

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION 2019-09**

**SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADOPT 4-YEAR TERMS  
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

WHEREAS Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century — road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

WHEREAS Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two- year terms for county commissioners; and

WHEREAS all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

WHEREAS the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

WHEREAS legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of House bills 4397-98 and Senate Bills 504-505; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties supports the legislation as introduced;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Gogebic County Board of Commissioners supports House Bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505 to enact four-year terms for county commissioners.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019

