



**HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Telephone: (906) 482-8307

**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**

RESOLUTION #26-18

**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 text of Resolution #26-15 was written on the advice of counsel in a formal way to comply with requirements in the laws of Michigan for local bond proposal millages; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that it is necessary to clarify the intentions of the County Board with respect to their plans for the Projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The following PLAIN LANGUAGE COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S OPERATIONS FACILITY MILLAGE DESCRIPTION represents the Project that the County Board is putting before the voters at the election to be held on November 3, 2026.

PLAIN LANGUAGE COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S OPERATIONS FACILITY MILLAGE DESCRIPTION

Shall Houghton County borrow an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 dollars and issue bonds repayable over 30 years to construct, equip, and finance a new County Jail and Sheriff's-Operations complex on the County-owned property at 19741 West Sharon Avenue in the city of Houghton, Michigan?

The new facility will replace the current jail and sheriff's operations building, built in 1963, and will provide:

- Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)-compliant housing for at least 60 inmates of all classifications and so eliminate the risk of a jail shutdown and associated costs and loss of local control
- Be sited at a location that a) allows the sheriff to fulfill his jail oversight responsibilities while meeting the legal requirement of a primary office in city limits and b) moves the jail away from downtown while still allowing fast response to calls inside and outside city limits
- Be of a size that enables the mandated classification and separation of inmates by age, gender, etc. with only a modest increase in overall effective capacity. Including space for juveniles and proper separation of high, medium and low security inmates
- Include spaces that enable programs to reduce recidivism and address root-cause issues
- Ensure adequate space for safe and effective operations for the Sheriff's Office operations, including, but not limited to, booking, investigations, corrections, evidence storage, inmate medical care, and programs designed to reduce crime and repeat offending
- A courtroom to reduce transport costs between the new County Jail/Sheriff's office facility and the existing County Courthouse on Houghton Avenue
- Private consultation space for pre-trial detainees and their lawyers
- A larger drive-in garage (sally port) for safely securing inmate transfer in all kinds of weather

The current jail and sheriff's operations building on Houghton Avenue will be repurposed by the County, but the expense for doing so will not be part of this Project. The existing building at 19741 West Sharon Avenue will be repurposed by the County, but the expense for doing so will not be part of this Project. The current County Courthouse has been continuously upgraded in recent years, and these projects will continue, but the expenses for County Courthouse renovations will not be part of this Project.

If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in the first year of the levy in 2027 is 1.2726 mills (\$1.2726 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds over 30 years is 1.2722 mills (\$1.2722 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

YES	O
NO	O

2. This resolution does not alter or repeal any aspect of Houghton County Resolution #26-15.

Motion Made By: Commissioner Roy Britz
Motion Supported By: Commissioner Glenn Anderson

Roll Call Vote: YES Commissioners Britz, Anderson, Tikkanen, Janssen
NO Commissioner Keranen