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News Release

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Wayne County Executive Reacts to Governor Snyder's Proposed Budget Cuts

Wayne County, MI – Today, Governor Rick Snyder introduced the budget he'd like to see implemented in the upcoming fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2011. The discussion included cuts to general revenue sharing to cities, villages and counties, along with the removal of tax incentives (for businesses and film), employee concessions at the state level, and cuts to schools statewide including all public universities. Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano understands the need for fiscal responsibility, as the county has faced budget deficit challenges over the past several budget cycles.

"I don't envy the decisions the governor has to make, as I've made my fair share in Wayne County, and I applaud him for the difficult decisions that have to be made," Ficano stated. "I pledge Wayne County will do its fair share to aid in the current fiscal situation, and in doing so, I hope the governor looks at Wayne County's dashboard in comparing our consolidation efforts over the past several years."

Currently, Wayne County has 1.85 employees per 1,000 residents, compared with the state having 5.5.

"I hope the governor looks at rightsizing the state and its bureaucracy prior to draconian cuts to local governments. We'll be glad to compete for best practices."

Ficano did voice disappointment in the elimination of the film credits.

"The state has experienced intangible benefits from the 120 film projects shot here in Michigan, along with an estimated 11,000 production and acting extra-role jobs as a result of the program. This program has placed Detroit and Michigan's attributes and assets on the national stage," Ficano added.

In 2010, an estimated \$89 million was spent on film incentives throughout the state of Michigan. The governor's proposal eliminates the incentive, replacing them with an annual \$25 million grant.

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