

**THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING:**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Public Act 123 of 1999 was established because there was a need to strengthen and revitalize the economy of Michigan and its municipalities by encouraging the efficient and expeditious return to productive use of property returned for delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, since 2000 the Berrien County Treasurer, with the full support of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, has implemented these changes to the General Property Tax Act (MCL 211.78) with efficiency and purpose while never losing empathy and a willingness to work with the people whose property and homes were in jeopardy of foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, since 2000 the Berrien County Treasurer has used the Tax Foreclosure Fund to provide approximately \$500,000 for cleaning and maintenance of foreclosed properties, and \$6,000,000 for the demolition of sub-standard structures, thereby improving the safety and appearance of neighborhoods throughout Berrien County; and


WHEREAS, HB 4219 was introduced on February 21, 2019, which, if enacted, would require that the excess proceeds of the sale of foreclosed property be returned to the former owner if that individual owned and occupied the parcel as a Principal Residence; and


WHEREAS, HB 4219 would severely reduce the financial resources desperately needed by the County to clean, maintain, and demolish foreclosed properties, and would create such a litigious environment due to the inherent inaccuracy of property tax records regarding Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) status, ownership, and occupancy that county treasurers would ultimately resist foreclosing on any homestead property.

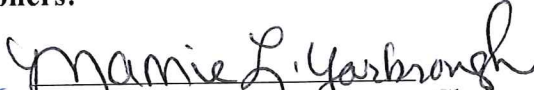
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners and the Berrien County Treasurer strongly urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Kim LaSata, Representative Pauline Wendzel, and Representative Brad Paquette to reject these changes to the General Property Tax Act.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berrien County Clerk is directed to forward this resolution to each of the above elected officials.

Berrien County Board of Commissioners:


R. McKinley Elliot, Board Chair

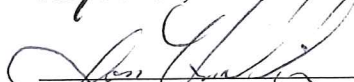

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chair

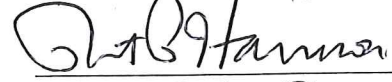

Mamie L. Yarbrough, Finance. Chair

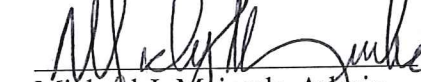

Jim Curran, Admin Chair


William J. Chickering, PHSC Chair



David Vollrath, PHSC



Jon Hinkelman, Finance


Robert P. Harrison, Finance


Michael J. Majerek, Admin


Ezra A. Scott, Finance


Chris Heugel, Admin


Don Meeks, Admin