2016
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2016

PREPARED BY: Department of Management & Budget • Laurie Van Pelt, Director
I am pleased to present the county’s Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2016. This document will help you to better understand your county government and how it utilizes your tax dollars.

Oakland County has a reputation for fiscal excellence. Our prudent fiscal management is a result of our balanced three-year budget which allows us to continue to provide residents with outstanding services, innovate the way in which we deliver those services, while continuing to manage fluctuations in tax revenue. We exercise “thoughtful management not crisis management.” It’s what earns the county a AAA bond rating every year from Moody’s Investors Service and Standard & Poor’s (S&P). Oakland County adopts the long term view - the long range vision - and has the patience and discipline to get there. Our countywide elected officials are all on board working cooperatively with us as we manage costs.

Each year, Oakland County publishes a document called the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Much of the information in the CAFR is technical and complex, resulting in a document that is not very user-friendly for the average person.

It contains the county’s financial statements which are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the standards and guidelines set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The CAFR also includes an independent auditor’s report which states the information contained in the financial statements has been reviewed by the firm, and with reasonable assurance, the financial information is complete, presented accurately, and in the correct format.

Oakland County offers this financial summary for residents to provide a clearer, simpler picture of county finances. It also includes a brief discussion of select county programs and initiatives. Oakland County’s Financial Summary for 2015 received the prestigious Popular Annual Financial Report Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada, which is detailed on page 20 of this document.

I hope you enjoy our 2016 edition.
COMMISSIONERS
David E. S. Bowman
Hugh D. Crawford
William Dwyer
Wade Fleming
Marcia Gershenson
Michael J. Gingell
Robert Gosselin
Robert Hoffman
Janet Jackson
Adam Kochenderfer
Eileen T. Kowall
Christine Long
Gary R. McGillivray
Thomas Middleton
Nancy L. Quarles
John A. Scott
Michael Spisz
Shelley G. Taub
Philip J. Weipert
Dave Woodward
Helaine Zack

CITY/TWP OF RESIDENCE
Pontiac
Novi
Farmington Hills
Troy
Bloomfield Hills
Independence Township
Troy
Highland
Southfield
Rochester Hills
White Lake
Commerce Township
Madison Heights
Clarkston
Southfield
Waterford
Oxford
Bloomfield Township
South Lyon
Royal Oak
Huntington Woods
Oakland County, Michigan is synonymous with excellence. Its prosperous communities, natural landscapes, premier entertainment venues, diverse restaurants, quality schools, leading medical facilities and dependable business resources offer an unparalleled quality of life for those who live, work or spend leisure time in Oakland County.

Over 1.2 million residents enjoy distinct neighborhoods including rural regions, walkable downtowns and thriving cities. Oakland County’s diverse collection of cities, villages and townships offers a broad selection for every budget and lifestyle – from rolling farmland to established city neighborhoods with tree-lined streets, parks and nearby schools, and newer developments and housing options.

Business leaders – from small startups to major corporations – depend on Oakland County’s world-class resources, thriving business climate and proven infrastructure. The county offers a solid environment of support, with programs and technologies focused on ongoing economic growth and development.

Oakland County’s top ten employers cover a diverse mix of manufacturing, health and government sectors:

1. Beaumont Health Systems
2. FCA US LLC (formerly Chrysler Group LLC)
3. General Motors Corporation
4. Ascension Michigan
5. U.S. Postal Service
6. Oakland County Government
7. Henry Ford Health Systems
8. Trinity Health
9. Magna International of America, Inc.
10. Comerica Bank

Oakland County has a reputation as home to many of the region’s top educational facilities, from Pre-K through higher education to dedicated research facilities focused on high-tech skills that meet the region’s increasing need for tech-savvy talent.

Quality-of-life advantages include 88,000 acres of park land, over 1,400 fresh-water lakes, and miles of trails and pathways for hiking, biking and horseback riding. There are a wide variety of shopping experiences ranging from small boutiques to large high-end multi-level malls. Whether you’re looking for a place to call home, raise a family, work or spend leisure time, there’s a community with your name on it in Oakland County.

did you know?
The county’s museums include Cranbrook Academy of Art, Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Holocaust Memorial Center.

Some of the world’s top musicians perform at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Independence Township, Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester and the Palace of Auburn Hills.

The Detroit Zoo is located in Oakland County.

Popular annual events in Oakland County include the Fire & Ice Festival; Woodward Dream Cruise; Arts, Beats & Eats; Quake on the Lake and the Michigan Renaissance Festival.
Oakland County is traditionally one of the most prosperous local economies in the United States. Oakland County’s economy is continuing to improve since the days of the “Great Recession.” Over the period of 2009 to 2015, the county’s job growth rate of 15.2% greatly outpaced both the nation’s growth rate of 8.0% and the state’s growth rate of 9.6%.

According to the May 2016 Oakland County Economic Outlook report prepared by University of Michigan economists, over 44,150 new jobs will be added in Oakland County over the three-year period from 2016 through 2018. Figure 1 illustrates this upward trend.

Almost three-quarters of the new jobs forecasted are expected to be in high-wage and middle-wage industries.

Oakland County’s per capita personal income (PCPI) was $63,454 in 2015, the highest among Michigan’s 83 counties. Oakland’s PCPI also compares favorably to the national average of $48,112 and state average of $42,812.

In September 2016, the unemployment rate in Oakland County of 4.3% was lower than both the State of Michigan and the national average which were at 4.8%. Unemployment rates for the past decade are illustrated in Figure 2.
Oakland County’s collective property values remain the highest of all 83 counties in Michigan, and represents 16.4% of the state’s total value (Oakland County’s population represents only approximately 12.5% of Michigan’s total). The majority of the County’s taxable value is within the residential class of property, which is approximately 73.9% of the total property tax base.

The county continues to exercise a prudent and conservative approach to tax revenues by controlling the millage rate levied on the tax base. The county millage rate for the July 1, 2016 property tax levy was reduced from 4.09 mills to 4.04 mills (out of an authorized levy of 4.1868 mills) for operations, one of the lowest county tax rates in the State of Michigan.

The 2016 market value of property in Oakland County was approximately $130.2 billion, an increase of approximately $8.6 billion from 2015 to 2016 (7.04%). Taxable Value (TV), the calculation on which property tax revenue is based, increased 1.72%. This is the fourth year of increase in property value following five (5) consecutive years of decline and is further evidence that Oakland County’s economy is on the rebound. Changes in the County’s taxable value and tax levies are depicted in Figures 3 and 4.
Oakland County employs policies and practices designed to ensure its continuing ability to provide quality services despite economic or budgetary challenges. The county’s strong financial position is primarily a reflection of its adherence to policies and practices that result in strong long-term financial planning, low debt obligations, and maintaining responsible fund balance amounts in conformance with GFOA Recommended Practices.

The hallmark of the county’s focus on long-term financial planning is preparation and adoption of a triennial budget and five-year forecast. Not only is the budget adopted for the next three fiscal years, the triennial budget is considered a “rolling” budget. When it is amended, the amendment always reflects the impact for both the remainder of the current fiscal year and the impact on the entire next two fiscal years. The mantra adopted by the county administration is “thoughtful management” not “crisis management.”

The county has continually maintained a AAA bond rating. This rating allows Oakland County to borrow at the lowest possible interest rate, saving the county millions of dollars in future borrowing costs. Local municipalities can also utilize the county’s bond rating to borrow funds.

The issuance of debt is also limited. Debt is only issued after other sources of funding (operating budget, existing fund balance, etc.) have been explored. The county has the authority to issue up to $6.51 billion in debt (10% of its State Equalized Value); however, the actual outstanding debt is $743.35 million, 11.42% of the permissible amount.

Oakland County was the first county in the nation to fully fund its long-term retiree health care obligation. The most recent actuarial reports issued for the Oakland County VEBA and Employee’s Retirement System are for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. The VEBA fund assets were reported at 124% of the fund actuarially determined liabilities. The Oakland County Employees Retirement System assets were reported at 103% funded. It is important to note that the annual cost of retiree pension and health care benefits, both for the current year’s expense and the actuarially determined amount for the future years’ costs are accounted for in each year’s operating budget. None of the costs are hidden and none are pushed off onto future generations.

The General Fund is the county’s principal operating fund. A favorable General Fund balance is an indicator of a healthy operating environment. Oakland County’s sustainable long-term goal is to maintain a General Fund balance equating to approximately 20% of annual General Fund / General Purpose expenditures. In fact, the County adopted a resolution in July of 2015 to formally codify the fund balance policy for the General Fund.

Since 2007, Oakland County’s general fund balance has increased by a total of $176.5 million. The increase is primarily attributable to the county’s effort to limit spending while maintaining services. A concentrated effort to build additional resources to cover anticipated revenue reductions has also contributed to the increase in recent years.

**Figure 5** provides a historical view of the county’s General Fund balance.
General Fund Revenues & Expenditures
(In Millions of Dollars)

Change in General Fund Equity
(In Millions of Dollars)

Source: Oakland County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Revenue and Expenditures (In Millions)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$452.1</td>
<td>$365.1</td>
<td>$353.0</td>
<td>$326.9</td>
<td>$328.9</td>
<td>$335.4</td>
<td>$342.9</td>
<td>$347.5</td>
<td>$372.1</td>
<td>$387.1</td>
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<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>319.2</td>
<td>320.1</td>
<td>307.3</td>
<td>296.1</td>
<td>324.4</td>
<td>337.1</td>
<td>329.8</td>
<td>337.1</td>
<td>345.3</td>
<td>346.6</td>
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<td>Excess (Deficiency)</td>
<td>$132.9</td>
<td>$45.0</td>
<td>$45.7</td>
<td>$30.8</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
<td>$(1.7)</td>
<td>$13.1</td>
<td>$12.2</td>
<td>$26.8</td>
<td>$40.5</td>
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<td>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</td>
<td>(128.2)</td>
<td>(39.5)</td>
<td>(23.7)</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>(1.0)</td>
<td>(20.6)</td>
<td>(45.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Equity</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>106.3</td>
<td>170.0</td>
<td>201.2</td>
<td>223.4</td>
<td>242.8</td>
<td>254.0</td>
<td>260.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Equity</td>
<td>$78.8</td>
<td>$84.3</td>
<td>$106.3</td>
<td>$149.0</td>
<td>$201.2</td>
<td>$223.4</td>
<td>$242.8</td>
<td>$254.0</td>
<td>$260.2</td>
<td>$255.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>As a % of Revenue</td>
<td>17.43%</td>
<td>23.09%</td>
<td>30.11%</td>
<td>45.58%</td>
<td>61.17%</td>
<td>66.61%</td>
<td>70.81%</td>
<td>73.09%</td>
<td>69.93%</td>
<td>65.95%</td>
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(a) 2007 revenues/expenditures reflect an increase in the July levy due to an acceleration in the collection of County property taxes pursuant to Michigan Public Act 357 of 2004.
(b) 2011 Beginning Equity adjusted per GASB 54 restatement; included in Note 20 of the FY 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
Fiscal stability is also enhanced through the annual budget process which appropriates for full utilization of the county’s 4,589 authorized positions. Should vacancies occur or positions be filled at a level lower than authorized, the resulting favorable variance has a positive impact on fund balance.

- Many other types of funds are used in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to record the programs and services provided by the county.
- Special Revenue funds are used to record the activities that receive monies for restricted purposes such as Friend of the Court and grant-funded activities.
- Debt Service funds account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest, usually bonds.
- Capital Project funds account for the purchase or construction of major capital facilities, such as buildings, drains and sewer projects.
- Enterprise funds account for functions that are financed primarily through user charges and operate similar to businesses, such as the airports, water and sewer operations and the parks.
- Internal Service funds account for the financing of goods or services provided by one county department or agency to other departments or agencies on a cost-reimbursement basis.

The overall revenues and expenses for county functions illustrated in Figure 6 are derived from Governmental and Proprietary Fund Statements presented in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged for goods or services. The Revenue Trend graph provides a 5-year history on county revenue sources. The Expense Trend graphs show expenses by major activities within the county. For additional information regarding changes by activity, please refer to the Management Discussion and Analysis section in the Fiscal Year 2016 CAFR.

Internal Service fund revenues and expenses have not been included in these totals. Also, the funds of the component units (Road Commission and Chapters 20 & 21 Drainage Districts) are not presented as these services are provided by other county entities. However, General Fund transfers to the Internal Service funds are included as expense to more accurately reflect the use of county tax revenues.
FIVE YEAR REVENUE & EXPENSE TRENDS (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

**REVENUES: GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charges for Services</td>
<td>$152.9</td>
<td>$168.2</td>
<td>$164.2</td>
<td>$159.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$87.1</td>
<td>$72.8</td>
<td>$70.1</td>
<td>$65.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>$200.7</td>
<td>$199.8</td>
<td>$206.3</td>
<td>$204.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental Revenue</td>
<td>$11.1</td>
<td>$12.8</td>
<td>$14.1</td>
<td>$39.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Earnings &amp; Other</td>
<td>$9.7</td>
<td>$6.6</td>
<td>$8.5</td>
<td>$9.4</td>
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**EXPENSES: GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>$203.7</td>
<td>$195.3</td>
<td>$201.6</td>
<td>$186.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice Administration</td>
<td>$91.4</td>
<td>$90.9</td>
<td>$93.5</td>
<td>$86.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Citizen Services</td>
<td>$83.1</td>
<td>$82.5</td>
<td>$87.2</td>
<td>$83.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$29.2</td>
<td>$29.0</td>
<td>$42.3</td>
<td>$38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>$1.7</td>
<td>$1.6</td>
<td>$1.4</td>
<td>$1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce &amp; Comm. Dev.</td>
<td>$53.8</td>
<td>$48.9</td>
<td>$48.4</td>
<td>$44.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$24.9</td>
<td>$24.8</td>
<td>$23.9</td>
<td>$69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$5.9</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
<td>$5.3</td>
<td>$6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REVENUES: BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charges for Services</td>
<td>$226.5</td>
<td>$248.1</td>
<td>$251.5</td>
<td>$261.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$31.2</td>
<td>$4.8</td>
<td>$4.9</td>
<td>$12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>$11.7</td>
<td>$11.4</td>
<td>$11.6</td>
<td>$11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Earnings &amp; Other</td>
<td>$39.6</td>
<td>$8.2</td>
<td>$5.2</td>
<td>$2.9</td>
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</tbody>
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**EXPENSES: BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>$17.4</td>
<td>$17.1</td>
<td>$21.3</td>
<td>$21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Citizen Services</td>
<td>$9.0</td>
<td>$6.7</td>
<td>$6.9</td>
<td>$7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$174.3</td>
<td>$204.1</td>
<td>$205.9</td>
<td>$211.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>$20.1</td>
<td>$21.2</td>
<td>$22.9</td>
<td>$23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$1.6</td>
<td>$1.4</td>
<td>$1.3</td>
<td>$1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6
The receipt of county revenues are defined as follows:

**Property Taxes**: The county’s actual property tax for General Fund operations is based on a rate of 4.04 mills which is less than the maximum authorized millage rate of 4.1868 mills. Parks and Recreation is also supported by taxes of .2410 mills and is reported as an Enterprise fund.

**Grants and Contributions**: Restricted funding provided by federal or state governments.

**Intergovernmental**: Revenue from state or local governments in the form of shared revenue or reimbursements.

**Charges for Services**: Revenue from fees received for purchased services.

**Investment Earnings and Other**: Interest on investments, revenue from rebates, refunds of prior year's expenditures, transfers in from other funds and miscellaneous sources.

For presentation purposes, county expenditures were broken into seven broad program areas: General Government, Public Safety, Justice Administration, Recreation and Leisure, Direct Citizen Services, Commerce and Community Development, and Public Works.
General Government includes all areas of the county involved in the administration and financial aspects of county business. Included in this program are the County Executive, Board of Commissioners, Treasurer, Management and Budget, Human Resources and Central Services Departments. The Elections Division is also included.

EXECUTIVE: The County Executive is responsible for coordinating county activities, maintaining fiscal policies and interacting with the county Board of Commissioners and other countywide elected officials. Centralized internal auditing and purchasing functions are performed by the Compliance Office under the County Executive.

LEGISLATIVE: The Board of Commissioners is the governing body of Oakland County. The board is responsible for the adoption of the annual budget, establishing the county property tax millage rate, formulating and establishing county policies, making appointments to various boards and commissions, and adopting ordinances and rules.

TREASURY: The Treasurer serves as the banker of the county and acts as the custodian of all county funds and as the collector and distributor of all revenues.

FINANCE: The Department of Management and Budget oversees the finance functions of the county including Equalization and Fiscal Services. The Director is designated as the Fiscal Officer of the county and is responsible for ensuring that the county operates within a balanced budget and that all financial transactions and financial reporting are completed in accordance with the accounting and reporting standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

HUMAN RESOURCES: The Human Resources Department, as mandated by Public Act 139, “directs the performance of all personnel and labor relations functions for the county.”

SUPPORT SERVICES: Central Services is responsible for the overall administration and operations of the Support Services Division which provides a wide variety of governmental and internal services to county departments including Vehicle Operations, Record Retention, Mailroom, and the Courthouse Cafeteria. This department also oversees the three county airports.

ELECTIONS: The Elections Division is responsible for overseeing all county and multi-jurisdictional elections, programming elections tabulators, printing ballots, training poll workers and maintaining permanent records of election results. The division also maintains all campaign finance records for local offices and updates the statewide Qualified Voter File (QVF) database. Additionally, the Elections Division records and maintains the official minutes of the Board of Commissioners.
Public Safety consists of all aspects of law enforcement.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT / INCARCERATION / COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT:** The Sheriff’s Office is comprised of the Administrative Services Division, which conducts business operations, and two main groups: the Corrections/Courts and Inmate and Support Services Group and the Law Enforcement Services Group. The Corrections/Courts and Inmate and Support Services Group is made up of Corrective Services, which oversees operations of the main jail and inmate support services and Corrective Services - Satellites, which oversees the operations of facilities outside the main jail, including court security. The Law Enforcement Services Group includes Emergency Response and Preparedness; Emergency Communications and Operations which provides dispatch services; Patrol Services, which administers law enforcement activities including contracted patrol; and Investigative/Forensic Services, which provides countywide police service support including investigations for numerous areas such as narcotics, fire, homicide, crime scene and computer crime in addition to forensic lab services.

Children’s Village is the county’s residential facility for children and youths, ranging in age from birth to eighteen years, who are court-ordered into care or who have been placed in the facility by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Information Technology programs that support local community law enforcement are also included under Public Safety.

**ALTERNATIVE CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS:** The Community Corrections Division provides a wide array of sentencing alternatives for all types of non-violent offenders. These programs offer rehabilitative value without compromising public safety. All programs are cost effective alternatives to incarceration, which allows for the jail space to be reserved for the most serious offenders.

The Circuit Court Probation Division provides the Oakland County Circuit Court with a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report consistent with Michigan Compiled Law 771.14 prior to sentencing on each defendant convicted of a felony and referred by the court. The Circuit Court Probation Division is a multi-funded agency, which is funded by both the State of Michigan and Oakland County.

**HOMELAND SECURITY:** The Homeland Security Division provides emergency management planning, response, recovery and mitigation services for natural, technological, national security and nuclear emergencies or disasters affecting Oakland County.

**ANIMAL CONTROL** is responsible for the enforcement of state laws pertaining to domestic animals and livestock.

**Crime Prevention:** The Youth Assistance Program, within Circuit Court, is designed to strengthen youth and families to prevent and reduce delinquency, abuse, and neglect through community and volunteer involvement.
Justice Administration includes the Circuit, 52nd District and Probate Courts as well as the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. A portion of the County Clerk, the official recorder of county records and Clerk to the Circuit Court, is also included.

**JUDICIAL PROCESS:** The 6th Judicial Circuit Court serves all the citizens of Oakland County. It hears civil, criminal, and family cases, as well as appeals from district courts, administrative agencies, and some Probate Court matters. The job of the court is to dispense justice, interpret the law, and settle disputes.

The 52nd District Courts have jurisdiction over all misdemeanor, ordinance and charter violations and preliminary examinations on all felony cases. The District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over General Civil actions when the amount in controversy does not exceed $25,000, Landlord Tenant and Land Contract Forfeiture cases, as well as Small Claims cases with disputes not exceeding $5,500. The District Court may also conduct marriages. There are four divisions of the court: Division I in Novi, Division II in Clarkston, Division III in Rochester Hills and Division IV in Troy.

**ESTATES AND MENTAL HEALTH:** Probate Court is responsible for the probating of wills, guardianships, conservatorships and the administration of estates of deceased persons by personal representatives.

**LITIGATION/INVESTIGATIONS:** The Prosecuting Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer of the county, primarily charged with the duty to see that state criminal laws are faithfully enforced. The Prosecuting Attorney represents the People of the State of Michigan in all State law criminal matters pending before all courts in Oakland County, advocates for new legislation and other reforms in the system, and assists in the training of police officers to ensure they are able to perform their functions in accordance with the law.

**CASE RECORDS:** The Office of the County Clerk is responsible for recording and maintaining all 6th Judicial Circuit Court paper and electronic documents in accordance with all statutory and Supreme Court guidelines.

**CIVIL ENFORCEMENT:** Fiscal Services Reimbursement is responsible for managing collections for the Circuit, Family, and Probate Courts for all court ordered fees and determines the ability to pay for various court services. Prosecuting Attorney and Friend of the Court Child Support Enforcement Programs are also included in this area.
Recreation and Leisure includes services that promote recreational, leisure and cultural activities for county citizens which are provided by Parks and Recreation, the Library and the Office of Arts, Culture & Film.

PARKS AND RECREATION: With 6,700 acres of natural landscapes and outdoor recreation for Oakland County residents, the 13 Oakland County parks offer a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities ranging from camping, hiking, swimming, boating, golfing and picnicking to cross-country skiing, ice skating and ice fishing. Explore Oakland County Parks and Recreation at OaklandCountyParks.com.

Parks and Recreation is also responsible for the management and operation of the Oakland County Market. The market is a mainstay for providing grower-direct fresh produce and flowers to county residents and visitors. The venue features a Farmers Market that operates three days a week and welcomes nearly 160,000 visitors annually.

LIBRARY: The Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library provides an extensive, up-to-date legal research collection for use by the general public and legal professionals alike. It is the largest public county law library in the State of Michigan, serving the public, government and court employees, attorneys, students and other visitors. The library assists the public with court proceedings by providing court rules, procedural information, forms and free computer access for legal research.

ARTS, CULTURE & FILM: While Oakland County no longer administers the regional granting program directly, the county still provides administrative staff to enhance, strengthen and promote the arts and cultural life in Oakland County through advocacy, promotion, funding and programming initiatives.

The MI Great Artist™ is an online art competition for visual artists, 18+ years of age. Artists are able to submit up to 5 images and descriptions of their work for public voting at info@migreatartist.com.
Direct Citizen Services represents all areas which provide direct services to individual citizens.

HEALTH SERVICES / ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: The Health Division protects the public’s health through health promotion, disease prevention and protection of the environment. In addition to its traditional public health role, the Health Division is committed to protecting the public through continual review and improvement of its emergency response capabilities, having developed nationally recognized preparedness programs. The Health Division executes all of these responsibilities in an exemplary manner in an environment of limited resources and increasing requirements from state and federal authorities.

GENERAL SERVICES: Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) is part of the National Cooperative Extension Service (CES) system that provides unbiased research-based education to address critical issues. The mission of MSUE is to help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

The Veterans’ Services Division provides technical, local-level advocacy and assistance to Oakland County veterans and/or dependents to obtain federal, state and local veterans’ benefits.

The County Clerk Vital Records Unit is responsible for recording and safeguarding birth, death, marriage, notary public and assumed names documents in addition to processing concealed weapons permits.

The Medical Examiner’s office investigates and determines cause and manner of death in any violent, sudden, unexpected, suspicious or otherwise unexplained death, inclusive of all jail deaths and deaths in police custody occurring within Oakland County.

Pet adoptions through the Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center are also included in this area.

CHILD WELFARE: Children’s Village shelter care for young people who are in need of protection for reasons of abuse or neglect and MSUE 4-H Youth programs.

FAMILY SERVICES: The Prosecuting Attorney Victim Services Section offers information and support to all crime victims throughout Oakland County. The information helps victims or families understand and exercise their rights, as well as gain an understanding of the criminal court process.

Circuit Court Adoption Services processes adoption petitions for direct placement, agency, adult, stepparent, and relative adoptions.

MENTAL HEALTH: represents the annual payment to the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, as required by the Mental Health Code.

did you know?

Energizing Connections for Healthier Oakland (ECHO), convened by Oakland County Health Division, is a county-wide health improvement initiative focused on achieving a community where every person that lives, works, attends school, worships, or plays in Oakland County is a healthy person.
Commerce and Community Development reflects all efforts to promote and sustain a strong business and economic climate, a healthy environment and vibrant communities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT programs prepare and provide land use information to, and zoning and master plan reviews for, Oakland County communities to improve land use coordination and decision-making. Also, Main Street Oakland County maximizes the economic potential and preserves the heritage and sense of place of the county's historic commercial (downtown) districts.

The Community & Home Improvement Division administers federal housing and community development grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These grants are designed to create viable communities by providing decent, safe and sanitary housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities for persons of low and moderate income, homeless persons and persons with housing issues.

The Register of Deeds records and safeguards all land related documents including subdivision plats and condominium plans. The office has a Super Index, allowing millions of documents filed with Oakland County to become easily searchable by any piece of information contained within them. There is also a Property Records Notification system that notifies citizens by e-mail when a document is recorded with their specified search term(s).

COMMUNITY SERVICES: The Equalization Division assists the Board of Commissioners in ascertaining whether the real and personal property in the townships and cities of Oakland County have been equally and uniformly assessed at true cash value.

Access Oakland Account Services provides secure access to business systems, account management, reporting, and payment options.

The Water Resources Commissioner is the delegated authority to maintain the established legal levels of 54 lakes within Oakland County. Under the provisions of the Land Division Act, the Water Resources Commissioner’s Office also reviews and approves subdivision plats to ensure that adequate storm drainage facilities have been included in the engineering plan.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT programs support the retention and expansion of existing businesses and entrepreneurs through a comprehensive range of services and information. The programs diversify Oakland County’s economic base by attracting new companies throughout the world via its Emerging Sectors initiative. Since its creation in 2004, the Emerging Sectors® program has had 424 business successes and has attracted about $3.8 billion in investment, creating approximately 40,500 jobs and retaining 25,500 jobs.

Oakland County continues to have a strong international presence. Out of the $810 million privately invested in Oakland County in 2016, $371 million, or about 46 percent, was from foreign-owned firms in 15 countries. There are over 1,050 foreign-owned firms with a presence in the county currently.

The Product Development and Services program researches, collects, and disseminates data and maps that describe Oakland County, its communities, businesses, and demographic/development trends. In the past year, the One Stop Shop Business Center, aided clients in obtaining $25 million in capital investments that created over 420 jobs and helped boost the sales of client businesses by $17.35 million. In addition, the One Stop Shop helped launch 26 new small businesses, assisted 166 entrepreneurs who participated in “Walk in Thursdays,” and hosted 463 individuals in 47 business workshops.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: Environmental Stewardship supports sustainable economic growth, development, and redevelopment through the preparation and communication of information, plans, visions, and options which advance proactive, coordinated, locally-driven conservation and recreation initiatives.

The Waste Resource Management program develops and administers the county’s solid waste planning efforts.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Under the joint direction of the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the County Executive, the Workforce Development Division administers numerous state and federally funded programs that serve the county’s job seekers and employers.
Public Works refers to all operating systems that form the infrastructure of basic county functions.

**COUNTY FACILITIES:** Facilities Management plans, designs, constructs, renovates, operates, maintains, repairs, and provides security for the facilities and grounds owned and maintained by Oakland County.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Aviation Division oversees three county-owned airports; Oakland County International Airport, Oakland/Troy Airport, and Oakland/Southwest Airport.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES/DRAINAGE SYSTEMS:** The Water Resources Commissioner provides leadership in areas of regional cooperation in order to make responsible decisions about infrastructure, the environment and water quality. These responsibilities include the operation and maintenance of county-owned sewers and many individual municipal sewer systems and drinking water systems under contract. Other functions of the office include operations and maintenance of facilities such as sewage pump stations, retention treatment basins, storm water retention facilities and lake level augmentation sites. Duties also include drain and sewer construction inspection, sewage flow metering, engineering plan review and permitting, as well as a soil erosion control program to monitor construction activities to protect Oakland County lakes and streams from the effects of soil erosion and sedimentation.

**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY:** The Department of Information Technology (IT) plays an integral role in county operations by developing, integrating and maintaining innovative technology programs. IT provides service to all units of county government, as well local municipalities and county-affiliated companies, organizations and individuals.

The county continues to be a leader in efforts to share government resources through intergovernmental cooperative programs. The county’s Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) program is a premiere example of regional collaboration with over 200 Public Safety agencies across Southeast Michigan.

The county’s Department of Information Technology and Corporation Counsel more recently developed the G2G (“government to government”) Marketplace. The G2G Marketplace offers participating jurisdictions a way to evaluate and procure enterprise technology solutions and professional services. Participants can access pre-negotiated contracts with guaranteed best pricing and terms for tested, successful solutions, a best practice library, and other resources that help reduce overall costs. There are over 500 registered city, county, and state government users in 49 states. Visit G2GMarket.com for additional information.
Children’s Village School Based Child and Adolescent Health Center – Oakland Integrated Healthcare Network (OIHN) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) community partnership offering coordinated, primary, mental and dental health care serving at-risk youth at the Children’s Village School.

Digital Editorial Process – This process was established to support county departments with an empowered and progressive team that ensures all digital content for citizen engagement is current and relevant on every digital channel.

Register of Deeds Property Record Notification (PRN) System – A program that allows users to receive an email when a document is recorded in the Register of Deeds Office with their chosen search term, including name, property identification number, or address. Homeowners can be notified if a lien or encumbrance is recorded on their property to help the county and its citizens combat real estate fraud.

Social Media Strategy & Policy – A transparent Social Media Policy was established to educate and empower county employees while protecting the county brand. The Integrated Social Media Marketing Strategy connects departments’ social media efforts with the centralized goals of the county to increase citizen engagement.

County Executive’s Elite 40 Under 40 – Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson launched the Elite 40 Under 40 initiative in 2012 to honor exceptional individuals under the age of 40 who excel in their fields and improve the quality of life in Oakland County.

Purchasing eSignature Project – This program reduces the length of time needed to obtain signatures on a purchase order, contract, or amendment and tracks the advancement of that document throughout the signature process until complete.

Status Offender Program – (STOP) – This Children’s Village program is an intensive, short-term treatment program designed to assist pre- and post-adjudicated offenders to improve their decision making skills and help them return to the community and avoid further escalation within the juvenile justice system.

Emergency Operations Center - Incident Management Team Integration – This mutual aid team comprised of responders from police, fire, EMS, Emergency Management and public works agencies assists in command and control of emergency incidents with the local Incident Commander from any community.

Family Emergency Plan – The Homeland Security Division created a fill-in-the-blank emergency plan form that can be completed on the county website. This program encourages residents to have a pre-written plan available in the event of an actual emergency.

did you know?

Oakland County received 14 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACO) in 2016.

awards & accomplishments

IN 2016
awards & accomplishments
IN 2016 (cont.)

HIV Linkage to Care Program – This program helps to identify client’s potential health issues/concerns, strengthens client and provider relationships, and assists with improving the client’s HIV health-related outcomes.

Prescription Drug Abuse Partnership – The Oakland County Prescription Drug Abuse Partnership (OCPDAP), started in March 2015, creates a coordinated, strategic approach for the prevention and reduction of prescription drug abuse.

G2G Marketplace – An online marketplace that provides governments with an easy-to-use, cost-effective way to purchase and provision information technology services, and to select different information technology solutions from a variety of vendors. The services are offered at discounted prices, providing additional cost savings to governments.

GeoVision: A GIS Self-Assessment Tool – This simple, Excel-based tool offered for each county department evaluates their use of GIS so that they can identify and prioritize future GIS work. Realizing that other government agencies would have this same need, the scope was expanded to include additional business functions.

Map of the Month Program – Each month the Information Technology Department creates a new interactive map and companion blog entry to share on Oakland County’s website and social media outlets.

gfoa award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Oakland County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Oakland County has received a popular award for the last nineteen consecutive years (fiscal years ending 1997-2015). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA.
Oakland County Website
A wealth of information on county services is available on the website at OakGov.com. Copies of this document as well as the county’s Line Item Budget, Program Budget and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report are also available in pdf format on the website.

Oakland County Contacts

General
Main # (248) 858-1000
Toll Free 1-888-350-0900

Elected Officials
Board of Commissioners (248) 858-0100
Clerk/Register of Deeds (248) 858-0581
County Executive (248) 858-0480
Prosecutor (248) 858-0656
Sheriff (248) 858-5000
Treasurer (248) 858-0611
Water Resources Commissioner (248) 858-0958

Courts
Circuit Court (248) 858-0350
Probate Court (248) 858-0260

District Courts
52-1 Novi (248) 305-6080
52-2 Clarkston (248) 625-4880
52-3 Rochester (248) 853-5553
52-4 Troy (248) 528-0400

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
Complete financial statements of Oakland County, with additional demographic and economic information, are provided in the county’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The document is available in PDF format on the county website. A printed version of this report can be viewed at the following location:

Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library
1200 North Telegraph | Building 14 East – 2nd Floor | Pontiac, MI 48341-0453 | (248) 858-0012

Acknowledgements
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