



THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ADOPTS
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, as the State of Michigan faced the great recession, they looked to find creative ways to save money in the State's general fund; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, a deal between county governments and the State of Michigan, created a property tax collection shift which would provide for revenue sharing funds to the Counties while not relying on the State's general fund for that; and

WHEREAS, during this time, the proceeds from the property tax collection shift was put in a County Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund whereby a county could obtain funds from there; and

WHEREAS, once a county exhausted their reserve fund, they re-entered the state revenue system where they should be receiving their full funding amount; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties has done extensive research into county revenue sharing and the impact the county revenue sharing fund has had on county allocations and indicates that the State of Michigan has cumulatively shorted 60 counties of more than \$110 million between 2009 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County is one of those counties, experiencing a shortfall of \$3,785,728; and

WHEREAS, it is time for those funds to be restored in full this year; and

WHEREAS, despite receiving federal funds through the state as part of the American Rescue Plan, the use of the federal funds is tied to COVID/pandemic related expenses; and

WHEREAS, while Berrien County has exhausted thousands of dollars related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have budgeted services to provide to our citizens which is not related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, services provided by the Berrien County Courts, Prosecutor, Sheriff/Jail, County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner, Administration and Animal Control are all funded in part by County Revenue Sharing and would be impacted by a restriction of the funds for COVID only; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the revenue sharing also goes to support operations of other functions that requires an investment of local county matching funds to accept federal or state funded programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners calls upon state leaders to restore the County Revenue Sharing Fund and to provide a one-time payment of the cumulative shortfall.

Respectfully,
Berrien County Board of Commissioners

R. McKinley Elliott

Jim Curran

Julie Wuerfel

Ezra A. Scott

David Vollrath

Michael J. Majerek

Don Meeks

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