

September 17, 2021

Michelle Crocker
Leelanau County Clerk
8527 E Government Center Drive
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Dear Ms. Crocker,

Please ensure that this letter goes on the record.

I am appalled to read about the actions of some of the Leelanau County Commissioners in taking it upon themselves to overturn the will of the voters in a November 2019 special election, and recommending that the early childhood millage applied to the December 2021 tax collection be reduced to 0.000.

The people of Leelanau County made their wishes known in a free and fair election. While some commissioners may not agree with the outcome, they need to observe the will of the majority and uphold what was voted for. To send a message that the will of the voters can later be overturned by a 4-3 vote of the commissioners sets a dangerous precedent, undermines the confidence of the electorate in this democratic process, and is irresponsible government.

I can't think of any programs that are more worthwhile and provide more bang for the buck in long-term benefit than early childhood education, and many studies have shown this to be true.

While I'm not currently a resident of Leelanau County, I grew up in Traverse City, vacation in Leelanau County annually, and plan to move back there in the near future upon retirement. I was impressed with the outcome of this ballot initiative in the 2019 special election, and look very favorably on a populace that invests in its children this way and realizes the long-term benefits such an investment will provide.

Sincerely,

Don Hamilton

Don Hamilton

78 DeCourt Road

Milanville, PA 18443