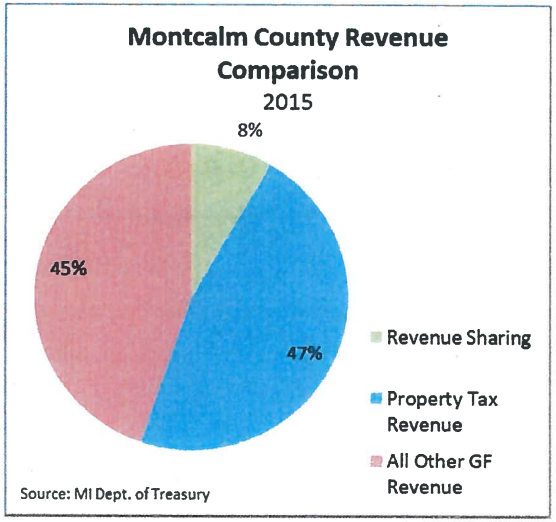
County Finance Snapshot

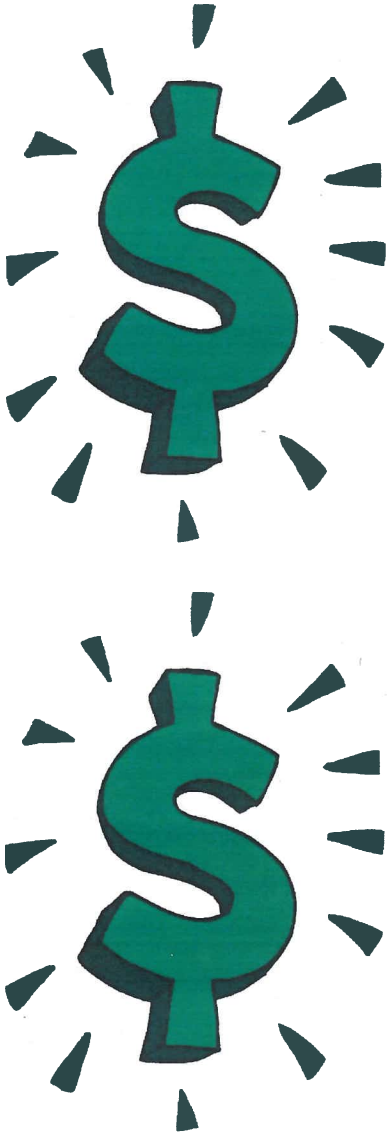
Montcalm











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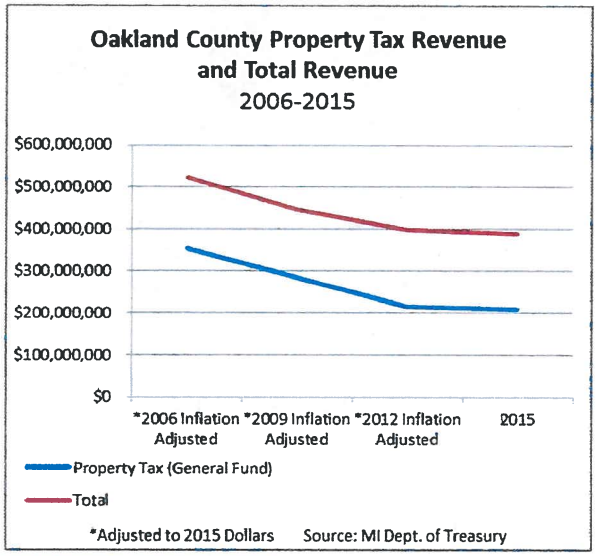
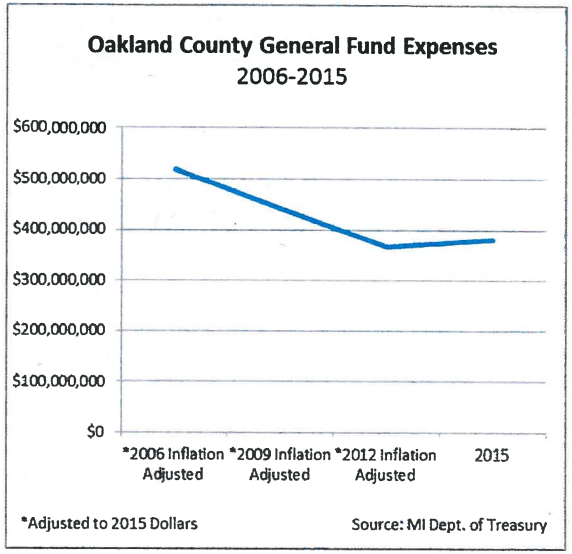
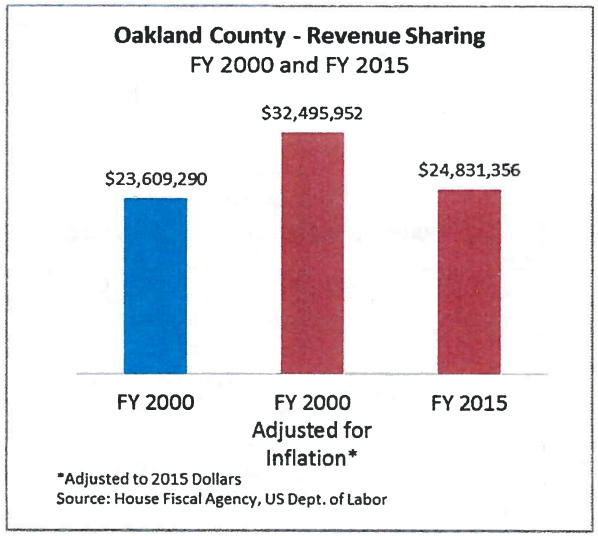
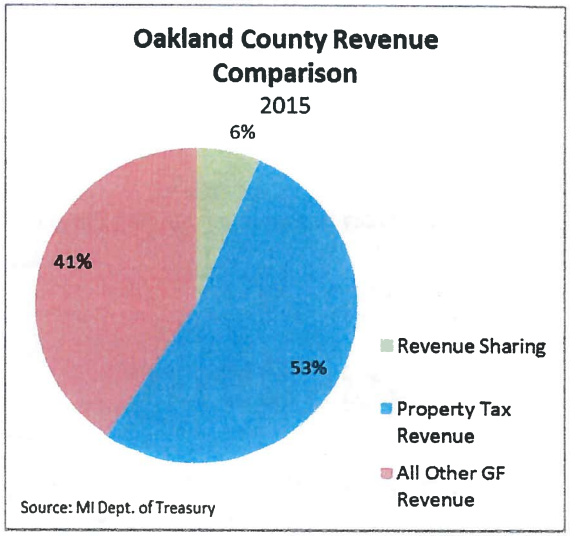
County Finance Snapshot

Oakland









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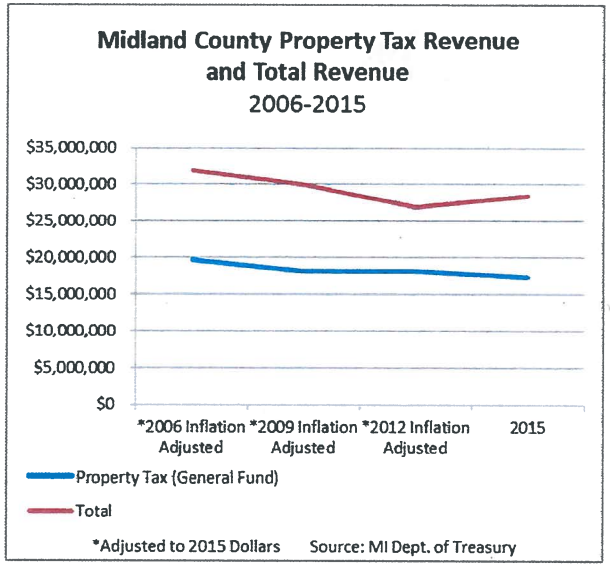
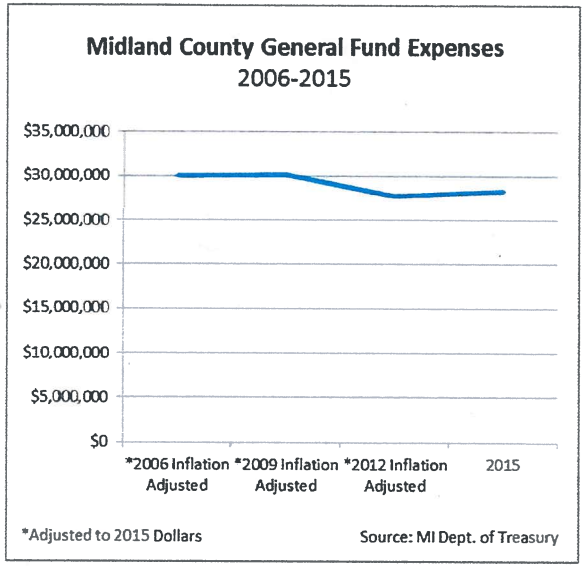
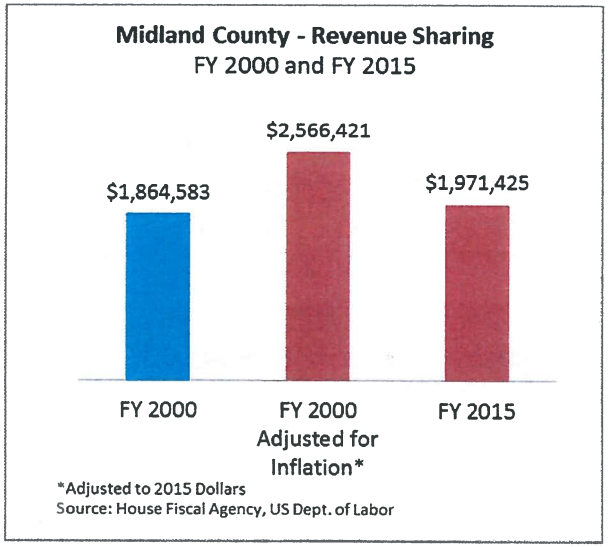
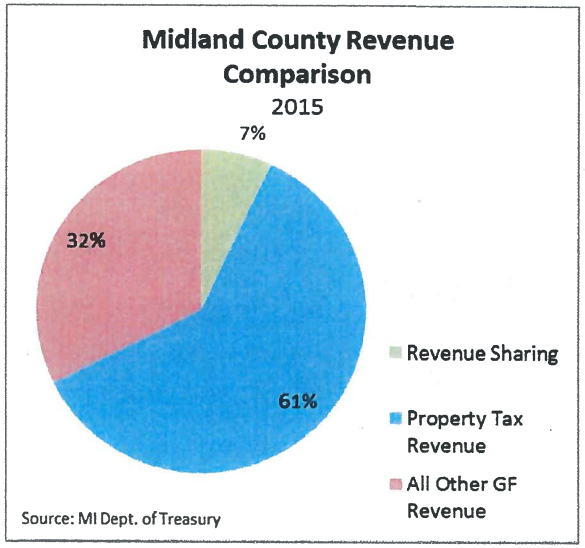
County Finance Snapshot

Midland









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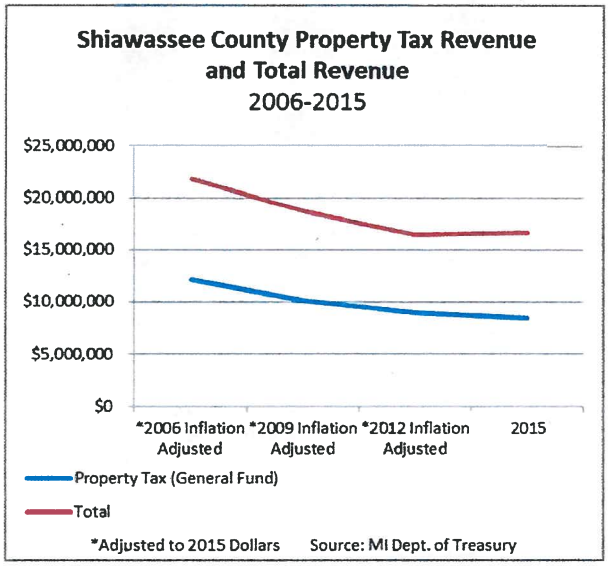
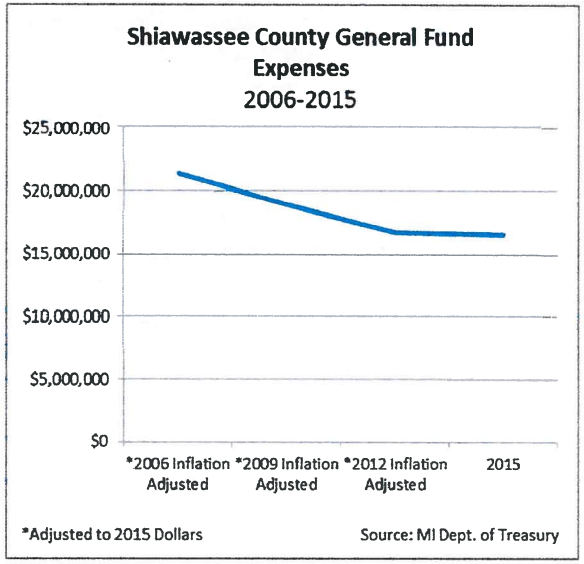
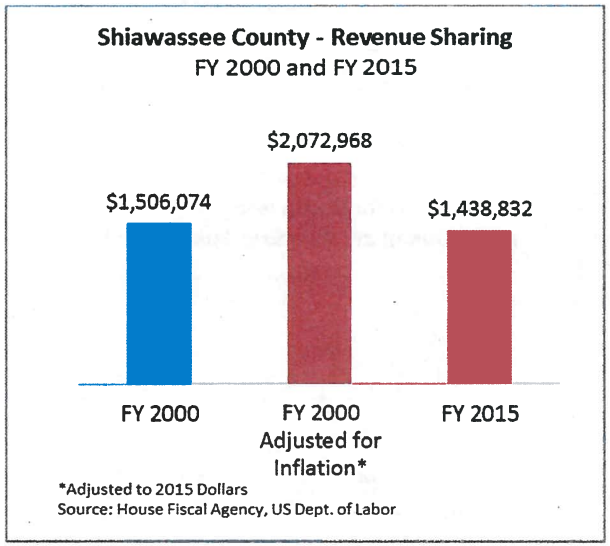
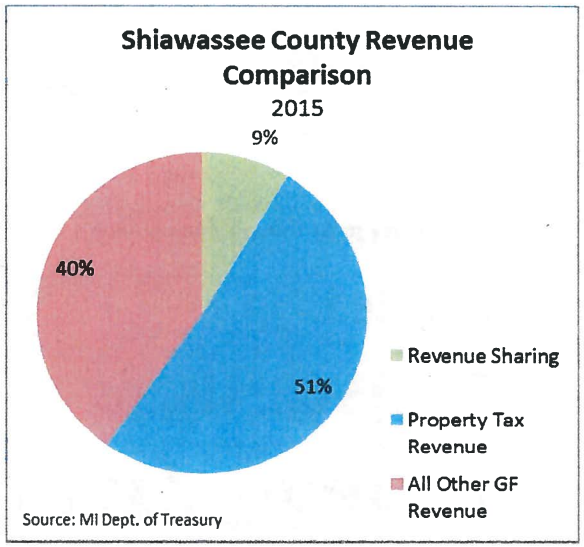
County Finance Snapshot

Shiawassee









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County Finance Snapshot

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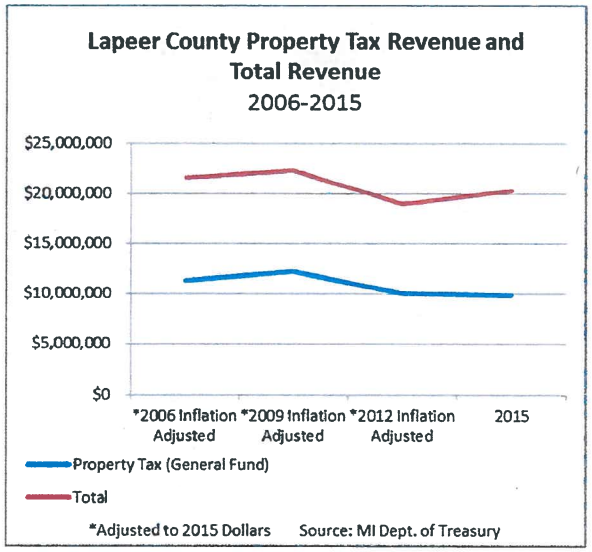

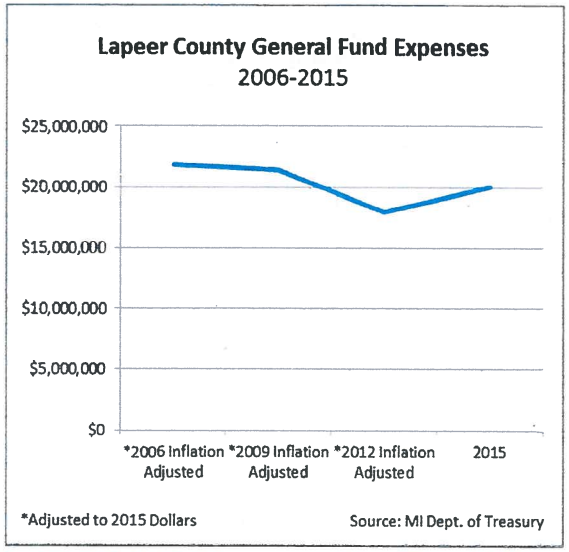

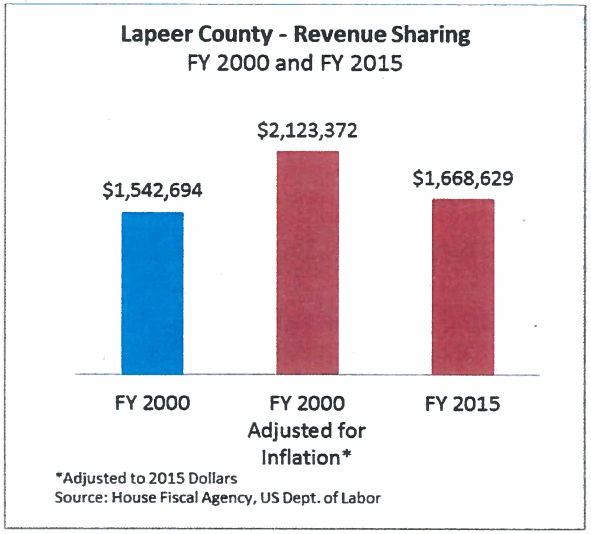

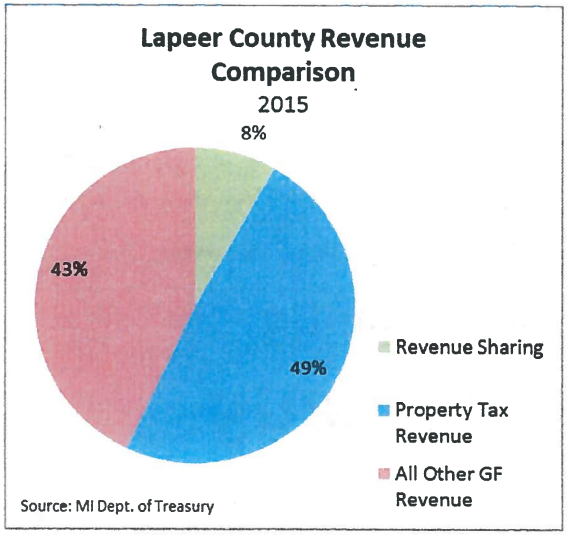

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2017 Legislative Priorities

Reforming Michigan's System of Financing Local Government

MAC supports creation of stable and sufficiently funded revenue streams for counties.

Reforming Tax Capture Statutes

MAC supports legislation that ensures county tax dollars are not captured without a county's approval; ensures dollars from special millages are not captured; and ensures proper transparency on spending.

Reforming the Michigan Tax Tribunal

MAC supports legislation that ensures all three methods of property valuation (cost, sales, income) are considered by the tribunal; prevents the consideration of deed-restricted properties as fair "comparables"; and enhances the training and qualifications of tribunal members.

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2017 Legislative Priorities

Ensuring Adequate Funding for Michigan's Courts

MAC supports legislation to extend user-fee authority in perpetuity and create long-term state funding sources for our courts.

Improving the Performance of the Child Care Fund

MAC supports legislation to codify the equitable distribution of all costs of these services to ensure the state pays its fair share; and to protect counties from any mid-year changes by state officials that alter agreed-upon reimbursements to counties.

Investing in Michigan's Infrastructure

MAC supports legislation to adequately fund infrastructure upgrades, while finding a balance between efficient use of existing revenue and creation of new revenue in order to meet county infrastructure needs.

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MAC Leadership

Shelley Taub
President

Steve Currie
Executive Director
scurrie@micounties.org

Matthew Bierlein
First Vice President

Ken Borton
Second Vice President

Jerry Doucette
Immediate Past President

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