

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



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Kent County Board of Commissioners Issues Local Takeout Challenge
Chair Bolter kicks off campaign aimed at supporting Kent County restaurants

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (Dec. 4, 2020) – The Kent County Board of Commissioners has issued the “Kent County Takeout Challenge” urging residents to support locally-owned Kent County restaurants hit hard by the pandemic. The digital campaign encourages people to order takeout and publicly challenge three friends to do the same by tagging them on social media.

Board Chair Mandy Bolter kicked off the campaign Thursday with a [video shot](#) outside Noto’s Old World Italian Dining where she nominated fellow Board of Commission members and residents to take up the challenge.

“This campaign supports local businesses, workers and families,” said Bolter. “Local restaurants are part of the fabric of communities all across Kent County, and thousands of our neighbors rely on them for their livelihoods. But they have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. We want our local restaurants and their employees to emerge strong when this crisis is over.”

Restaurants, which were operating at 50% capacity since the spring 2020 ban on indoor dining was lifted, were again forced to move to takeout and delivery, only, when new Michigan Department of Health and Human Services orders took effect on November 16. Some local establishments fear the latest restrictions could force them to close permanently.

The campaign aims to help retain these businesses and the jobs they create. According to [Local First](#), nearly 70% of every dollar spent at local businesses stays in the local economy through wages, local taxes, the local supply chain and more.

The campaign will run through the end of the year and is using the hashtag #KCTakeoutChallenge.

For downloadable and bilingual social media graphics and a list of locally owned restaurants throughout Kent County, visit accesskent.com/KCTakeoutChallenge.

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