



810 Rynearson Street
Buchanan, MI 49107
Phone: 269 695-7119
Fax: 269 695-2901
www.thebasc.org

September 9, 2026

City Commission
City of Buchanan
302 N Redbud Trail
Buchanan, MI 49107

Dear Commissioners,

Berrien County is blessed with 7 senior centers located throughout the county, so everyone has access to a nearby senior center. This blessing comes from county voters who, every four years, overwhelmingly approve the millage funding. The millage funding is split evenly between the 7 centers and our responsibilities for receiving the funding are outlined in the Terms of Appropriation, which requires:

1. Each senior centers must serve any Berrien County resident who is 60 years and older
2. Each senior center must provide a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program within their NEMT service area

The St. Joe/Lincoln Senior Center (SJLSC) recently asked the Berrien County Commission to change the senior center millage distribution from an even 7-way split to a split based upon the assessed property values within the NEMT service area and the total population within the NEMT service areas. Here are the problems with this approach:

1. Suggests that wealthy and urban communities deserve more funding than rural and less-affluent communities.
2. The service area referenced only applies to the NEMT program for logistical efficiency of transportation but otherwise we all serve the same population.
3. SJLSC proposed this to the County Commission before sharing it with the senior centers.

Please note that SJLSC is reportedly changing their original proposal that included a 30% reduction to BASC's millage funding (see attached document), but they still inaccurately base the proposal on an assertion that the NEMT service area is each agency's total service area. That assertion is completely false.

We are always willing to discuss the funding needs of all of our senior centers, but we are not willing to entertain a proposal that harms senior centers based in lower-income rural communities. **The Board of the Buchanan Area Senior Center respectfully requests that the Buchanan City Commission officially support our position that millage funding continue to be divided equally between the 7 Berrien County senior centers.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Hendrix".

Deborah Hendrix
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Adam Burck".

Adam Burck
Executive Director