



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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## **Kalamazoo County Commissioners Confer With Michigan Congressional Members, Helps Craft National Policy for Counties during D.C. Visit**

*In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...*

**Kalamazoo MI** – Kalamazoo County Chair Julie Rogers, Vice Chair Tracy Hall, Commissioners Stephanie Moore and Michael Seals joined nearly 2,000 county leaders representing more than 40 counties from across Michigan for the 2020 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference. The event draws on the local experiences and expertise of commissioners from the 3,069 U.S. counties to craft policy initiatives for Congress and federal regulators. A highlight of this year's conference was an address by President Donald Trump.

County officials also spent time on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Michigan's congressional delegation, including U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters to discuss federal priorities for the year, including pre-trial detainee health care and recidivism, election security, the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, broadband accessibility and revitalizing American infrastructure.

"We had very productive meetings with our members of Congress and Senators and advocated for increased funding for hospitals and county public health departments to respond to flu and coronavirus," stated Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers. "As a health care professional, I am pleased there is bipartisan work being done by our Michigan delegation to get a bill passed quickly for these much needed funds to assist counties."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the NACo legislative conference. I learned a lot and made great connections through networking," said Vice Chair Tracy Hall. "Looking forward to sharing resources with those I met at the conference."

"I'm honored to attend the annual NACo legislative conference representing Kalamazoo County," Commissioner Stephanie Moore shared. "I made sure I spoke up about equity in policy and presented models of what that looks like at the county level. I shared stories of our experiences impacting issues such as PFAs, the public defender's office, and trauma informed practices."

Commissioner Michael Seals shared that the Veterans Resolution proclaiming Kalamazoo County as a Hidden Heroes County in support of military and veteran caregivers will be provided funding assistance from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

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