

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2009

Contact: Phil Frame
Office of Public Affairs
586-469-7239
phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov

Commissioners set new guidelines for appointments to boards and commissions

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Macomb County Board of Commissioners made the process of selecting people to serve on boards and commissions more open and set guidelines aimed at finding more applicants with specific qualifications for the work they will do.

“Appointments were often dependent on political connections rather than credentials,” said Kathy Tocco, vice chair of the Board of Commissioners and chair of the special committee that created the new guidelines. “The new procedure is more transparent to the public and aims to fill the positions with well qualified applicants.”

The new process is designed to seek out more people who want to make a commitment to volunteer and help them find a role that is in their area of expertise, said County Board Chair Paul Gielegem, who appointed Tocco to lead the initiative.

Current and upcoming vacancies now will be posted at www.macombcountymi.gov along with the timetable for appointments, an application and a consent form for a background check.

Page 2

The Web site also will list all of the boards and commissions, a description of what each one does, their membership and term, necessary qualifications and other pertinent information.

Upcoming vacancies will be published on the Web site along with directions about the application process. The County Board chairman will issue 30-, 60- and 90-day notices.

The new application for appointment requests more detailed information from the person seeking nomination. Applicants also may send in a resume and letters of reference along with the application, although they are not required.

One requirement on the old application form was dropped: It is no longer necessary to get a signature from a county commissioner.

“Appointments should be based on what you know, not who you know,” Tocco said. “This is a more professional approach that we think will encourage more people participate in government and serve the needs of the public.”

The Board of Commissioners also will interview candidates. Interviews – open to the public – will be held monthly on the Tuesday before regular board meetings.

#