

**CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS**  
**CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION URGING THE OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF**  
**COMMISSIONERS TO REJECT THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN EQUALIZATION SERVICE**  
**COSTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the City of Madison Heights, like many communities in Oakland County, is facing significant financial challenges, having already eliminated four full-time positions and over \$1 million in capital expenditures for the 2025-26 current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland County Finance Committee has proposed a substantial increase in the cost of equalization services provided to local municipalities, raising the City of Madison Heights' share from \$237,787 to \$410,407 in FY 2026, and then to \$449,107 in FY 2027—a total increase of 194.7%; and

WHEREAS, this increase was proposed without prior notice, consultation, or collaboration with the municipalities affected, contradicting principles of partnership and transparency, and undermining trust between the County and its local governments; and

WHEREAS, equalization services are a shared responsibility that benefits not only the municipalities receiving them, but the County as a whole, including the schools, libraries, public parks, and other County-funded programs that depend on equitable property tax assessments; and

WHEREAS, shifting such a disproportionate cost burden onto local communities, many of which, like Madison Heights, are already built-out and have limited capacity for new development or revenue growth, will cause further strain on local budgets and compromise critical public services; and

WHEREAS, Oakland County's motto, "Stronger Together," must be upheld not only in words but in action, especially when local governments are asked to make sacrifices for the good of the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Madison Heights hereby urges the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to **reject** the Finance Committee's proposed cost increase for equalization services and instead pursue a more collaborative and equitable funding model that reflects the shared value and responsibility of these services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and the County Executive, to formally convey the City of Madison Heights' opposition to the proposal.



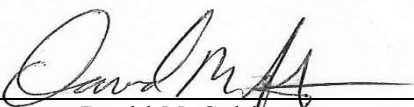
Roslyn Grafstein  
Mayor




Mark Bliss  
Mayor Pro Tem



William J. Mier  
Councilman




David M. Soltis



Sean D. Fleming  
Councilman



Emily J. Rohrbach  
Councilor



Quinn J. Wright