



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12 East, Pontiac, MI 48341

Democratic Caucus Minutes

July 16, 2026 at 8:30 AM

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Angela Powell called the meeting of the Democratic Caucus to order at 8:44 AM in Committee Room A 1200 N. Telegraph Road, 12E, Pontiac, MI 48341.

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Erickson Gault, Marcia Gershenson, Brendan Johnson, Penny Luebs, Gwen Markham, Angela Powell, Yolanda Smith Charles, Linnie Taylor, David Woodward (9)

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: William Miller III (1)

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Board of Commissioners - dated June 11, 2026

Linnie Taylor moved approval of the Minutes dated June 11, 2026, as presented. Seconded by Penny Luebs.

A voice vote was conducted and the Minutes dated June 11, 2026, were approved unanimously.

4. Discussion Items

a. Board of Commissioners - Lakeshore Legal Aid

Akisha Johnson, Chief Advocacy Officer and Beth Richardson, Director of Resource Development, addressed the Caucus regarding \$400,000 for residents' aid in family and legal issues.

Discussion Followed.

Elana A. Rugh, President & CEO of Detroit Historical Society and Neil A. Barclay, President & Chief Executive Officer of Charles H. Wright Museum, addressed the Caucus regarding the Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee item entitled: Board of Commissioners - Approval of the Articles of Incorporation Establishing the Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority.

Discussion Followed.

Joseph W. Colaianne, Michigan Municipal Attorney addressed the Caucus regarding the Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee item entitled: Board of Commissioners - Approval of the Articles of Incorporation Establishing the Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority.

Discussion Followed.

Chair Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding the Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee item entitled: Human Resources - Approval of the Voluntary Early Separation Incentive Program (VESIP) for the Equalization Division.

Chair Woodward addressed the Caucus to table the Public Health and Safety Committee item entitled: Board of Commissioners - Resolution Establishing a Countywide Unmanned Aircraft Systems Funding Oversight Policy for Oakland County Departments, Offices, and County-Funded Operations.

Discussion Followed.

Undersheriff Timothy Willis and Brian Lefler, Chief Financial Officer addressed the Caucus regarding the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee item entitled: Facilities Management - Purchase of 3255 West Hamlin Road for a Training Facility for Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

Discussion Followed.

Commissioner Smith Charles addressed the Caucus regarding Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee items entitled: Economic Development - Appointment of Two Additional Economic Development Corporation Directors for the Lourdes Senior Community Project in the Charter Township of Waterford and Economic Development - Appointment of Two Additional Economic Development Corporation Directors for the Lighthouse MI Project in the City of Pontiac.

Commissioner Johnson addressed the Caucus regarding Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee item entitled: Board of Commissioners - Appointment to the Land Bank Authority.

Discussion Followed.

Commissioner Smith Charles addressed the Caucus regarding Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee item entitled: Board of Commissioners - Resolution Opposing Michigan Constitutional Amendment that Would Disenfranchise Oakland County Citizens.

Discussion Followed.

Commissioner Markham addressed the Caucus regarding Finance Committee item entitled: Information Technology - Comprehensive Information Technology Service Agreement Renewals.

Discussion Followed.

Chair Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding the Budget Presentation - FY 2027 - 2029 Recommended Budget Overview will be reviewed by the Commissioners in mid-August.

Discussion Followed.

Commissioner Smith Charles addressed the Caucus regarding an update from IT and the AI Program.

Commissioner Gershenson addressed the Caucus regarding a meeting with Kate Guzman, Oakland County Health Officer.

Chair Powell addressed the Caucus to review the Democratic Caucus memo of announcements.

5. Public Comment

The following people addressed the Caucus during Public Comment: Margarette Gupta, Robin McGregor, Commissioner Charles Cavell and Commissioner Linnie Taylor.

6. Adjournment

The meeting recessed on Thursday July 16, 2026, at 9:45 AM.

The meeting adjourned on Thursday July 16, 2026, at 1:36 PM.