

# Application for Appointment

Submitted on: 08/13/2019 11:29:37 AM

Completion time: 47 min. 25 sec.

Please Provide Information for your Home/Legal Residence

Q. First Name

R. David

Q. Last Name

R. Woodward

Q. City

R. Royal Oak

Q. Oakland County Resident:

R. Yes

Q. Length of Residency

R. 43

Party Affiliation

Q. What is your party affiliation?

R. Democratic Party

Education

Q. High School Name or GED

R. Kimball High School

Q. City/State

R. Royal Oak, MI

Q. College/Technical

R. Wayne State University

Q. City/State

R. Detroit, MI

Q. Degree(s) received

R. B.S. Mathematics

Employment

Q. Employer

R. Oakland County

Q. Position Title

R. Board Chairman

Q. Dates of Employment

R. January 2005-August 2019

Q. Duties

R. 2019 Elected Board Chairman. Led the governing body for Oakland County serving 1.2 million residents.

- Oversee and adopt annual \$924 million operating budget
- Develop and approve public policy
- Appoint leaders to other governing bodies

References

Q. Contact #1

R. Darienne Driver Hudson Ed.D / CEO for United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Q. Contact #2

R. Dennis G. Cowan / fmr. Mayor of Royal Oak, attorney and fmr. managing partner at Plunkett Cooney

Q. Contact #3

R. Heidi Kassab/ President/CEO at Cornerstone Community Financial Credit Union

Please answer the following five questions in 500 words or less:

Q. What is your vision for the future of Oakland County?

R. Oakland is the most prosperous county in Michigan, and among the wealthiest in the nation. I believe our prosperity provides us unique opportunities to make people's lives better while increasing opportunity for all.

The diversity of our local communities is a strength we can better leverage, by working together, planning together, and building a more inclusive county that makes our region stronger together.

We can strengthen partnerships with our local schools to optimize the development of our youth, as well as align our public health and economic development strategies to maximize their individual success and thereby yield stronger county success.

I believe that if you work full-time in Oakland County, you should be able to afford to live in Oakland County. Attainable and affordable housing is essential both for the workers who power our local economy as well as our growing senior population. New strategies and innovative approaches are required to meet this challenge.

We don't inherit the world from our ancestors; we borrow it from the next generation. For these reasons, we need to be better stewards of the environment and lead the region when it comes to renewable energy, conservation, and new green infrastructure. Oakland County can be a national leader in this space. We must be innovative and proactive in meeting the impending environmental needs of our community.

Oakland County has a duty to create the conditions in which our local communities and local economy can prosper. If we get the fundamentals right, and remove barriers so that individuals and families can succeed, we in turn all prosper together.

My vision for Oakland County is to be a county that continues to lead the region and Michigan with proactive sound fiscal management, while also leading bold initiatives to improve people's lives, and making the necessary investments to build an economy that works for everyone.

Q. What are your professional qualifications?

R. I've been an effective leader on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners since 2005, last serving as Chairman of the Board until stepping down recently in order to be eligible to be considered for this appointment.

Having worked with virtually every county department, I understand their respective core missions, their near and long-term objectives, and their budgeting constraints. For fourteen years I've played a direct role in adoption of our county's annual budget process, which provided even greater insight into all departments' operations. With this experience, I am well positioned to build on their respective successes to date.

As a member of the Board, I'm proud of my record of advancing policy and making strategic investments that improve the lives people, grow our local economy and strengthen our communities. Some of these initiatives include:

- Created the Oakland County Microloan Program for small businesses that makes small loans to locally owned businesses and to date, has supported the creation and protection of over 300 jobs across the county
- Launched and led the Oakland Health Plan that provided managed care for thousands of residents annually prior to adoption of the Affordable Care Act
- Restored and strengthened Haven's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program that provides specialized care to survivors of sexual assault and collects forensic evidence to prosecute predators
- Led the development of the Oakland County Safe School Drinking Water Initiative that replaced old drinking fountains with new filtrated water hydration stations in schools across Oakland County do provide safer water to kids and has been nationally recognized and celebrated by the National Association of Counties.
- Spearheaded creation of the Oakland County Healthy Lakes Initiative that mobilized volunteers across the county to monitor and conduct lake testing to establish baseline data and monitor the health of our lakes. This innovative program has been nationally recognized and celebrated by the National Association of Counties.
- Oakland County Better With Breakfast Initiative: spearheaded the effort to establish Michigan's first countywide universal school breakfast program, increasing access to school breakfast for thousands more students every day
- Supported the creation of the Local Road Improvement Program to assist cities and villages across the county in fixing local roads. This program has supported millions of new road construction and maintenance projects. (This is in addition to the long-standing Tri-Party Road Program that matches county and local monies with the county road commission for use on county roads across Oakland County.)

Prior to my service on the Board, I served as a state legislator in the Michigan House of Representatives specializing in technology and energy, health care, veteran, and insurance issues.

Furthermore, I've played key leadership roles in raising wages and improving conditions for workers across Michigan, especially for those on the front line of the economy. My leadership directly resulted in increasing the minimum wage in Michigan, as well as creating Michigan's Paid Medical Leave Act that guarantees paid sick time to qualifying employees.

Q. Do you have background working with complex budgeting? If so, briefly explain.

R. Yes. I've been honored to serve on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners since 2005, and during that time I served on the Finance Committee virtually every term. I know first hand the ins and outs of Oakland County's budget practices, and have played an active role in the regular review, deliberation, and adoption of an annual budget for Oakland County, monitoring of fund balance, enterprise funds, and other funds that support county government.

Oakland County's fiscal health and financial strength is without question attributed to the long-term planning incorporated in our budget process (and the incredible staff that run the day-to-day operations). In addition to the annual appropriation, our adopted three-year budget and a five-year forecast allow us to identify future budget challenges, make gradual adjustments, without massive disruption to county

function. Furthermore, I'm very familiar with Oakland County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that provides a detailed overview of the past year's financial activity, and is an essential tool for future planning. I am committed to continuing our long-standing practice of long-range budget planning to preserve and maintain our strong fiscal health going forward.

As mentioned above, I'm a former state legislator. While I never served as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I became extremely proficient in understanding state department budgeting as a part of my duties as a state representative and served my role in the adoption of state budgets (at the time roughly \$40 billion annually).

Finally, I am a member of the Board of Directors for Cornerstone Community Financial (CCF) Credit Union headquartered in Auburn Hills, MI. CCF is a \$300 million credit union serving 23,000 members. As a director, I am familiar with the finance and accounting practices appropriate for a credit union this size. In fulfilling the fiduciary responsibilities to members, I review monthly financial statements, annual budgets, and regulatory audits among other financial requirements. Other duties include providing oversight, strategic goal settings, and making sure the credit union maintains its sound financial condition.

Q. Describe your involvement with national, state, and local civic organizations, especially working with other leaders.

R. For over 20 years, I've built a reputation of being able to work together with other leaders to get things done for the people we serve. Here in Oakland County, we have long proved that Democrats and Republicans can come together to pass budgets, advance policy, and get results. Frankly, Lansing and Washington, DC could learn a lesson on how it's done by observing how we operate in Oakland County. The public wants leaders to work together to produce real results for our communities. That's the tradition in Oakland County, and I plan to continue it.

I have strong and long-standing working relationships with the individual members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners – Democrats and Republicans. We all want to build on the successes of Oakland County and I'm determined to work closely with the board so that we achieve success for the residents of our community.

Regional cooperation is only possible when leaders from the region have a mutual respect for one another, are open to listening to each other, and bring a commitment to working together. I have those existing relationships with regional local and county leaders that will be extremely useful in forging new partnerships and new regional approaches to solving problems.

As a former legislator, and as someone who has professionally been involved with policy advocacy for years, I have developed relationships with many state and federal policy makers across the state. I'm also part of networks around the country made up of state, county, and local elected officials. This affords me the opportunities to learn about new and innovative approaches to common challenges.

As a local leader, I bring all of these relationships to work for the betterment of Oakland County, and to improve the lives for our residents.

As for local civic organizations, I bring more than 20 years of experience working on issues to improve family security, economic justice, equality, health care, and environmental stewardship to name just a few. Throughout this time, I've worked with all the leading civic and advocacy groups that work in these spaces. I've assisted in the building of some of these organizations, served as advisor to others, and have been a strong partner to many more over the years. These groups collectively play a critical role for improving the lives of people and families in our communities.

Q. What do you think is the largest problem facing Oakland County today?

R. Largest problem: How will Oakland County maintain the revenue needed to fund essential county services, while at the same time making strategic investments in people and our communities to grow a resilient local economy that works for everyone?

Revenue: Oakland County is not immune to the challenges that face all local governments in Michigan. Reduced revenue from state revenue sharing, constraints imposed by the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A, unfunded and underfunded state and federal mandates, and other factors place incredible pressure on how we fund county government over the next decade. This financial pressure is exacerbated by massive infrastructure needs which while not exclusive a burden on county resources, is a burden that will fall on all of us as taxpayers and ultimately competes for the resources needed to fund essential services. Furthermore, standing at the edge of the largest economic expansion in U.S. history, we need to prepare for the inevitable downturn by specifically identifying what preemptive actions we need to take to mitigate the economic impact of such an event. We pride ourselves on having an efficient county operation, but it has a cost that needs to be paid for.

Talent: Local revenue growth is directly tied to the economy and the economy is tied to having the worker talent available to meet the job needs of today and tomorrow. We have the most educated workforce in the state. We have among the best education institutions in the state to develop talent. However, we continue to struggle with keeping the talent here. We are not just competing to keep and attract talent from the major cities across the country, but we are competing with Columbus, Indianapolis, and Cleveland. We need to do more to grow and keep talent here to power our local economy.

Resilience: The world is changing. The future of work and the jobs of tomorrow are changing. Automation provides opportunity and challenges for how people will live and make a living in the coming decades. While we may not be able to make our economy and our county government recession proof, we can take steps to make us more recession resilient, and become better positioned to move forward. Developing these strategies now will result in faster recovery and greater success for Oakland County.

Addressing revenue challenges, attracting and retaining talent, and building a more resilient economy is critical to growing prosperity in Oakland County. Our continued success as a county and a region depends on it.

In conclusion, I believe I have the leadership, county experience, and proven record for getting things done for the people of Oakland County. As the next County Executive, I commit to build on our past success, and continue the tradition of having the best well-run county government in Michigan.

Q. Applicant's Signature

R. David T. Woodward

Q. Date:

R. 08/13/19

###