



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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For Immediate Release

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Federal Court Dismisses the Department of Justice's Lawsuit Against Washtenaw County in Full

ANN ARBOR, Mich – August 21, 2026 – Washtenaw County welcomes today's decision by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan granting the County Defendants' motion to dismiss the federal government's lawsuit challenging the County's policies related to Washtenaw County's immigrant community.

In an 86-page opinion, U.S. District Court Judge F. Kay Behm rejected the federal government's effort to invalidate policies adopted by the Washtenaw County Board, the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. Today's order dismisses the case in its entirety.

The Court reaffirmed a fundamental principle of our constitutional system: while the federal government has broad authority over immigration, it cannot require local governments to use their personnel, facilities, and resources to carry out federal immigration enforcement.

The Court concluded that the federal government's complaint failed to establish that Washtenaw County had done anything more than exercise its constitutional authority under the Tenth Amendment.

"The dismissal affirms what we have said from the beginning: Washtenaw County has both the right and responsibility to make thoughtful decisions about how we use our local resources to keep our community safe," said Board of Commissioners Chair, Katie Scott. "We can respect federal law without being compelled to do the federal government's job for

it. I'm proud that we stood by our values and by our community, and we will continue working to make sure everyone who calls Washtenaw County home feels safe accessing County services and engaging with local government."

Throughout this litigation, Washtenaw County has maintained that federal immigration enforcement is fundamentally a federal responsibility and that local governments cannot be compelled to devote local resources to carrying out federal priorities. The Court's ruling confirms that principle.

"We are grateful for the Court's careful and thorough consideration of these important constitutional questions," said Corporation Counsel, Michelle Billard. "This ruling provides important clarity not only for Washtenaw County, but for local governments seeking to serve their communities while respecting roles of federal, state, and local government."

Washtenaw County remains committed to public safety, rule of law, responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, and ensuring that County services remain accessible to all members of our community.