

Wayne County Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak

Serving The 13th District • Allen Park and Dearborn



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The Wayne County Commission

is the legislative branch of county government. Its chief role is to adopt a budget and to enact ordinances. It also approves contracts, appointments and rules. There are 15 Commissioners, elected in individual districts.

Want to receive more frequent updates?

Commissioner Woronchak sends updates on county news and programs **via email** on a more frequent basis than these paper newsletters. You can sign up to receive Gary's **e-newsletter** by emailing him at the address listed with his contact info above and asking to be put on the list.

Voters asked to renew county parks millage on August ballot

A proposal affecting county property taxes will be on the ballot in all Wayne County communities on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Voters will be asked to consider renewing a tax “to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities,” according to the ballot language. The tax in question is commonly referred to as the parks millage. It was first authorized by county voters in 1996, then was renewed for five-year periods in 2000, 2005 and 2010.

The proposal before voters Aug. 2 would continue the millage through 2020. It is expected to generate \$9.9 million next year. The parks levy is just under one-quarter of a mill and appears on winter tax bills.

In very approximate terms, the tax costs \$12.30 per year on a home that is worth \$100,000.

A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. A home's taxable value is roughly half of a home's worth, but each home's taxable value varies depending on how long its annual increases have been limited under Proposal A. Taxable value is listed on tax bills and on assessment notices.

To determine precisely how much one pays on the parks millage, one can multiply their home's taxable value by .0002459.

The ballot language reflects the practice of providing funds for park improvements in local municipalities.

Here is the question as it will appear on the ballot:

(Proposition P)

PARKS MILLAGE CONTINUATION

To continue the millage authorized in 2010, shall Wayne County levy this millage at the estimated 2015 rollback rate of .2459 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2016 through 2020) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park, and improvements to municipal parks in the 43 communities as provided in an implementing ordinance through an annual allocation by commission district of the greater of \$50,000 or 15% of the total funds generated from that district, on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-1996 fiscal year appropriation for parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$9,865,514 in 2016.

Yes _____

No _____

Voters also asked to decide renewal of Zoo millage

Also on the Aug. 2 primary election ballot will be a proposal to renew a property tax levy that helps finance the Detroit Zoo. While this is not directly a county tax, it was placed on the ballot by the Wayne County Zoological Authority, a body created by the Wayne County Commission under an enabling state law, and appears on winter tax bills.

The zoo tax is one-tenth of 1 mill and costs the owner of a \$100,000 home roughly \$5 per year. The 0.1-mill levy was first approved by voters in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in 2008 and is set to expire in 2017. The proposed renewal will extend the collection from 2018 through 2027. Voters will also consider the renewal in Oakland and Macomb counties.

Household waste collection June 18

Looking to get rid of old, unwanted paint, pesticides or antifreeze? Has a clunky, old-style computer monitor been in your closet for a few years?

The Wayne County Department of Public Services is giving residents a chance to safely dispose of those and other items at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, June 18, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Henry Ford College, 5101 Evergreen Rd., just south of Ford Road in Dearborn.

Items acceptable for disposal include household paints, stains and dyes, floor care products, bathroom cleaners, solvents, fertilizer, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, mercury thermometers and more.

The electronics recycling portion of the event will accept computer CPUs, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards and mice. Also accepted will be cellphones, fax machines, copiers and televisions.

Only household products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. No commercial or industrial waste will be taken. Also not allowed are refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires and concrete.

Questions can be directed to the Department of Public Services at (734) 326-3936.

For a link to a flier for the program, email Commissioner Gary Woronchak at gworonch@waynecounty.com

Road projects will pave way for a smoother ride

Wayne County officials recently announced 16 road projects for 2016 as part of a \$30 million plan, which also will pay for about 50 seasonal employees and 62 new pieces of equipment.

One of the major projects is the resurfacing of nearly one mile of Goddard Road/Moran between I-75 and Dix-Toledo in Allen Park, Lincoln Park and Southgate. The project started in April and includes improvements to drainage, sidewalk ramps, guardrails, signs and pavement markings.

A second project is a carryover from 2015: Completing construction on Greenfield Road between I-94 and Rotunda Drive in Dearborn. The project, which was scheduled to resume in May, was about 85 percent complete after last construction season. Curb repairs, sidewalk ramps and new sod remain.

Two projects affecting Commissioner Gary Woronchak's district, which includes Allen Park and Dearborn, are proposed for 2017: Resurfacing nearly one mile of Rotunda from east of the Rouge River bridge to Commerce Drive in Dearborn, and resurfacing nearly one mile of Pelham Road between Allen and Wick roads along the Allen Park-Taylor boundary. Like Goddard/Moran, those projects also include improvements to drainage, sidewalk ramps, guardrails, signs and pavement markings.

Motorists who want to report the location of potholes or other problems on county roads can do one of three things:

- Call 1-888-ROAD-CREW (762-3273) 24 hours a day.
- Visit www.waynecounty.com/dps and click on "report road hazard."
- Use a smartphone to visit compass.waynecounty.com and click on the "hazard" triangle on the lower right corner. If they are near the pothole, Compass can capture the location via GPS coordinates.

County Treasurer Sabree pledges to deliver services

Eric Sabree has been appointed to the position of Wayne County Treasurer to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Raymond J. Wojtowicz, who retired in December after holding the post almost four decades.

Sabree became the second new treasurer in just the four months following Wojtowicz's retirement. Former judge and assistant prosecutor Richard Hathaway was named treasurer in December, but announced in early March he would leave the post because of personal reasons. Sabree was appointed April 4.

State law calls for a vacancy in countywide elected positions to be filled via appointment by a three-person panel consisting of the county's clerk and prosecutor and chief judge of the Probate Court. The post will be on the ballot this year for a four-year term that begins in July 2017.

Sabree, 61, was one of eight applicants considered by the appointing panel of Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Clerk Cathy Garrett and Chief Probate Judge Freddie Burton Jr.

"I cherish my relationship with the Commission members and staff, and pledge to continue working with you to deliver the best possible service to our residents," Sabree said at the Wayne County Commission's April 7 meeting, to which he was invited by Chairman Gary Woronchak.

"We realize that the residents and business owners of our county need help, and we will continue to make your inquiries a priority. We also plan to visit each Commission district at least twice per year with staff members to accept payments, provide payment plans and to answer questions."

The Treasurer's Office manages all finance, forfeiture and foreclosure activities for the county, including collecting delinquent property taxes. Sabree joined the Treasurer's Office in 2011 as deputy treasurer of land management before being named as chief deputy treasurer last year. He previously served as chief assistant in the county's Office of Corporation Counsel.



Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak welcomes newly appointed Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree to the April 7 Wayne County Commission meeting.

Your Opinion Always Counts!

I'm pleased to offer you this opportunity to express your opinions. You can make your voice heard by completing this pre-addressed questionnaire and returning it to my office. Your input helps me do my job better, enabling me to reflect your views and needs as your County Commissioner. I've included general questions, and may share results with other levels of government as appropriate. **Please remember that asking a question doesn't mean I favor or oppose the item;** I'm just looking for your opinion. If you have no opinion on a certain question, it's OK to leave it blank. And feel free to add comments as you wish. I read them all. Thank you!

VOTER 1 VOTER 2

- 1) Would you support a professional soccer team in downtown Detroit, by buying tickets and attending games?
- 2) To whatever extent allowable under law, should the county Treasurer's Office take all steps possible to prevent tax foreclosures of owner-occupied homes, even after three years of nonpayment of property taxes, which requires foreclosure under state law?
- 3) Given what you know of state intervention on local governments with financial challenges, is it your impression that Michigan's emergency manager law is an effective way to help cities?
- 4) Do you use Wayne County parks (such as Hines Park and Elizabeth Park) for recreational activities at least once a year (not including driving on Hines Drive)?
- 5) The M-1 Rail, a streetcar running along Woodward between the riverfront and West Grand Boulevard, is expected to be operational in spring 2017. Do you expect that you will use it to get around downtown?
- 6) The state Legislature has eliminated straight-ticket voting, so that voters will no longer be able to vote for all candidates of a political party with one action. This change will first be implemented in the presidential election this year. Do you support the state's action in eliminating straight-ticket voting?
- 7) Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs) divert some property tax money, including from the county, to pay for improvements in a city's downtown area. Should this practice be continued?
- 8) A new property tax is expected to be on the November ballot to fund improved public transportation in southeast Michigan through the Regional Transit Authority. The amount to be requested has not been determined, but some expect the proposal will be for at least 1 mill, which would cost roughly \$50 on a home worth \$100,000. Are you likely to support this tax?
- 9) Currently, Michigan allows absentee voting only under certain conditions, including for those who will be out of town on election day, physically unable to go to the polls, or are age 60 and over. Should absentee voting be allowed for all who want to, without having to list a reason?
- 10) Are you in favor of neighboring cities and, if applicable, the county consolidating services, with the intent being to save costs and increase efficiencies, as long as quality of service is not reduced to any of the participating communities?
- 11) Developers have expressed interest in putting a soccer stadium on county-owned property near Greektown where the county is moving toward completing a new jail. Should the county move the jail project to make room for a stadium, even if it means potentially costing hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to move the project?

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Add comments here
(Gary reads them all)

If you prefer to respond by email, send answers to gworonch@waynecounty.com. Please include your name.

Sign up for e-newsletter

Want more frequent updates emailed to you from Commissioner Woronchak? Write your email address below before mailing this questionnaire or email him at gworonch@waynecounty.com to get added to the list.

I want to receive Gary's e-newsletter updates in my email. Here's my information:

NAME _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____



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GARY WORONCHAK

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Your Opinion Counts! 2016 Issues Questionnaire Inside



Woronchak hosts Senior Citizen Conference

Commissioner Gary Woronchak's 18th annual Senior Citizen Conference was held May 18 at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. Featured speaker was Karen Drew, WDIV-TV Local 4 News anchor and reporter, who posed with the hundreds of seniors in attendance after making her remarks and taking questions from the crowd. The annual conference is free and open to residents of Allen Park and Dearborn ages 60 and up. The event includes an array of speakers on topics of interest to seniors, health screenings, vendor tables, door prizes, and breakfast and lunch.

Please fold below so that mail panel is showing, tape and mail -- Thank You!



WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION
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