

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



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Kent County Board of Commissioners Approves 2018 Budget

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the 2018 annual budget this morning. The overall budget is \$417.6 million and includes \$6.9 million for Capital Improvement Projects. While the County continues to see some of the fastest growing population of any county in Michigan, the Board of Commissioners remained focused on keeping costs contained.

The General Fund budget is just over \$172.3 million, an increase of 3.3 percent from the previous year. “We continue to provide County services in an efficient and effective manner while maintaining a balanced budget with no tax increases,” said Jim Saalfeld, Kent County Board of Commissioners’ Chair. “This Board of Commissioners and the County Administration have been prudent about spending while addressing the needs of our County. I am pleased to report that we are well-positioned moving forward.”

The budget calls for the same operating millage rate for 2018 (4.2803) that has been levied since 2004. “The budget reflects the County’s plan for programs and activities for the upcoming fiscal year. It is one of many tools used by the Board in its decision-making process,” said Wayman Britt, Interim County Administrator/Controller. “The 2018 budget balances many demands that have different constituencies; balance services the County is required to provide - along with adequate supporting infrastructure to help those services - with programs and services that are discretionary; and balance new or newer initiatives with services that have traditionally been considered the core responsibility of the County. Each department has been very thoughtful and developing funding proposals; they are to be commended for their cooperation and responsiveness to the County’s ongoing fiscal challenges.”

The General Fund budget is structurally balanced, where planned expenditures are supported by current revenues. In addition, the 2018 budget provides funding to ensure County facilities and equipment are properly maintained; maintains existing services and programs while enhancing public safety; maintains services and programs to support the quality of life enjoyed by county residents; and maintains a competitive comprehensive compensation and benefits package for our workforce.

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