

**From:** [Shannon Torres](#)  
**To:** [Board of Commissioners; Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Date:** Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:02:56 AM

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Please distribute to the Commissioners and add to the materials for the Monday, September 21st Board of Commissioners meeting. Thank you.

Dear Commissioners,

As an attorney, I often advise on difficult situations in which it becomes important to recognize that the fact someone can legally do something, doesn't mean that they should. Reducing the early childhood millage to zero in order to nullify the votes of your constituents certainly falls in that category. I can understand discussing all options available to the Board, but no elected official should actually vote for this. To be clear, when the public votes, it is NOT your duty to attempt to reverse that vote because you don't like the programs or policies that were approved, things aren't moving as quickly as you would have liked during a global pandemic, or that some constituents would prefer to keep their money. Even the four Commissioners, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, that have proposed and supported this idea must recognize the dangerous precedent its sets -- related to millages and beyond.

On top of attempting to re-write the decision-making duties of elected officials and the voters, it is incomprehensible that you would choose to attack early childhood development. The research is well-established that providing early supports for children and families makes an enormous difference in the long run, on both the individual and the community levels. The voters agreed with investing in future generations, and your view that the money should remain in the hands of today's property owners is short-sighted. Leelanau County will only continue to thrive if it can attract and support children and families. I grew up in Leelanau County, have young children, and would like to move back. But it will not be attractive to do so if Leelanau's elected leaders are working against the benefit of the community instead of for it.

Commissioners Bunek, Lautner, Rushton and Robbins: you have gone out of your way to stand in the way of important programming that will improve the lives of many and advance equity. Please reconsider, withdraw the amendment to the motion, and allow the millage to be assessed and the programs to proceed.

Thank you,  
Shannon Price Torres