

## **DESCRIPTION OF POSITION OF COUNTY DESIGNATED ASSESSOR FOR LEELANAU COUNTY**

As required by MCL 211.10g(4), every County shall have a Designated Assessor on file with the State Tax Commission as of December 31, 2020. The County Designated Assessor is designated by an Interlocal Agreement executed between the County Board of Commissioners and a majority of the Assessing Districts in the County. The individual designated as the County's Designated Assessor must be approved by the State Tax Commission.

The County Designated Assessor must be an individual qualified and certified by the State Tax Commission as an Advanced Assessing Officer or Master Assessing Officer. The appointment of an individual as Designated Assessor does not create an employment or paid contractual relationship with the County. The Designated Assessor shall have no responsibilities as Designated Assessor during the period in which he or she is not acting as an assessor of record for an Assessing District within the County, other than to remain certified and in good standing.

The County Designated Assessor shall contract with one or more Assessing Districts as necessary to serve as the Assessing District's Assessor of record, upon request of the Assessing District or as may be required by the State Tax Commission, as a consequence of the Assessing District receiving a notice of noncompliance from the State Tax Commission after an audit, under the terms and conditions set forth in MCL 211.10g.

The County Designated Assessor shall be capable of ensuring that the contracting Assessing Districts achieve and maintain substantial compliance with the requirements in MCL 211.10g(1). The Assessing District shall provide the Designated Assessor with reasonable access to records, documents, and information. The Assessing District shall advise the Designated Assessor of any applicable policies and procedures, including technology, equipment, and facilities.

The County Designated Assessor may charge an Assessing District that is required to contract with the County Designated Assessor a reasonable rate of compensation (e.g., periodic payment on a per parcel basis) and reimbursement of costs. The Assessing District shall pay reasonable compensation to the Designated Assessor, and be responsible to pay the reasonable costs incurred by the County Designated Assessor in serving as the Assessing District's Assessor of record, including, but not limited to, the cost of overseeing and administering the annual assessment, preparing and defending the assessment roll, costs incurred in appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal (i.e., appraisal costs, expert witness fees and attorney fees), and operating the assessing office (including employment of additional staff necessary to bring the Assessing District into compliance).

The services to be provided by the Designated Assessor to the contracting Assessing District include: preparation of assessment rolls, establishing a plan to correct deficiencies found in the State Tax Commission audit, timely delivery of documents and execution of forms, attendance at Board of Review meetings, handling property tax appeals filed with the Michigan Tax Tribunal (either directly or through legal counsel), timely reporting and meetings with local officials of the Assessing District, and responsibility for overseeing assessing staff members of the Assessing District.

The County Designated Assessor is a local assessing unit for purposes of the provisions in MCL 211.44 concerning the division and use of any collected property tax administration fees.

If approved by the State Tax Commission, the County Designated Assessor shall serve for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of the approved designation. The designation shall not be revoked, and no new designation shall be made earlier than five (5) years following the date of the approved designation, subject to potential revocation by the State Tax Commission.

Once an Assessing District is under contract with the Designated Assessor, the Designated Assessor will remain in place for a minimum of five years. However, the Assessing District may petition the State Tax Commission to end the contract after the Designated Assessor has been in place for a minimum of three years.