



## CHARTER COMMISSION

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July 21, 2009

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – GOVERNOR GRANHOLM APPROVES MACOMB COUNTY CHARTER

The Honorable Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has approved the Macomb County Charter. Her approval capped six months of work by a bi-partisan 26 member group of specially elected Charter Commissioners. The people of Macomb County will now be able to decide at the polls if the Charter is a form of government they wish to adopt. The Charter Commission is scheduled to meet in special session, this Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room of the County Administration Building, 1 South Main Street, Mount Clemens, to select November 3, 2009 as the election date for that question to be decided. That public meeting is scheduled to be live webcast at [www.macombcountymi.gov/clerksoffice/charter](http://www.macombcountymi.gov/clerksoffice/charter).

On hearing of the Governor's approval, Charter Commission Chair Jacob M. Femminineo, Jr. and Vice Chair Marilyn Lane issued the following joint statement:

"History will recognize the wisdom of the people of Macomb County who selected 26 superb individuals as their Charter Commissioners; the selflessness with which these Charter Commissioners devoted their time and talent to the process; the staff that they selected, Administrative Assistant Edie LaBarge and Executive Director Ralph "Skip" Maccarone; the superb skills of their legal team from O'Reilly, Rancilio; Miller, Canfield; Axe & Ecklund; and George Ward; the cooperation of County Commission Chair Paul Gielegem in coordinating an extraordinary level of cooperation between county department heads, their key staff members and the Charter Commission; County-wide elected officials, Clerk Carmella Sabaugh whose staff took official minutes of our meetings and live webcasted them for public viewing; Treasurer Ted Wahby, Prosecutor Eric Smith, Sheriff Mark Hackel and Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco, who shared their views on how to best address the complex issues that future county leaders can expect to face; and input from over 50 residents and knowledgeable sources that included Rev. Michail Curro, Director of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice, Don Torline, President of Baker College, Dr. Jim Jacobs, President of Macomb County Community College, Kenneth DeCock, of the Macomb Farm Bureau, Dr. Albert Lorenzo, of Oakland University, Grace Shore, Director of the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce, and Paul Tait, Executive Director of SEMCOG. We believe that this Charter is a sound document, built upon principle and well defined standards that will allow a new office of County Executive and a streamlined Board of 13 Commissioners to successfully lead our county into the future.

We would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge the considerable assistance given by State Attorney General Mike Cox, in allowing what we believe is unprecedented access to his key staff members to help us address complex legal questions that arose in this, only the second home rule county charter to be written in the history of the state of Michigan.

And without question we thank the Governor and her staff for their thorough and thoughtful review and valued remarks in approving this Charter for the voters to now consider."

#### MACOMB COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

Jacob Femminineo, Jr. District 17 Chair	Marilyn Lane District 20 Vice-Chair	James F. Kelly District 3 Secretary	David A. Willis District 2 Treasurer
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Matthew J. Wroblewski – District 1	Michael G. Gielniak – District 9
Louis J. Burdi, - District 4	Rick Flynn – District 10
Robert W. Slavko – District 5	Dominic LaRosa – District 11
John Olekszyk – District 6	Vince Viviano – District 12
Elisabeth Sierawski – District 7	Gary S. Anthony – District 13
Donna S. Cangemi – District 8	James Haggerty – District 14

Harry Awdey – District 15	Judy Hartwell – District 22
Tom Rombach – District 16	James Maceroni – District 23
Carrie Lynn Fuca – District 18	Cynthia Konal – District 24
Robert Smith, Jr. – District 19	Charles Medley – District 25
Nick Ciaramitaro – District 21	Monika Kreft Leasure – District 26