



HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
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RESOLUTION DESCRIBING FURTHER COUNTY BOARD COMMITMENTS FOR THE JAIL AND COUNTY BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON THE BALLOT AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026

RESOLUTION #26-20 (9/15/2026)

COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
State of Michigan

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners (the "County Board") of the County of Houghton, Michigan (the "County"), has determined that it is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the County and its residents and property owners that the County construct, furnish and equip new county jail/sheriff's office facilities, including site improvements, and parking improvements, together with rights-of-way, and appurtenances and attachments thereto, (the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the County Board passed RESOLUTION #26-15 JAIL AND COUNTY BUILDING IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSAL on August 5, 2026 (the "Build a New Jail Resolution") to authorize raising the funds for the Projects through the issuance of bonds, a way of borrowing the funds; and

WHEREAS, the County Board passed RESOLUTION #26-18 RESOLUTION DESCRIBING IN PLAIN LANGUAGE THE JAIL AND COUNTY BUILDING IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026 on August 11, 2026 (the "Plain Language Jail Millage Resolution") to clarify the intentions of the County Board with respect to their plans for the Projects; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the facilities built as part of the Projects should meet the law enforcement needs of the County for more than 30 (thirty) years, and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that given trends in arrests and detentions, the average daily population numbers "ADP" of those held in the Houghton County Jail may increase modestly; and

WHEREAS, under Michigan Compiled Law (MCL 791.262c), county sheriffs must design and implement a state-approved local jail inmate-classification system (“Classification System”) to assign inmates housing, custody levels and supervision based on public safety, behavior traits and legal history; and

WHEREAS, an MCL 791.262c-compliant Classification System requires the sheriff to provide separation of individuals based on specific criteria such as behavior, gender, age (with respect to juveniles), criminal history and medical or mental health; and

WHEREAS, the separation of housing, custody levels, and supervision required by the Classification System leads to the need for a larger jail than one designed solely for an expected ADP number; and

WHEREAS, to determine the size of the housing and work-space portions of the Projects, the County Board has consulted jail builders with considerable expertise to estimate the impact of the Classification System on the Houghton County jail design, given historical trends and the experience of other county jails in Michigan and in other parts of the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of the consultants for accommodating the current ADP of the Houghton County jail was 60 housing beds, with 70 or 80 housing beds justified by modest trends in ADP for Houghton County; and

WHEREAS, the current Sheriff of Houghton County strongly recommends that the housing portions of the Projects accommodate no fewer than 70 individuals in order to ensure that a new facility will not be inadequate even before it opens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The following MILLAGE PLAIN LANGUAGE ADDENDUM #1 represents the intentions of the County Board with respect to the Projects the County Board will oversee as part of the millage the Board has submitted to go before the voters at the election to be held on November 3, 2026:

MILLAGE PLAIN LANGUAGE ADDENDUM #1

The new facility described as the Projects herein and in Resolution 26-15 and Resolution 26-18 will provide:

- Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)-compliant housing for at least 70 inmates of all classifications, that size determined to ensure sufficient housing space in the jail facility for decades into the future.
2. This resolution does not alter or repeal any aspect of Houghton County Resolution #26-15.
3. This resolution does not alter or repeal any aspect of Houghton County Resolution #26-18.

Motion Made By:	Commissioner Britz
Motion Supported By:	Commissioner Janssen
Roll Call Vote:	YES Commissioners, Britz, Janssen, Tikkanen, Anderson
	NO Commissioner Keranen