

Oakland County Democratic Commissioner Candidates' Economic Plan

Attract new jobs in the fields of alternative fuels, renewable energy, life sciences, and high tech automotive engineering

Fully fund the County's Emerging Sectors program to attract businesses in these and other key sectors. Partner with key economic development groups in the region and State to tap into business growth opportunities in Asia and Europe. Encourage the County's various existing economic development programs to work with existing companies in these areas on expansion opportunities.

Aggressively Pursue Tech Transfer Opportunities with Oakland University, Wayne State, University of Michigan and Michigan State University

Oakland County fortunate to not only have a world class university, Oakland University, within it's border, but there are three additional research level universities within 90 minutes. The county's existing economic development programs should partner with the tech transfer agencies within each of these universities to create opportunities to move research from the classroom and lab to the real world.

Develop a strategy to attract and retain human talent within the County

More and more within the 21st century businesses are going to be attracted to areas with there is an abundance of human talent. Oakland County must develop a strategy to retain this talent that includes promotion of quality of life issues that make our communities attractive to live in, promote diversity to make Oakland County a welcoming place to all, and offer mentorship and growth opportunities to recent college graduates.

Encourage Intergovernmental Cooperation to keep costs down

The current challenging economic times demand that governments become more efficient. One of the best ways to do that is to promote cooperation between units of governments. This will allow for high quality services to continue to be provided at a reduced cost thus keeping down the cost of government.

Implement the Oakland County Democrats Four Point Common Sense plan for the Housing Crisis

Stabilize Home Values

Create an Oakland County Landbank to help move foreclosed properties back on to the tax rolls before they fall into neglect or misuse. This will help keep home values up by moving potential derelict properties back into productive hands.

Help Prevent Home Foreclosures

Under the Landbank Law, the County Treasurer can prevent foreclosures before they happen for home owners facing "substantial financial hardship.

Support passage of HB 6337 (sponsor Representative Rick Hammel) at the State level. This bill would amend the General Property Tax Act to prohibit the taxable value of a

home from increasing if the State Equalized Value decreases. Currently, property taxes are allowed to increase 5% annually or at the rate of inflation, whichever is less. During these difficult economic times, with the rate of foreclosures on the rise, this legislation will help homeowners who are burdened with having their property taxes increase while their home value decreases.

Prosecute Predatory Lenders

Work with the County Treasurer, Prosecutor, and Sheriff's to prosecute unscrupulous lenders who use predatory practice methods to get home buyers into mortgages they later find out that they can't afford. Re-allocate resources within each office to adequately fund this initiative.

Teach Financial Literacy

Help develop partnerships between the Oakland County Intermediate School District, Oakland Community College, Oakland University and non-profit groups to make financial literacy information and curriculum available to students and their families throughout the county.