



Wexford County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary Taylor, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, third floor of the Historic Courthouse, located at 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, MI 49601.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- F. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION
- G. PRESENTATION AND REPORTS
 - 1. Michigan State University Extension Annual Presentation – (*Eric Karbowski, District 6 Director, MSUE*)
- H. PUBLIC COMMENT
Designated for topics on the agenda only.
- I. CONSENT AGENDA
The purpose of the consent agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one Commission motion without discussion. Any member of the Commission may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed therefrom and placed elsewhere for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If any item is not removed from the consent agenda, the action noted on the agenda is approved by motion of the Commission to adopt the consent agenda.
 - 1. Approval of the September 02, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes..... 1
- J. AGENDA ITEMS
 - 1. Public Defender FY27 Compensation Proposal (*Executive 9/08/2026*).....5
 - 2. MSUE FY27 Agreement Extension Services (*Finance 9/08/2026*)22
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 - 4. Advanced Mechanical Estimate – DHD #10 Furnace & AC Replacement (*Finance 9/08/2026*)25
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- K. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
- L. CORRESPONDENCE
- M. PUBLIC COMMENT
Open for any public comments.
- N. LIAISON REPORT
- O. BOARD COMMENTS
- P. CHAIR COMMENTS
- Q. ADJOURN

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Taylor.

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Aaron Sogge, Jason Nelson, Sandy Bengelink, Michael Bush, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, Jason Baughan and Brian Potter.

Absent- Mark Nyman.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Added: J.6. Dell Technologies Purchase Order Request – Register of Deeds Office

J.7. FOIA Appeal

J.8. No New Roster Positions

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Nelson, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the agenda, as amended.

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition-

Katie Gurumurthy was not present to receive her award for 20 years of service with the County. It will be given to her at a later date.

Cheri Sprik was present to receive her award for 5 years of service.

Presentation and Reports- None.

Public Comment- None

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the August 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Comm Theobald seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in Favor.

Agenda Items

1. Mechanical Inspector Rate Increase

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Mechanical Inspector Rate Increase from \$50.00 to \$60.00 per inspection.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

2. Plumbing Inspector Contract

MOTION by Comm Nelson, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Plumbing Inspector Letter of Understanding between Wexford County and David Anderson, to provide services for the Wexford County Building Department on an as-needed, independent contractor basis, beginning September 2, 2026, at a rate of \$60.00 per inspection, and to authorize the Board Chairman and County Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

3. FY27 MIDC Compliance Plan

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis and authorize the chair to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

4. School Resource Officer Agreement

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the the Agreement for School Resource Officer Law Enforcement Services between Wexford County and Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District, effective August 20, 2026, through June 8, 2029, and authorize the Board Chairman and Sheriff to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

5. Engagement Agreement-Landfill Host Fee Litigation

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Engagement Agreement for the Landfill Host Fee Litigation involving the payment of host fees for the former County landfill located in Cedar Creek Township, now owned by GLF Environmental Inc and authorize the County Administrator to sign on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Sogge asked how much we should be expecting this to cost. Administrator Porterfield explained it is a per hour fee, so we do not know. There might not even be any litigation. There was a notice of possible intent to litigate, but we are unsure at this point.

Commissioner Sogge also asked if there was any insurance coverage or mediation available to avoid litigation. Administrator Porterfield explained that at this point, there has not been discussion about that.

Roll Call: Motion passed 5-3 with Commissioner Sogge, Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Baughan voting against the motion.

6. Dell Technologies Purchase Order Request-Register of Deeds Office
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Dell Technologies Purchase Order Request for the Register of Deeds Office and authorize the County Administrator to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

7. FOIA Appeal
MOTION by Comm Nelson and seconded by Comm Theobald to deny Mr. Meyers' FOIA appeal and uphold the County's quoted fee that was made in accordance with the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act. MCL 15.443(1)(a) – (c).

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

8. No New Roster Positions
MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve no new additional roster positions be added to any county department until the state of the FY 2027 budget is known.

Commissioner Theobald questioned if this was refilling positions or adding them in. It was explained this was adding new positions.

Commissioner Nelson questioned what the point was because the Board has to approve them anyway.

Administrator Porterfield explained that in the past several departments have come to request new positions, and that makes it difficult to budget for wages and benefits. He was wanting to wait for those requests until after the budget is in place.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield noted we are getting started on the budget. The new phones were installed, and there were a few issues at Lake Street. He reminded everyone he and Jami would be at the MAC Conference the following week.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments-

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk, let everyone know that her father wanted her to tell everyone thank you for the prayers and well wishes. He is hoping to be back to meetings the next month, so please keep them coming.

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, reminded everyone that InfoWars has pending litigation, and it is a dead site right now. In the meantime, you should get your news and updates at alexjoneslive.com. He asked everyone to watch and pay attention.

Liaison Reports-

Commissioner Bush attended a Material Management meeting. He will email those out once he receives them.

Commissioner Theobald would be emailing hers out as well.

Board Comments-

Commissioner Potter was glad to hear about Commissioner Nyman.

Commissioner Nelson reminded everyone the 102nd Harvest Festival will be in Manton that weekend. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Theobald reminded everyone of the Child Safety Expo on September 11th at the Cadillac Fire Department. There will be food, fire trucks, and child car seat safety checks.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor noted it was great news about Commissioner Nyman. He thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:12 p.m.

All in favor.

Gary Taylor, Chairperson

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

WEXFORD COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

FY27 Public Defender Attorney Wage Scale Proposal

Plain Language Explanation of MIDC Requirements Funding and Recruitment

SUBMITTED TO THE WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Prepared by	Robert Champion, Chief Public Defender
Office	Wexford/Missaukee Regional Public Defender Office
Date	September 9, 2026
Action requested	Adopt the FY27 attorney wage scale and authorize Start-step placements

DECISION REQUESTED Adopt the four-classification, six-step FY27 Public Defender attorney wage scale and authorize Start-step placements of \$145,000 for Robert Champion, \$108,000 for Geoff Harrison, \$95,000 for Rob Haertel, and \$85,000 for Connor Shantz. The \$55,436.67 base-salary adjustment and associated employer costs are included in the FY27 MIDC compliance-plan budget.

This proposal asks the Board to adopt a four-classification, six-step attorney wage scale funded through the FY27 MIDC compliance plan.

Executive Summary

The Wexford/Missaukee Regional Public Defender Office is one regional office serving two counties. Its attorneys must appear and maintain operations in both Wexford and Missaukee Counties and work with two separate elected prosecuting attorney offices, separate court dockets, and distinct local practices. The Office provides more than 95 percent of the indigent criminal representation in the regional system. Its present responsibilities include adult criminal cases, PPO-violation proceedings, and Friend of the Court criminal-contempt proceedings. Wexford County's public defender attorney compensation no longer reflects the FY2026 Michigan public-sector legal market. Wexford Public Defender salaries are based on a 40-hour workweek - 2,080 work hours per year - and every hourly equivalent for Wexford personnel in this proposal uses that basis. The Office's three assistant public defenders earn between \$75,420.00 and \$93,796.79. Their average salary is \$83,696.44, or \$40.24 per hour. Robert Champion, Chief Public Defender, earns \$126,474.00, or \$60.80 per hour. These figures fall materially below the statewide public defender benchmarks reported by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), below several prosecutor and public defender offices competing for the same limited attorney pool, and below the experienced ranges available in state employment.[1][2]

This is not simply an employee compensation issue. Competitive attorney pay is an operational requirement for a constitutionally adequate indigent defense system. Persistent vacancies or turnover increase workloads, delay client contact, reduce continuity of representation, weaken mentoring and supervision, and force greater reliance on contract counsel. Each of those consequences threatens the Office's ability to satisfy MIDC Standards 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8. A stepped wage scale is especially important because it supports both sides of staffing: a competitive entry point helps recruit qualified applicants, while predictable and controlled progression gives trained attorneys a reason to build a career with the Office.

The staffing need is becoming more urgent. The shortage of qualified attorneys willing to accept indigent-defense appointments is already requiring Wexford to seek representation outside the county. Beginning October 1, 2027, the Office will also assume juvenile matters, adding a known category of appointments, hearings, client and family contact, investigation, and court coverage. Wexford must recruit, retain, and prepare sufficient attorneys before that expansion takes effect.[19]

RECOMMENDATION Adopt a controlled career ladder rather than continuing with flat, individually negotiated salaries. The Start-step placements align the office with FY26 MIDC market evidence while preserving Board authority over later progression.

Understanding MIDC and the County Role

The Michigan Legislature created the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission in 2013 through the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act, 2013 PA 93, MCL 780.981 et seq. The Legislature acted after a statewide advisory commission recommended improvements to Michigan's locally administered indigent-defense system. MIDC's purpose is to help ensure that every local system

provides constitutionally adequate defense services under consistent minimum standards while preserving local administration and choice of delivery model. [20]-[22]

Before MIDC, the quality, resources, attorney compensation, and availability of indigent defense varied significantly by county. MIDC created a statewide process for minimum standards, written compliance plans, cost analyses, grant funding, technical assistance, data review, and enforcement. The Commission does not represent defendants and does not operate Wexford County's office. Wexford and Missaukee continue to administer their regional delivery system and the County Board retains authority over employment classifications and salaries. [20]-[22]

How MIDC Standards Become Binding

The MIDC standards are not separate statutes. They are minimum standards adopted through the process established by statute. The MIDC Act identifies the subjects and principles the standards may address. MIDC proposes a standard after public proceedings, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs approves or rejects it, and an approved standard becomes final subject to judicial review. The October 28, 2022 LARA order followed that process and approved Standard 8. [3][23]

After approval, MCL 780.993 requires each local indigent-defense system to submit an annual compliance plan and cost analysis explaining how it will meet the approved standards. Once the system receives its grant, it must implement the approved plan and comply with the grant terms. MIDC reviews expenditures, data, and performance. The standards therefore carry legal force, but MIDC's authority remains controlled by the Act, the approval process, grant terms, and judicial review. [20][23][25]

How the Funding Structure Protects the County

The Act divides financial responsibility between the local system and the State. The County must maintain its statutory local share. That share is based on the system's average annual indigent-defense spending during the three fiscal years preceding MIDC's creation and is adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index, with the annual adjustment capped at 3 percent. The County is not required to fund approved compliance costs above that statutory share. MCL 780.993 requires the State to provide grants for the additional amount needed to meet the approved standards. [24][25]

Subject	What the law requires	Protection for the County
Local contribution	Maintain the statutory local share, subject to the limited annual inflation adjustment.	Prevents approved standards from becoming an unlimited local funding obligation.
State responsibility	Fund approved compliance costs above the local share through MIDC grants.	Shifts the additional cost of statewide standards to the State.
Local control	Select a compliant delivery model and submit a local plan and cost analysis.	Preserves County administration, employment authority, and budget oversight.
Fiscal accountability	Document expenditures, report required data, and spend grant funds only under the approved plan.	Provides written grant terms, audits, and a process for correcting disputed or improper costs.

For this proposal, the salary increases and related employer costs are included in the FY27 MIDC compliance-plan budget. Approving the wage scale authorizes use of those grant funds for their approved purpose; it does not increase the County's statutory local-share obligation.

What Standard 8 Requires

Standard 8 implements MCL 780.991(2)(b), which directs that economic disincentives or incentives impairing effective representation must be avoided. For salaried public defenders, Standard 8 calls for reasonable salaries, benefits, and resources and identifies Assistant Attorney General and other state-office compensation as guidance. Standard 8 does not dictate one statewide salary table. Each local system must adopt a reasonable structure supported by its market, staffing needs, compliance plan, and cost analysis. [3]

The proposed Wexford scale is the local mechanism for meeting that responsibility. It supplies the market control that a flat salary lacks, creates defined hiring and advancement points, and remains below many upper-end public-sector attorney salaries. The Board retains authority over initial placement and future advancement under County policies.

Requested Board Action

1. Adopt the four-classification, six-step FY27 Public Defender attorney wage scale shown in this proposal.
2. Authorize initial placement of each current attorney at the Start step of the classification for which that attorney qualifies, effective October 1, 2026, or the first payroll period of the FY27 MIDC grant, as administratively appropriate.

Why the Existing Scale Is Out of Alignment with Standard 8

MIDC Standard 8 is the approved statewide minimum standard addressing economic incentives and disincentives in indigent defense. It implements MCL 780.991(2)(b), which requires that economic disincentives or incentives impairing effective representation be avoided. For salaried defenders, the standard calls for reasonable salaries, benefits, and resources and identifies Assistant Attorney General and other state-office compensation as guidance. [3][23]

Standard 8 does not prescribe a specific statewide salary schedule for salaried defenders. Wexford must nevertheless be able to show that its compensation structure is reasonable in light of the state guidance and the labor market from which it recruits. Wexford's current assistant average is below the statewide median minimum, the top assistant salary is below the statewide median maximum, and the Chief salary is below the statewide chief-defender median. The proposed scale is Wexford's evidence-based response to that misalignment. [2][3]

STANDARD 8 FINDING The existing flat structure is out of alignment with Standard 8's reasonable-compensation framework. The proposed scale is Wexford's local, evidence-based compliance response; Standard 8 does not mandate these exact dollar amounts.

Recruitment and Retention Are Compliance Requirements

Northern Michigan has a smaller attorney labor pool, greater travel distances, fewer lateral candidates, and less spousal-employment flexibility than the state's major population centers. A rural office therefore cannot assume that a lower cost of living will offset a materially lower salary. A candidate can remain in public service and earn more in Traverse City, Cheboygan, Marquette, Lansing, Saginaw, Battle Creek, Muskegon, Paw Paw, or state employment. The office must offer a credible career path at the moment the candidate decides whether to apply.

How the Attorney Shortage Is Affecting Wexford Now

The shortage is no longer a prospective concern. When the Office lacks sufficient available staff counsel - whether because of vacancies, conflicts, workload limits, scheduling demands, or the need for counsel with particular qualifications - Wexford must search beyond the local attorney pool. The County is increasingly dependent on attorneys from outside the county to provide representation that cannot be placed locally.[19]

Out-of-county appointments preserve access to counsel, but they are an expensive and fragile safety valve. They can require additional travel time and mileage, complicate confidential client meetings, create scheduling difficulties, reduce availability for emergency or short-notice hearings, and weaken the continuity that comes from counsel who regularly practices in the local courts. The need to look outside Wexford is itself evidence that the local compensation structure is not producing a sufficiently deep and reliable attorney pool.[2][3][19]

How Vacancies Threaten Multiple MIDC Standards

3. **Standard 1 - Education and training.** Turnover removes experienced mentors and requires remaining attorneys to train new lawyers while carrying active caseloads.
4. **Standard 2 - Initial client interview.** Vacancies make it harder to complete prompt confidential interviews, particularly for in-custody clients and clients held outside the county.
5. **Standard 4 - Counsel at first appearance and critical stages.** A thin roster reduces the Office's ability to provide dependable arraignment, hearing, trial, and emergency coverage.
6. **Standard 6 - Workload control.** Every vacancy reallocates cases to the remaining attorneys, increasing the risk that workloads interfere with effective representation.
7. **Standard 7 - Qualifications.** Low experienced-attorney pay limits the Office's ability to assign high-severity and life-offense cases to counsel whose training and trial experience match the case.
8. **Standard 8 - Compensation.** Below-market salaries are an economic disincentive to accepting or continuing indigent defense employment.

Why the Attorney Shortage Cannot Be Absorbed Under Standard 6

Standard 6 requires each indigent-defense attorney's caseload to allow the time and effort necessary for effective representation. It applies to defender offices, contract attorneys, and assigned counsel, and it requires mixed caseloads - including noncriminal matters - to be evaluated proportionally. Wexford therefore cannot cure a recruiting shortage simply by distributing every unfilled, conflict, overflow, or new juvenile assignment among the attorneys who remain.[3]

Every unfilled position or unavailable local assignment increases pressure on the remaining roster. If cases are absorbed internally without adequate staffing, the Office risks excessive workloads, delayed client contact, reduced preparation time, fewer meaningful client meetings, and less capacity for investigation, motion practice, negotiation, and trial. If cases are sent outside the county, the County incurs the higher Standard 8 contract rates and the operational disadvantages described above. Competitive compensation is the practical intervention that addresses both sides of the problem: it enlarges the qualified local pool and protects the remaining attorneys from workloads that jeopardize effective representation.[2][3][19]

Proposed FY27 Compensation Structure

The proposed bands create a transparent career ladder and enough room for recruitment, progression, and retention. They are calibrated to the FY26 MIDC statewide data and Northern Michigan competition, while remaining below many upper-end prosecutor, public defender, and state attorney opportunities. The accompanying FY27 APD I-III wage-scale workbook uses six steps - Start through Year 5 - and converts every salary to an hourly equivalent using Wexford's 40-hour, 2,080-hour work year.

Why a Stepped Wage Scale Improves Recruitment and Retention

A competitive starting salary helps attract applicants, but recruitment also depends on whether a candidate can see a viable career path. A published scale with defined steps shows applicants how compensation can progress as they gain experience, complete required training, assume more difficult cases, and become qualified for higher-severity matters. That transparency makes the Office more credible in a competitive market and reduces the uncertainty created by flat salaries and individually negotiated increases.

The same structure supports retention after an attorney is hired. Without steps, an employee may receive a competitive offer on the first day but have no dependable way to understand how continued service, increased skill, and added responsibility will be recognized. Defined steps give employees a visible reason to remain, develop within the Office, and qualify for advancement instead of leaving for another public employer simply to obtain the next meaningful pay increase.

A stepped scale also improves internal equity and workforce planning. Employees performing comparable work at comparable levels can be placed within the same structure; new hires are less likely to leapfrog experienced staff through one-time negotiations; and the Board can forecast future personnel costs through controlled, reviewable increments. Advancement is not automatic:

it remains subject to qualifications, performance, County personnel policies, Board approval, available funding, and the applicable MIDC compliance plan.

Classification	Proposed FY27 band
Assistant Public Defender I	\$85,000-\$97,500
Assistant Public Defender II	\$95,000-\$105,000
Assistant Public Defender III / Senior	\$108,000-\$115,000
Chief Public Defender	\$145,000-\$155,000

Market targets are based primarily on FY26 MIDC employee-system compensation, with corroboration from current county prosecutor, public defender, MSP, and Attorney General postings. [2]-[18]

Complete FY27 Wage Chart

The schedule has four classifications and six steps. Each cell shows the annual salary followed by the hourly equivalent based on 2,080 annual hours.

Step	APD I	APD II	APD III Senior	Chief Public Defender
Start	\$85,000 \$40.87 per hour	\$95,000 \$45.67 per hour	\$108,000 \$51.92 per hour	\$145,000 \$69.71 per hour
Year 1	\$87,500 \$42.07 per hour	\$97,000 \$46.63 per hour	\$109,500 \$52.64 per hour	\$147,000 \$70.67 per hour
Year 2	\$90,000 \$43.27 per hour	\$99,000 \$47.60 per hour	\$111,000 \$53.37 per hour	\$149,000 \$71.63 per hour
Year 3	\$92,500 \$44.47 per hour	\$101,000 \$48.56 per hour	\$112,500 \$54.09 per hour	\$151,000 \$72.60 per hour
Year 4	\$95,000 \$45.67 per hour	\$103,000 \$49.52 per hour	\$114,000 \$54.81 per hour	\$153,000 \$73.56 per hour
Year 5	\$97,500 \$46.88 per hour	\$105,000 \$50.48 per hour	\$115,000 \$55.29 per hour	\$155,000 \$74.52 per hour

Initial placement at the Start step controls the immediate cost while giving attorneys a visible reason to remain with the office and develop the experience required for more serious cases. Advancement remains subject to Board approval, County personnel policies, performance, qualifications, funding, and the approved compliance plan.

Requested FY27 Individual Placements

Employee	Current salary	Requested FY27	Increase	Increase %	Benchmark placement
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Employee	Current salary	Requested FY27	Increase	Increase %	Benchmark placement
Robert Champion	\$126,474.00	\$145,000.00	\$18,526.00	14.6%	Chief Start
Geoff Harrison	\$93,796.79	\$108,000.00	\$14,203.21	15.1%	APD III Start
Rob Haertel	\$81,872.54	\$95,000.00	\$13,127.46	16.0%	APD II Start
Connor Shantz	\$75,420.00	\$85,000.00	\$9,580.00	12.7%	APD I Start
TOTAL	\$377,563.33	\$433,000.00	\$55,436.67	14.7%	FY27 funded

The total above reflects base salary only. Associated employer costs are included in the FY27 MIDC budget. Final payroll coding and classification placement may be confirmed administratively by Human Resources without reducing the approved salaries.

The requested placements put each current attorney at the Start step of the applicable classification: Connor Shantz at APD I, \$85,000; Rob Haertel at APD II, \$95,000; Geoff Harrison at APD III/Senior, \$108,000; and Robert Champion at Chief Public Defender, \$145,000. The scale then provides controlled growth rather than an immediate placement at the maximum.

FY27 Funding and County Fiscal Impact

FUNDED REQUEST The \$55,436.67 base-salary adjustment and associated employer costs are included in the FY27 MIDC compliance-plan budget. Under the MIDC Act, approved compliance costs above the statutory local share are funded by the State.

The approved FY27 compliance plan carries a combined statutory local share of \$146,758.54 for the Wexford/Missaukee regional system. This is \$862.44, or 0.58 percent, less than the FY26 local share of \$147,620.98. Wexford and Missaukee Counties split that regional local-share cost under their intercounty arrangement; the full amount is not borne by Wexford County alone.

Fiscal item	FY26	FY27	Change or treatment
Combined regional local share	\$147,620.98	\$146,758.54	-\$862.44 (-0.58%)
Indirect-cost recovery payable to Wexford County	\$107,942.00	\$107,942.00	No budgeted change; actual eligible costs control

Both the FY26 and FY27 plans budget \$107,942.00 in indirect-cost recovery payable to Wexford County for countywide services and overhead supporting the regional program. In the FY26 budget, that amount is shown as a 9.5 percent indirect-cost allocation applied to a \$1,136,231.92 cost base. The budgeted amount is not an automatic payment. The amount recovered is based on eligible costs, including wages and benefits, that the County actually pays and documents during the grant year, rather than merely the amounts projected in the budget. Wexford therefore receives recovery only for qualifying costs actually incurred. That recovery benefits Wexford County directly and should be considered alongside Wexford's allocated portion of the shared local cost. [26][27]

The proposed salary increases and associated employer costs are included in the FY27 MIDC compliance-plan budget. Approved compliance costs above the statutory local share are the State's responsibility and are paid through the MIDC grant. Approval of this wage scale therefore authorizes use of approved grant funds; it does not increase the combined local share or create an

uncapped local commitment. Future advancement remains subject to annual County action, the applicable MIDC compliance plan, grant funding, and County personnel policies. [24][25][26]

Proposed Motion

MOTION I move that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners adopt the FY27 Public Defender attorney wage scale consisting of APD I, APD II, APD III/Senior, and Chief Public Defender classifications with Start through Year 5 steps; authorize the initial annual placements of Robert Champion at \$145,000, Geoff Harrison at \$108,000, Rob Haertel at \$95,000, and Connor Shantz at \$85,000, effective October 1, 2026, or the first payroll period of the FY27 MIDC grant, as administratively appropriate; and authorize the County Administrator and Human Resources Department to complete the necessary payroll and budget actions using the FY27 MIDC-funded indigent-defense budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Champion, Chief Public Defender

Sources and Methodology

Salary comparisons were compiled from official FY2026 MIDC materials, Michigan statutes and orders, current County compensation information, and public 2026 employer postings available through September 9, 2026. Wexford Public Defender salaries and hourly equivalents use a 40-hour workweek and 2,080 hours per year. Posted ranges may not reflect an incumbent's actual step, overtime, premium pay, benefits, or negotiated placement.

- [1] Wexford County Public Defender payroll figures and elected Prosecutor compensation information supplied for this proposal
- [2] [Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, FY2026 Attorney Compensation Structure - All Funding Units](#)
- [3] [Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, Minimum Standards for Indigent Criminal Defense Services, Standard 8](#)
- [4] Wexford County Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney or Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, effective October 1, 2026
- [5] [Grand Traverse County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, May 2026](#)
- [6] [Cheboygan County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, July 2026](#)
- [7] [Ionia County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, August 2026](#)
- [8] [Barry County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, June 2026](#)
- [9] [Saginaw County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, April 2026](#)
- [10] [Ingham County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney posting, July 2026](#)
- [11] [Marquette County Senior Assistant Public Defender posting, March 2026](#)
- [12] [Eaton County Assistant Public Defender posting, July 2026](#)
- [13] [Muskegon County Assistant Public Defender posting, April 2026](#)
- [14] [Calhoun County Assistant Public Defender posting, FY2025-26](#)
- [15] [Van Buren County Assistant Public Defender posting, 2026](#)
- [16] [Michigan State Police Trooper / Police Officer statewide posting, March 2026](#)
- [17] [Michigan State Police Trooper E11 / Field Training Officer posting, March 2026](#)
- [18] [Michigan Department of Attorney General, Staff Attorney 15/16 posting, June 2026](#)
- [19] Wexford Public Defender Office operational information regarding attorney shortages, out-of-county appointments, and the addition of juvenile matters beginning October 1, 2027
- [20] Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act, 2013 PA 93, MCL 780.981 et seq., <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-93-of-2013.pdf>

[21] Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, 2025 Annual Impact Report, overview and standards sections, <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/-/media/Project/Websites/lara/about/Legislative-Reports/Statutory-Required-Reports/FY2025/MIDC---2025-Annual-Impact-Report.pdf>

[22] Michigan Advisory Commission on Indigent Defense, Final Report and Recommendations, 2012, <https://michiganidc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Final-Report-Advisory-Commission.pdf>

[23] Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Notice and Order Approving MIDC Standard 8, October 28, 2022

[24] MCL 780.983(i), statutory definition and annual adjustment of the local share, <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-780-983>

[25] MCL 780.993(3), (7), (8), (11), (14), and (15), compliance plans, State funding, implementation, and financial controls, <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-780-993>

[26] Wexford County, FY2027 MIDC Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis approved by MIDC, including the FY26-FY27 source-of-funds comparison and the \$107,942.00 indirect-cost allocation to Wexford County

[27] Wexford County, FY2026 MIDC Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis, indirect-cost detail and summary, showing a 9.5 percent allocation on a \$1,136,231.92 cost base and \$107,942.00 in budgeted indirect costs

Calculation Notes

9. Current assistant average: $(\$93,796.79 + \$81,872.54 + \$75,420.00) / 3 = \$83,696.44$.
10. Current total base payroll: $\$126,474.00 + \$93,796.79 + \$81,872.54 + \$75,420.00 = \$377,563.33$.
11. Elected Prosecutor annual comparison: $\$75.00 \times 2,080 = \$156,000$.
12. Proposed Start-step base payroll: $\$145,000 + \$108,000 + \$95,000 + \$85,000 = \$433,000$.
13. Requested Start-step base-salary adjustment: $\$433,000 - \$377,563.33 = \$55,436.67$.
14. Illustrative 10-hour contract costs: $\$127.24 \times 10 = \$1,272.40$; $\$140.63 \times 10 = \$1,406.30$; and $\$153.38 \times 10 = \$1,533.80$.
15. Contract-rate multiples use Wexford's highest current assistant hourly equivalent of \$45.09: 2.8 times, 3.1 times, and 3.4 times, rounded to one decimal place.
16. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place; annual equivalents are rounded to the nearest dollar unless cents are shown.

FY27 Public Defender Wage Scale One Page Summary

Wexford County Board of Commissioners

Board action	Adopt the four-classification, six-step attorney wage scale and authorize the requested Start-step placements.
Immediate base-salary adjustment	\$55,436.67, plus associated employer costs, included in the FY27 MIDC compliance-plan budget.
Combined FY27 local share	\$146,758.54, split by Wexford and Missaukee Counties; \$862.44 less than FY26.
Wexford indirect-cost recovery	\$107,942.00 budgeted in FY26 and FY27; actual recovery depends on eligible costs paid and documented.

Why Board Action Is Needed

Wexford's current salaries are below important statewide and regional public-sector benchmarks. Competitive compensation is necessary to recruit qualified applicants, retain trained attorneys, and prevent vacancies from increasing workloads, delaying client contact, and increasing reliance on higher-cost contract counsel.

Why Defined Steps Matter

A competitive starting salary attracts applicants; a visible progression path gives them a reason to stay. Defined steps recognize increasing experience, training, qualifications, and responsibility; reduce salary compression and one-time negotiation; improve internal equity; and let the Board forecast controlled personnel costs. Advancement remains subject to performance, qualifications, County policy, Board approval, funding, and the applicable MIDC plan.

Regional Operating Reality

The Wexford/Missaukee Regional Public Defender Office is one office serving two counties. Its attorneys cover both counties, two elected prosecuting attorney offices, separate court dockets, and distinct local practices while providing more than 95 percent of the regional system's indigent criminal representation.

Fiscal Protection for the County

The MIDC Act limits the regional system's local obligation to its statutory local share. Approved compliance costs above that amount are funded by the State. Wexford's indirect-cost recovery is not automatic merely because it is budgeted; reimbursement is based on qualifying wages, benefits, and other eligible costs actually paid and documented.

Recommended Motion

Adopt the FY27 wage scale and authorize Start-step annual salaries of \$145,000 for Robert Champion, \$108,000 for Geoff Harrison, \$95,000 for Rob Haertel, and \$85,000 for Connor Shantz, effective October 1, 2026, or the first FY27 grant payroll period, as administratively appropriate.

FY27 Public Defender Attorney Wage Scale

Annual salary with hourly equivalent based on 2,080 hours per year

Step	APD I	APD II	APD III Senior	Chief Public Defender
Start	\$85,000 \$40.87 per hour	\$95,000 \$45.67 per hour	\$108,000 \$51.92 per hour	\$145,000 \$69.71 per hour
Year 1	\$87,500 \$42.07 per hour	\$97,000 \$46.63 per hour	\$109,500 \$52.64 per hour	\$147,000 \$70.67 per hour
Year 2	\$90,000 \$43.27 per hour	\$99,000 \$47.60 per hour	\$111,000 \$53.37 per hour	\$149,000 \$71.63 per hour
Year 3	\$92,500 \$44.47 per hour	\$101,000 \$48.56 per hour	\$112,500 \$54.09 per hour	\$151,000 \$72.60 per hour
Year 4	\$95,000 \$45.67 per hour	\$103,000 \$49.52 per hour	\$114,000 \$54.81 per hour	\$153,000 \$73.56 per hour
Year 5	\$97,500 \$46.88 per hour	\$105,000 \$50.48 per hour	\$115,000 \$55.29 per hour	\$155,000 \$74.52 per hour

Requested Initial Placements

Employee	Classification	Current salary	Requested FY27	Increase
Robert Champion	Chief Start	\$126,474.00	\$145,000.00	\$18,526.00
Geoff Harrison	APD III Start	\$93,796.79	\$108,000.00	\$14,203.21
Rob Haertel	APD II Start	\$81,872.54	\$95,000.00	\$13,127.46
Connor Shantz	APD I Start	\$75,420.00	\$85,000.00	\$9,580.00
Total		\$377,563.33	\$433,000.00	\$55,436.67

Initial placement at the Start step controls the immediate cost while establishing a transparent path for recruitment, development, and retention. Advancement is not automatic and remains subject to performance, qualifications, County personnel policies, Board approval, available funding, and the applicable MIDC compliance plan.

AGREEMENT FOR EXTENSION SERVICES

This AGREEMENT FOR EXTENSION SERVICES ("Agreement") is entered into on _____ by and between Wexford County, Michigan ("County"), and the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ("MSU") on behalf of MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION (MSUE").

The United States Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 creating a National Cooperative Extension System and directed the nation's land grant universities to oversee its work; and,

MSUE helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses; and,

For more than 100 years, MSUE has helped grow Michigan's economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information needed to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower our children to succeed; and,

It is the mission of MSUE to help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities; and,

MSUE meets this mission by providing Extension educational programs in the following subject matter areas:

- Agriculture & Agribusiness
- Children & Youth Development, including 4-H
- Health & Nutrition
- Community, Food & Environment

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, and other good and valuable consideration, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

A. MSUE will provide:

1. Access to programs in all four MSUE Institutes to residents in your County. This includes access to educators and program instructors appointed to the Institutes and MSU faculty affiliated with each Institute to deliver core programs.
2. Extension Educators and program staff as needed to implement programs within the County, housed at the county office.
3. A county 4-H program. .5 FTE 4-H Program Coordination.
4. Salary and benefits of MSUE Personnel and the cost of administrative oversight of Personnel.
5. Operating expenses, per MSU policy, for MSUE personnel ("Personnel").

6. Supervision of MSU-provided academic and paraprofessional staff. Supervision of county employed clerical staff and/or other county employed staff, upon request.
7. Administrative oversight of MSUE office operations.
8. An annual report of services provided to the residents of the County during the term of this Agreement, including information about audiences served, and impact of Extension programs in the County.

B. The County will provide:

1. An annual assessment that will be charged to the county and administered by MSUE. The assessment will help fund Extension services for the County, including operating expenses for certain Extension personnel and the operation of the County 4-H program.
2. Clerical support for staff for the MSUE office as agreed upon between the County and MSUE District Director that will perform clerical functions, including assisting County residents in accessing MSUE resources by office visit, telephone, email, internet and media. The clerical support staff will be either a County employed clerical staff, or the County will provide funding for an MSUE employed clerical staff.

.90 FTE MSU employed Clerical Support Staff

Optional:

3. Funding for additional Extension educators at **.25 FTE**
4. Funding for additional 4-H program capacity at **.5 FTE**
5. Funding for Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardner Coordinator
6. Funding for AmeriCorps Volunteer
7. Funding for operating expenses (phone, internet, office relocation expenses)
8. Collection and distribution on behalf of MSUE funds provided by the millage approved by the voters of Wexford County on August 4, 2026. The millage collected will provide funds for the following:
 - a. Annual Extension Assessment, contributions of MSUE and County as outlined in this Agreement and other usual and customary Extension Office Operating and Personnel expenses.
9. Total Annual Assessment in the amount of **\$212,514**

Payments due and payable under the terms of this agreement shall be made on the first of the month, of the first month, in each quarter of the county fiscal year, unless otherwise requested and agreed as provided below.

Payment mailing address: MSU Extension Business Office, Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture, 446 W. Circle Drive, Room 160, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

C. Staffing and Financial Summary:

A. Base Assessment (includes .5 FTE 4-H Program Coordination)	\$56,237
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ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL – all positions listed in items B through G to be employed by MSU

B. .90 FTE Clerical Support Staff (DIR Office)	\$69,564
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C. .25 FTE Educator (CFEI; Program Area: Economic Development)	\$31,269
---	-----------------

D. .5 FTE Additional 4-H Program Coordination	\$38,647
--	-----------------

E. Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardner Coordinator (AABI)	\$5,797
---	----------------

F. DIR Office: Operating Expenses (phone, internet, office supplies)	\$8,000
---	----------------

G. CYI: AmeriCorps Volunteer	\$3,000
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TOTAL COUNTY ASSESSMENT PAYABLE TO MSU FOR FY 2027:	\$212,514
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I. Term and Termination

The obligations of the parties under this Agreement will commence on January 1, 2027, the first day of the County budget year 2027 and shall terminate on the last day of such County budget year 2027. Either party to this Agreement may terminate the Agreement, with or without cause, with 60 days written notice delivered to Michigan State University Extension, Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture, 446 W. Circle Drive, Room 160, East Lansing, MI 48824 if to MSUE and delivered to Wexford County Administrator, 437 E. Division Street, Cadillac, MI 49601, if to the County.

II. General Terms

1. **Independent Contractor.** The University is an independent contractor providing services to the County. The County and MSU do not have the relationship of legal partners, joint venturers, principals or agents. Personnel have no right to any of County's employee benefits.
2. **Force Majeure.** Each party will be excused from the obligations of this agreement to the extent that its performance is delayed or prevented by circumstances (except financial) reasonably beyond its control, including, but not limited to, acts of government, embargoes, fire, flood, explosions, acts of God, or a public enemy, strikes, labor disputes, vandalism, or civil riots.
3. **Assignment.** This agreement is non-assignable and non-transferable.
4. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, with its Appendix "A" is the entire agreement between MSU and the County. This Agreement supersedes all previous agreements, for the subject matter of this Agreement. The Agreement can only be modified in writing, signed by both MSU and the County.
5. **No Third Party Beneficiaries.** This Agreement is solely for the benefit of MSU and the County and does not create any benefit or right for any other person, including residents of the County.

6. **Nondiscrimination:** The parties will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations prohibiting discrimination. Neither party will discriminate against a person to be served or any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, height, weight, marital status, or any other factor prohibited by applicable law.

The individuals signing below each have authority to bind MSU and the County, respectively.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

By: _____

Evonne Pedawi
Contract & Grant Administration
Its: Executive Director

Date: _____

WEXFORD COUNTY

By: _____

Print name: _____

Its: _____
(title)

Date: _____

Appendix A

Technical Standards for County Internet Connections

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) employs the use of technology to meet the ever-changing needs of our constituents. We strive to utilize standard, enterprise tools when appropriate, but also recognize the need to evolve with the times and utilize innovative tools to reach a broad array of people.

MSUE does support and encourage the use of technologies that others may not, including social media platforms. We view communication with our constituents through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and other emerging social media to be critical to our work. MSUE staff are required to follow the MSU Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) <https://tech.msu.edu/about/guidelines-policies/aup/>.

We ask that our county partners provide Extension personnel access to a high-speed Internet connection. From that access, the easiest way to create a secure path to necessary applications is to open the full MSU Internet Protocol Range to and from your network, as well as opening social media sites to the addresses used by MSUE staff at your location. MSUE is prepared to support end user needs if there is high-speed internet, networking to clients, and phone system support. MSU will provide firewall functionality and client support. To discuss this possibility please contact your MSUE District Director. To provide the needed services on county equipment review the following MSU-owned ranges:

The MSU-owned ranges are:
NetRange35.8.0.0 - 35.9.255.255 CIDR35.8.0.0/15

If you would like to narrow the scope further for additional protection, some of the addresses that will need to be allowable include:

Office 365 – Details on what to open are at <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/enterprise/urls-and-ip-address-ranges?view=o365-worldwide>
search.msu.edu
35.9.160.36 (1935,443) authentication)
45.60.149.216
35.9.247.31 (zoom.msu.edu)
d2l.msu.edu (80 and 443) (D2L – Desire to Learn @ Brightspace.com)
108.161.147.0/24, 199.231.78.0/24, 64.62.142.12/32, 209.206.48.0/20 (external) Meraki Cloud communication
199.231.78.148/32, 64.156.192.245/32 (external) Meraki VPN registry

The following applications are necessary on all computers – MS Office (preferably O365, MSUE provides MS licensing), Adobe Acrobat, Zoom, SAP client, VPN client, Antivirus. (Most recent version of Chrome, Firefox, or Edge)

Other notable web server/sites IP addresses:

canr.msu.edu – 52.5.24.1
msue.anr.msu.edu – 52.5.24.1
events.anr.msu.edu/web3.anr.msu.edu – 45.60.11.113
web2.canr.msu.edu | web2.msue.msu.edu - 35.8.200.220
master Gardener (External) – 128.120.155.54
extension.org (External) – 54.69.217.186 msu.zoom.us (External)

Questions may be directed to anr.support@msu.edu where they will be routed to the best person to assist you.

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Amendments to the 2026 Budget Log**

BOC Meeting				
Date	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
A 2026-02-04	256-000-390.00	ROD Fund Balance	\$ (17,000.00)	
	256-000-980.00	Capital Equipment		\$17,000.00
Total			\$ (17,000.00)	\$17,000.00
<i>Comment/Reasoning: Adjustments for Community Corrections Grant</i>				



WEXFORD COUNTY BUDGET AMENDMENT

As provided for in the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act of 1978, as amended, and consistent with Wexford County Policy No. E-7.3, the Treasurer's Office is hereby authorized to record the following adjustments to the budget.

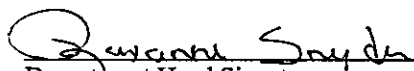
Department: Register of Deeds

REVENUE

Account Number	Account Description	Decrease	Increase
256-000-390.00		\$17,000.00	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
Total		\$	\$

EXPENDITURE

Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
256-000-980.00		\$ 17,000.00	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
Total		\$	\$


Department Head Signature

8-28-26
Date

Finance Committee Approval Date (if necessary) _____

(For Treasurer use only)

B.A. Number _____

Date _____

LeRoy, MI 49655

Estimate

Billing Name / Address

Jobsite

Furnace A/C replacement

Acceptance Signature / Date:

Total

\$12,488.15

Gary Taylor
County Chairman
437 E. Division St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
Gtaylor@wexfordcounty.org

August 14, 2026

VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL & E-MAIL

Re: Offer to Meet Concerning Proposed **Solar Energy and Energy Storage Facility** in Wexford Township, Wexford County, MI

Dear Chairman Taylor:

Shipyard Solar, LLC is planning to develop, construct, own, and operate an up to 375 MW Solar Energy Facility and an up to 375 MW Energy Storage Facility in Grant Township, Grand Traverse County and Wexford Township, Wexford County, MI.

As you may know, the recent Michigan Court of Appeals published opinion in *In re Implementing Provisions of Public Act 233 of 2023* upheld the MPSC's permitting authority for utility scale renewable energy projects. A threshold requirement for filing an application with the MPSC is seeking written acknowledgement from each affected local jurisdiction as to whether it has adopted a compatible renewable energy ordinance (CREO), which does not "impose[] additional requirements on the development of energy facilities that are more restrictive than those in [MCL 460.1226(8)]." We respectfully ask that you confirm at your earliest convenience that Wexford County does not have a CREO.

We would be pleased to meet with you either virtually or in person to discuss the site plan for the proposed project or answer any questions. If we do not hear from you within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, or if you inform us that your jurisdiction does not have a CREO, we intend to file an application directly with the Michigan Public Service Commission seeking a siting certificate for the project.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Ella Hackett of Ranger Power at ella@rangerpower.com with any questions concerning our proposed project and this letter.

Sincerely,

Paul Harris
Vice President, Shipyard Solar, LLC

CC: County Board of Commissioners (sent via email to Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk, Clerk@wexfordcounty.org)

2026 TAX RATE REQUEST (This form must be completed and submitted on or before September 30, 2026)
MILLAGE REQUEST REPORT TO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County	Wexford	2026 Taxable Value of ALL Properties in the Unit as of 5-03-26	1,491,502,302
Local Government Unit	Wexford County	For LOCAL School Districts: 2026 Taxable Value Excluding Principal Residence, Qualified Agricultural, Qualified Forest, Industrial Personal and Commercial Personal Properties if a millage is levied against them	

You must complete this form for each unit of government for which a property tax is levied. Penalty for non-filing is provided under MCL Sec 211.119.
The following tax rates have been authorized for levy on the 2025 tax roll.

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE CAREFULLY.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
				Original Millage	2025 Millage	2026 Current Millage	2026 Millage	Sec. 211.34 Truth in Assessing of Equalization	Maximum Allowable Millage	Requested to be Levied July 1	Requested to be Levied Dec. 1	Expiration Date of Millage Authorized
Alloc.												Allocated
				Gen. Operating	11/2/1971	7.5000	6.5472	0.9866	6.4594	1.0000	6.4594	6.4594
Voted				Senior	8/4/2020		0.9656	0.9866	0.9626	1.0000	0.9526	12/31/2026
Voted				Safety	8/6/2024		1.4001	0.9866	1.3813	1.0000	1.3813	12/31/2029
Voted				Veterans	8/6/2024		0.0963	0.9866	0.0950	1.0000	0.0950	12/31/2029
Voted				Animal Control	8/6/2024		0.1929	0.9866	0.1903	1.0000	0.1903	12/31/2029
Voted				MSUE	8/4/2026		0.1639	0.9866	0.1617	1.0000	0.1617	12/31/2030

Prepared by	Clifford Porterfield	Telephone Number	231-779-9470	Title	Equalization Director	Date	06/02/26
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CERTIFICATION: As the representatives for the local government unit named above, we certify that these requested tax levy rates have been reduced, if necessary, to comply with the state constitution (Article 9, Section 31), and that the requested levy rates have also been reduced, if necessary, to comply with MCL Sections 211.24e, 211.34, and for LOCAL school districts which levy a Supplemental (Hold Harmless) Millage, MCL 380.121(3).

☒ Clerk	Signature	Type Name	Alaina M Nyman	Date	
☒ Secretary	Signature	Type Name	Gary Taylor	Date	
☒ Chairperson					
☐ President					

*Under Truth in Taxation, MCL Section 211.24e, the governing body may decide to levy a rate which will not exceed the maximum authorized rate allowed in Column 9. The requirements of MCL 211.24e must be met prior to levying an operating levy which is larger than the base tax rate but not larger than the rate in column 9.

**** IMPORTANT:** See instructions on the reverse side for the correct method of calculating the millage rate in column (5).

Local School District Use Only. Complete if requesting millage to be levied. See STC Bulletin 2 of 2008 for instructions on completing this section.	
Total School District Operating Rates to be Levied (HH/Supp and NH Oper ONLY)	RATE
For Principal Residence, Qualified Ag, Qualified Forest and Industrial Personal	
For Commercial Personal	
For all Other	

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the Sixteenth day of September 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-22
2026 WINTER MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the voters of Wexford County did approve, on August 7, 2018, an additional millage allocation of 1.45 Mills for Public Safety.

WHEREAS, the voters of Wexford County did approve, on August 4, 2020, an additional millage allocation of 1.00 Mills for Senior Service.

WHEREAS, the voters of Wexford County did approve, on August 7, 2018, an additional millage allocation of .10 Mills for Department of Veterans Services.

WHEREAS, the voters of Wexford County did approve, on August 4, 2020, an additional millage allocation of .20 Mills for Animal Control Services.

WHEREAS, the voters of Wexford County did approve, on August 4, 2020, an additional millage allocation of .17 Mills for Michigan State University Extension Services.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will levy a total of 1.4001 Mills in Ad Valorem Property Taxation in 2026 for operation of the Wexford County Public Safety Fund #205, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will levy 0.9656 Mills in Ad Valorem Property Taxation in 2026 for operation of the Senior Citizens Services Fund #296, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will levy 0.0963 Mills in Ad Valorem Property Taxation in 2026 for operation of the Department of Veterans Services Fund #295, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will levy 0.1929 Mills in Ad Valorem Property Taxation in 2026 for operation of the Animal Control Services #225, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will levy 0.1639 Mills in Ad Valorem Property Taxation in 2026 for operation of the Michigan State University Extension Services Fund #274, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will receive all revenues generated by the Tri County Convention Facility Tax and the Health & Safety Fund Tax into the General Fund #101 and distribute them according to the guidelines developed by the State of Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will comply with Section 16 of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act during Budget Hearings for the 2027 Budget.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: _____

NAYES: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Gary Taylor, Chairman, Wexford County Board of Commissioners

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF WEXFORD)

I hearby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of Resolution 26-22 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners on Wexford County at a regular meeting held on September 16, 2026, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was give as provided by law.

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk