

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Building, 325 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 11th day of September 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Jim Martin, Scott Shackleton, Justin Knepper, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Shackleton and seconded by Commissioner Knepper.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION # 2025-21

OPPOSING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' FY26 BUDGET CUTS TO COUNTY REVENUE SHARING

WHEREAS, counties are mandated by the State of Michigan to provide essential public services including courts, jails, elections, public health, public safety and human services; and

WHEREAS, unlike cities, villages and townships, counties do not receive constitutionally guaranteed revenue sharing and instead rely solely on statutory revenue sharing, leaving counties uniquely vulnerable to annual state budget decisions; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposes a \$34.9 million reduction in county statutory revenue sharing, wiping out the long-overdue progress made in FY25 to restore revenue sharing to sustainable levels; and

WHEREAS, the House plan, if enacted, would leave counties with just over \$256 million in statutory revenue sharing statewide, while constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships (CVTs) is set to reach \$1.1 billion, and when combined with statutory revenue sharing, CVTs would get \$1.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, the House plan shifts \$40 million into restricted sheriff funding with strings attached, requiring counties to maintain higher law enforcement funding levels, even as flexible revenue sharing is reduced, thereby further straining already-limited general funds; and

WHEREAS, public safety dollars directed exclusively to sheriffs are not equivalent to revenue sharing, since they cannot be used to support the wide range of mandated services counties must provide; and

WHEREAS, the Senate budget proposal provides just over \$320 million in county statutory revenue sharing, an increase of \$29.1 million over FY25, and includes \$60 million for public safety that can be allocated at the discretion of county boards of commissioners rather than bypassing them; and

WHEREAS, the Senate approach respects county governance, strengthens general fund flexibility, and better equips counties to meet their broad statutory responsibilities.

Resolution #2025-21 OPPOSING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' FY26 BUDGET CUTS TO COUNTY REVENUE SHARING

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chippewa County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the Michigan Legislature and governor to reject the House revenue sharing cuts and support the Senate's proposal to increase county revenue sharing and provide flexible funding for public safety needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, House Speaker Matt Hall and Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Adopted this 11th day of September 2025

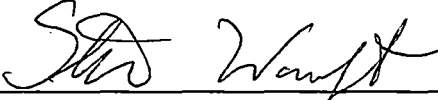
A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Jim Martin, Scott Shackleton, Justin Knepper, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Chippewa County at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.



Steven Woodgate, County Clerk