

From: [Anne-Marie Oomen](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Letter for public comment
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 11:49:20 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the work you do every day. However, in the case of the proposal from Commissioner/Chairman Bunek to reduce the early childhood millage to .000, I strongly suspect an error in judgment has occurred which needs to be promptly corrected.

I worked in education at several grade levels for over thirty years. There are plenty of sound reasons to support the program—and you will hear these reasons from others, but here is the one on which I wish to focus. Consistent research in my field and deep experience in my own work supports that early childhood education is the single most important factor the community can provide to support families in raising children who will become healthy and contributing citizens to our society. It is the early childhood support on all levels, and full access to that support, that makes the difference for later success of the child. The ECDC does that—it is the work we must support for the sake of all our children. The early childhood development program is not redundant but extends these opportunities to all families.

I strongly encourage you to reconsider your position, and to support the people's legitimate vote, the vote that decided in favor of this program. It is your duty to do so, even if you don't always agree with the voters.

Respectfully submitted to all the commissioners,

Anne-Marie Oomen

Registered voter, Empire Township

*copied to Rick Robbins

**Letter for public comment

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Anne-Marie Oomen

www.anne-marieoomen.com

writer, workshop leader, literary presenter, instructor:

Solstice MFA at Pine Manor College

<http://www.pmc.edu/mfa-apply>

Books: Forthcoming in 22-23

As Long as I Know You: The Mom Book, winner of AWP's Sue William Silverman Award for Creative Nonfiction

The Long Road, Cornerstone Press

NOW OUT!: ELEMENTAL: A Collection of Michigan Nonfiction

AND *The Lake Michigan Mermaid: a Tale in Poems*

with poet Linda Nemeč Foster and illustrator Meridith Ridl

. BOTH Michigan Notable Books, 2019

Also: *Love, Sex and 4-H*, winner Next Generation Indie Award for Memoir;

Pulling Down the Barn, House of Fields, Uncoded Woman, American Map