

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



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Paul Gielegghem chosen as Macomb County Board chairman

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Paul Gielegghem was elected today to a two-year term as chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

Gielegghem, D-Clinton Township, was elected on a 25-1 vote during the board's biennial organizational meeting. Kathy Tocco, D-Fraser, was elected vice chair and Joan Flynn, D-Warren, was elected sergeant-at-arms.

"As county commissioners, we understand the struggles that face our families," said Gielegghem. "By working together, changing the way we do things and embracing reform, we can solve our budgetary issues, confront our economic challenges and meet the growing demand for county services."

The first change – a revised committee structure for the Board of Commissioners – was approved at the Jan. 8 organizational meeting. Gielegghem submitted a plan to create:

- Public Safety & Corrections Committee that would work with the Sheriff's Office Prosecutor's Office, Probation and the Juvenile Justice Center.
- A Courts and Legal Affairs Committee will oversee the Corporation Counsel office, the Circuit Court, Friend of the Court, Probate Court and District Court.

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- Technology & Communications Committee
- Public Services Committee
- Administrative Services Committee
- Education & Training Committee
- Buildings, Roads & Public Works Committee.

The Education & Training Committee represents a new emphasis on workforce issues that will help the county attract new employers and diversify the local economy.

Gielegem said the committees are designed to spread out responsibilities so the work of commissioners is more manageable.

Gielegem, 38, now is in his third term on the County Board after serving six years in the Michigan House of Representatives. He was first elected in 2004 to be the representative on the County Board for the residents of District 19 in central Clinton Township.

Tocco, 45, is serving her second two-year term on the County Board, representing District 20, Fraser and southwest Clinton Township. Flynn, 77, is serving her eighth consecutive term on the County Board, representing the residents of District 6 in eastern Warren and southeastern Sterling Heights.

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