



Pittsfield Charter Township

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Office of the Supervisor

One Year!!

March 23rd will mark a whole year since I began writing these community letters at the onset of the Great Pandemic!! During the course of this unprecedented year we have faced and overcome a multitude of challenges – together as a community and as individuals. The pandemic has taken 500,000 American lives, placed millions in economic hardship, and generally wreaked havoc in all our lives in one way or another! However, with your continued partnership, we used the past year to further cement our commitment to equity and sustainability here in Pittsfield Township.

We redirected resources to support our small businesses and those that are the most vulnerable members of our community. We expanded our green infrastructure projects, obtained input on and outlined recommendations for improving racial equity, and acquired over \$30 million in grants to further enhance our multi-modal transportation network. This approach reflects our decade-long commitment to fiscal, economic, and environmental sustainability: pittsfield-mi.gov/sustainability

It is our belief that economic/fiscal stewardship is intrinsically related to our ability to be good stewards of our environment. In other words, we cannot afford to promote environmental sustainability if we don't have the economic means to provide excellent public services. They are both critical to attracting private investment (an average of \$10M/year, 2012-2019). An impact of this approach is that Pittsfield supports one of the most diverse and desirable housing in the region.

Since 2009, our fiscal stewardship has centered around three main tenants: (1) Grant acquisition; (2) Reduce/minimize administrative costs; and (3) Maintain low taxes for residents and businesses. As such, we have acquired unprecedented amounts in grant funding – \$50 million in 10 years – and have essentially the same number of municipal employees we did a decade ago.

With regard to taxes, Pittsfield, with the third highest population, has one of the lowest tax rates (6.5 mills) in Washtenaw County while being one of only two full-service municipalities providing water, sewer, rubbish, parks and recreation, public safety (police and fire), assessing, and building services. Your taxes have remained the same since November 2009, with the exception of the increase you approved to the public safety millage in 2011. Now, 10 years later, we are requesting the same of you. The reasons and data associated with this request to increase the public safety millage, on the ballot in May, will be made available, in the next few weeks, at: Pittsfield-mi.gov/publicsafety

Information will also be included in the upcoming spring edition of the Post so you are well equipped to make a decision on or before May 4th. In fact, as we re-open full public access to our administrative buildings and resume in-person public meetings, I look forward to staying in touch with you through such regular channels as the Pittsfield Post and interpersonal exchanges. While I will miss these more frequent communiques, as you know, I am available to you anytime. As always, I sincerely urge you to please be kind and patient with yourselves and each other.

My most sincere regards,

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
Supervisor
