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## For Immediate Release

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### County Executive office balances budget, finds a surplus

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel has provided a balanced budget to the Macomb County Board of Commissioners that is certain to put the region on its best financial footing in years.

The proposed budget does not utilize the county's rainy day fund to balance it; rather, a combination of different items such as operating cost reductions, layoffs and labor concessions will all be implemented to keep the county's bottom line in the black. There will also be revenue enhancements. An increase in taxes is not part of the plan.

Hackel's team inherited a budget deficit of \$22.8 million, \$9.1 million of which was carried over from 2011. Not only will the changes balance the budget, but there will be a \$48,336 surplus.

"We are extremely happy with the balanced budget that has been presented to the Board of Commissioners," said Hackel. "By applying a variety of factors to many different areas, we were able to put the county in a great financial position for 2012 and beyond."

Also credited for helping the Executive Office thwart the budget deficit are the unions and employees that made concessions, as well as local judges and courts and other Macomb County elected officials and department heads who worked to reduce overall spending.

"Without everyone working together, balancing the budget would have been extremely tough," said Hackel. "I'm proud that everyone involved realized the importance of getting the county on the right track fiscally."

The total budget for 2012 is \$254 million. Specifically, the general fund budget is set to be at just over \$193 million for 2012, a spending decrease of \$5.9 million or 3 percent from 2011.

Hackel was able to balance the budget at a time when property taxes, the main source of revenue for the county's general fund, have continuously decreased. Taxable value stagnated in 2008 and declined 19.6 percent from that time until the end of 2011. It is expected that property taxes will decrease by another 5 percent and 2 percent respectively in 2012 and 2013.

"This is a very difficult time for our county as property taxes continue to decrease. Making up that difference has been hard, but with everyone in the county working together, we feel as though we have come up with an excellent plan," said Hackel.

A public hearing on the matter will take place on Dec. 13. The Board of Commissioners will then have to vote on whether to approve the proposed budget.

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