



**Houghton County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Item Request Form**

Please fill out the following form to request an item be added to the agenda for the upcoming Houghton County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Submitter Information:

- Name: Katie LaCosse
- Department/Organization (if applicable): Keweenaw Indivisible
- Phone Number: 610-310-2332
- Email Address: katie.lacosse@gmail.com

Agenda Item Details:

- Title of Agenda Item: Resolution (see attached)
- Requested Meeting Date: 2/10/26 *March work ses. per Chairman*
- Brief Description of the Item (include any decisions needed):

Requesting time to respectfully present the attached resolution and would like the Commissioners to vote on this during the meeting, please.

- Are you requesting time to speak at the meeting?

Yes
 No

- Supporting Documents Attached?

Yes
 No

(If yes, please list): Resolution

Signature: *Katie LaCosse*

Date: 2/1/2026

A RESOLUTION PROTECTING EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES, ENSURING THE SECURITY OF K-12 AND MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND GOVERNING THE USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners is committed to ensuring that all residents, regardless of their national origin or immigration status, can access essential public services including public healthcare, public schools and universities, law enforcement, judicial services, emergency services, and social services without fear of retaliation or displacement;

WHEREAS, the effective functioning of county government depends on a relationship of trust between the community and county employees, and such trust is undermined when county facilities and resources are utilized to facilitate federal civil immigration enforcement;

WHEREAS, the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution protects all people from unreasonable searches and seizures and requires that warrants be supported by probable cause and signed by a neutral judge or magistrate;

WHEREAS, administrative warrants, such as ICE Forms I-200 and I-205, are not signed by judges and do not grant the legal authority to enter non-public areas of government buildings without consent;

WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits the federal government from commandeering state and local resources or personnel to carry out federal regulatory programs such as civil immigration enforcement therefore ensuring tax dollars paid by Houghton County residents are utilized solely for our residents and not for federal immigration enforcement;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that no state may deny a child a K-12 public education based on their immigration status, as this also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Equal Protection Clause states that no State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws and illegal aliens are "persons" protected by the Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution apply to all individuals within U.S. jurisdiction, regardless of their legal status, and guarantees fundamental procedural rights, including the right to a hearing, representation, and the ability to contest removal in court;

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Board of Education affirmed on January 13, 2026, that "no child should fear that going to school or stepping outside their home could result in their family being torn apart";

WHEREAS, the presence of immigration enforcement at or near bus stops, school playgrounds, or administrative offices discourages attendance and inflicts irreversible psychological trauma on the student population;

WHEREAS, Michigan Technological University is a cornerstone of Houghton County's economy and cultural identity, attracting talented students, researchers, and faculty from all over the world with an alumni base spanning six continents and 100+ countries;

WHEREAS, federal law under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student records from being shared without a judicial subpoena or court order;

WHEREAS, the safety and privacy of the student body, particularly within residential dormitories and research facilities, are paramount to maintaining the University's academic standing and its ability to attract global talent;

WHEREAS, the county recognizes that any enforcement action targeting students or faculty on campus disrupts the educational mission and creates a hostile environment that threatens the county's long-term economic stability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby prohibits the use of county-owned, leased, or managed property, including airports, administrative buildings, parking lots, and parks, for the purpose of staging or conducting civil immigration enforcement operations without a valid judicial warrant signed by a state or federal judge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal immigration agents shall not be permitted to enter non-public areas of county facilities for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement unless required by law or authorized by a valid judicial warrant or court order;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Houghton County employees, contractors, and agents are prohibited from voluntarily assisting in civil immigration enforcement actions occurring on county property, including the sharing of non-public information, unless specifically required by state or federal law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all K-12 public schools, school buses, bus stops, and Michigan Technological University residential and academic facilities are recognized as "sensitive locations" where county resources shall not be used to facilitate civil enforcement that disrupts the educational environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that county agencies shall prioritize the safety of students during enforcement emergencies by coordinating with educational institutions to ensure that children are released only to authorized emergency contacts, thereby preventing unnecessary placement into the state foster care system;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is authorized and directed to provide notice of this resolution to all County Department Heads, the Sheriff's Office, and local educational boards to ensure the uniform protection of all Houghton County residents.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This _____ day of _____, 2026.

Moved by Commissioner: _____

Supported by Commissioner: _____

Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

March WS

**THE KALKASKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 2026-03
SUPPORTING HOUSE BILLS 5152 AND 5153**

WHEREAS, at a Regular Meeting on January 21, 2026, the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, House Bills 5152 and 5153 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, providing critical protections for homeowners during mortgage foreclosure proceedings; and

WHEREAS, County Officials in Michigan have identified a pattern of predatory practices where third-party firms target vulnerable residents who are facing mortgage foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, these firms exploit homeowners and heirs by convincing them to sell either the property itself or their statutory rights to surplus foreclosure proceeds and redemption, often stripping residents of tens of thousands of dollars in home equity for a fraction of the true value; and

WHEREAS, County officials have witnessed firsthand these firms targeting vulnerable residents after an auction has concluded, including an instance where an elderly heir was paid \$100 to sign away her rights to over \$10,000 in known surplus proceeds; and

WHEREAS, these predatory activities not only harm homeowners, they create a significant and ongoing burden for County's departments statewide, including the Sheriff's Office, the Register of Deeds, the Probate Court, and the Corporate Counsel, which must expend public resources to manage fraudulent claims and improperly filed probate estates; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5153 would directly stop this predatory model by making a mortgagor's right to surplus money and right of redemption non-assignable and non-transferable after a notice of foreclosure is recorded, except through legitimate testate or intestate succession; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5152 would further protect homeowners by requiring a mandatory, plain-English "Notice of Rights" for any conveyance of property after a foreclosure notice is recorded, ensuring the seller fully understands they are waiving their rights to redemption, occupancy, and surplus proceeds; and

WHEREAS, the Counties across Michigan have identified the burdens created by these practices and are asking the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners for a resolution of support for this vital legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners fully supports House Bills 5152 and 5153, which will protect Kalkaska County residents and residents across the State of Michigan, from foreclosure fraud, preserve home equity for families, and reduce the burden on local government resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and all Michigan counties for their consideration and action and distribute to all County Clerks to be a posted communication in each county.

Commissioner Sieting Motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-03. Supported by Commissioner Matley.

Roll call:

Yeas: Sieting, Matley, Baldwin, Bicum, Comai, Persons, Fisher

Nays: None

Abstention: None

Absent: None

The Chairperson thereupon declared this Resolution approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Kalkaska this 21st day of January, 2026.

Kohn Fisher Jan 23rd 2026

Kohn Fisher, Chairperson

Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners

Deborah Hill

Deborah Hill, Kalkaska County Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Kalkaska, Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2026.

Deborah Hill

Deborah Hill, Kalkaska County Clerk



**HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Telephone: (906) 482-8307

**SUPPORTING HOUSE BILLS 5152 AND 5152
RESOLUTION #26-02**

WHEREAS; at a Regular Meeting on March 10, 2026, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, House Bills 5152 and 5153 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, providing critical protections for homeowners during mortgage foreclosure proceedings; and

WHEREAS, County Officials in Michigan have identified a pattern of predatory practices where third-party firms target vulnerable residents who are facing mortgage foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, these firms exploit homeowners and heirs by convincing them to sell either the property itself or their statutory rights to surplus foreclosure proceeds and redemption, often stripping residents of tens of thousands of dollars in home equity for a fraction of the true value; and

WHEREAS, County Officials have witnessed firsthand these firms targeting vulnerable residents after an auction has concluded, including an instance where an elderly heir was paid \$100 to sign away her rights to over \$10,000 in known surplus proceeds; and

WHEREAS, these predatory activities not only harm homeowners, they create a significant and ongoing burden for County's departments statewide, including the Sheriff's Office, the Register of Deeds, the Probate Court, and the Corporate Counsel, which must expend public resources to manage fraudulent claims and improperly filed probate estates; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5153 would directly stop this predatory model by making a mortgagor's right to surplus money and right of redemption non-assignable and

non-transferable after a notice of foreclosure is recorded, except through legitimate testate or intestate succession; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5152 would further protect homeowners by requiring a mandatory, plain-English "Notice of Rights" for any conveyance of property after a foreclosure notice is recorded, ensuring the seller fully understands they are waiving their rights to redemption, occupancy, and surplus proceeds; and

WHEREAS, the Counties across Michigan have identified the burdens created by these practices and are asking the Houghton County Board of Commissioners for a Resolution of support for this vital legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners fully supports House Bills 5152 and 5153, which will protect Houghton County residents and residents across the State of Michigan, from foreclosure fraud, preserve home equity for families, and reduce the burden on local government resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and all Michigan Counties for their consideration and action and distribute to all County Clerks to be a posted communication in each County.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Moved by Commissioner:

Supported by Commissioner:

Roll Call Vote:

Yes:

No: None (0)

Motion carried/failed.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commission

Date

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified County Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its Regular Monthly Meeting held on March 10, 2026, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 10th day of March, 2026.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

March 17/26

 Outlook

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

From louis vallance <airportlou@yahoo.com>

Date Sat 1/17/2026 12:28 PM

To Administrator <administrator@houghtoncounty.gov>

You don't often get email from airportlou@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization of Houghton County. Exercise **EXTREME** caution when opening external attachments or links from unknown senders.

Name. LOUIS VALLANCE

Phone number

Email address. Airportlou@yahoo.com

Title of agenda item. Resolution/Letter of support for bringing Amtrak service to the Upper Peninsula

Requested meeting date February 2 2026

Description:

The Upper Peninsula is not connected to the national transportation network and lacks equal access to the national transportation network which damages Houghton county economic development and access to tourist dollars also access to quality Healthcare services and educational opportunities plus employment opportunities. Would need approval of resolution or letter of support at that meeting.

I would like time to speak i would have to do it remotely via Zoom if possible.

Supporting documents

Upper Peninsula counties in support

Keeweenaw

Baraga

Ontonangon

Iron

Menominee

Chippewa

Mackinac

Marquette

Delta

Alger

This service would be Federal-State funded and would revitalize abandoned rail lines and utilize existing CN track if there are trails it would be rails with trails program. There would be no financial cost to your county.

Sincerely

Louis Vallance

March WS

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF DATA CENTERS/BATTERY STORAGE FACILITIES**

RESOLUTION 01-2026

WHEREAS, data centers/battery storage facilities are large-scale industrial facilities that require substantial amounts of land, electricity, and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the growth of data center/battery storage facility development across the United States has placed increasing strain on local electrical grids, water supplies, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of data centers/battery storage facilities may negatively impact nearby residential communities through noise pollution, visual impacts, environmental degradation, and reduced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, data centers/battery storage facilities may conflict with the County's comprehensive plan, zoning ordinances, and long-term land use priorities; and

WHEREAS, the siting of data centers/battery storage facilities may limit future economic development opportunities by consuming land and utility capacity that could otherwise support more diverse, employment-generating uses; and

WHEREAS, residents of St. Joseph County have expressed significant concern regarding the cumulative impacts of data center/battery storage facility development on the environment, infrastructure, and community; and

WHEREAS, if local control is preempted, a county, township, city, or village would be unable to determine requirements for construction, operation, use, or maintenance of a data center/battery storage facility; and

WHEREAS, if a county already has a data center/battery storage facility policy, practice, regulation, rule, or ordinance on record, it may be null and void; and

WHEREAS, all other types of energy facilities, while regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission, must adhere to local zoning,

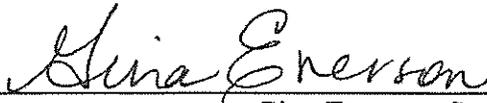
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the St. Joseph Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the Michigan Legislators, in their respective Bodies, along with the Governor, expedite quickly action to repeal PA 233 and PA 235.

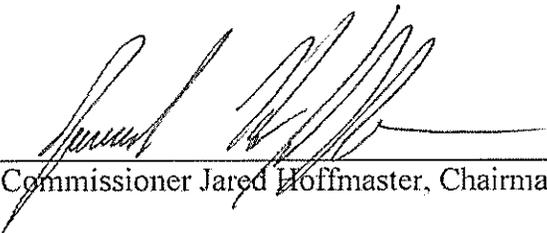
LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that if subsequent legislation is considered relative to data centers/battery storage facilities and futuristic "Green Energy" programs that proper inclusion of Michigan townships, cities, and villages be included in the planning and construction to ensure

the safety of the Environment and appropriate measures be included to ensure proper restoration of the ecosystem.

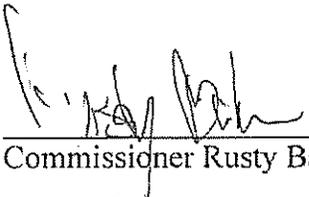
AND FINALLY, that the appropriate Michigan Department be authorized to ensure restoration compliance upon the abandonment of the property.

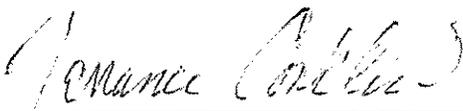
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners on this 20 th day of January 2026.


Gina Everson, St. Joseph County
Clerk/Register


Commissioner Jared Hoffmaster, Chairman

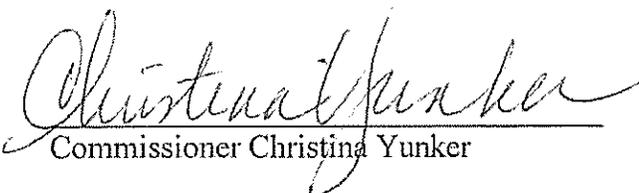

Commissioner Luis Rosado, Vice - Chairman


Commissioner Rusty Baker


Commissioner Terrance Conklin


Commissioner Ken Malone


Commissioner Rick Shaffer


Commissioner Christina Yunker

Fw: St Joseph County Resolution Opposing Data Battery Storage

From Jennifer Kelly <countyclerk@houghtoncounty.gov>

Date Tue 2/10/2026 7:35 AM

To Chelsea Rheault <chelsea@houghtoncounty.gov>

 1 attachment (387 KB)

1-2026 BATTERY STORAGE.pdf;

For the Board's consideration.

If you have any questions, or need further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kelly
Houghton County Clerk/Register of Deeds
401 E. Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931
(906)482-1150

From: Gina Everson <EversonG@stjosephcountymi.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:00 AM

To: Gina Everson <EversonG@stjosephcountymi.gov>

Subject: St Joseph County Resolution Opposing Data Battery Storage

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization of Houghton County. Exercise **EXTREME** caution when opening external attachments or links from unknown senders.

I hope you are all staying warm!

Attached for your information is Resolution 01-2026, recently adopted by the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners, entitled "*Opposing Any Legislation Preempting Local Control for the Construction of Data Centers/Battery Storage Facilities.*" The resolution was passed and adopted in January 2026.

The Board requested that this resolution be shared with county clerks across the State of Michigan for awareness and reference. It reflects local concerns regarding land use, infrastructure capacity, environmental impacts, and the importance of preserving local zoning and planning authority related to large-scale data center and battery storage facility development.

Please feel free to share this information internally as appropriate within your county.

Sincerely,
Gina

County of Houghton
Office of the County Administrator
401 E. Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931

Date: February 25, 2026

To: Houghton County Board of Commissioners

From: Chelsea Rheault, County Administrator

Re: Request to Create Deputy Finance Manager Position

Honorable Commissioners,

I am respectfully requesting Board approval to create a full-time, permanent Deputy Finance Manager position within the County Finance Department.

The Administrative and Finance Offices continue to experience increasing operational demands, regulatory requirements, and reporting responsibilities. The upcoming maternity leave within the Administrative Office has further highlighted our limited internal redundancy. Despite efforts to secure temporary assistance, we have not had success filling the role on a short-term basis. More importantly, this situation has reinforced that what we need is not a temporary fix, but a structural improvement.

This position must be established as an upper management-level role. The Deputy Finance Manager will serve as the direct second-in-command within the Finance Department and will act as the Finance Manager in their absence. This requires an experienced financial professional capable of independently overseeing budgeting, financial reporting, compliance, audit coordination, payroll oversight, and strategic financial planning.

It is important to clarify that this role is not intended to be a clerical or processing position. We already have an Administrative Coordinator within the office who supports transactional and administrative functions. What the department requires is an experienced financial expert with the education, judgment, and analytical skills necessary to assist in managing the County's financial operations at a leadership level.

Creating a Deputy Finance Manager position will:

- Provide necessary operational support within the Administrative and Finance Offices.
- Establish a stronger internal chain of command and improve organizational structure.
- Ensure continuity of operations during absences.
- Allow for better oversight, internal controls, and division of responsibilities.
- Improve workflow efficiency and long-term financial management.

- Support succession planning and long-term departmental stability.

Additionally, this position aligns with a strategic financial goal. For several years, the County has relied on external financial contractors to supplement our internal operations. While this approach addressed short-term needs, it is not cost-effective long term. We currently expend more annually on contracted financial services than we would on a full-time professional employee with benefits.

By investing in a permanent Deputy Finance Manager, we can build internal capacity, reduce dependency on outside contractors, and work toward eliminating those contracts altogether. This shift would not only strengthen internal expertise but also create long-term cost savings and improved institutional knowledge retention.

The proposed position requires a bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business, or management and would serve under the supervision of the Finance Manager, acting in that capacity during absences. The addition of this role will enhance accountability, operational stability, and financial integrity across County operations.

I respectfully request the Board's approval to establish this position and authorize recruitment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if additional information would be helpful prior to consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Rheault

Houghton County Administrator

Job Opening: Deputy Finance Manager, County of Houghton, Michigan

Position Overview

Houghton County is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented professional to serve as Deputy Finance Manager. This position works directly under the supervision of the Finance Manager and plays a key leadership role in supporting the County's financial operations.

The Deputy Finance Manager assists in overseeing budgeting, accounting, payroll, financial reporting, and compliance functions. This individual serves as the acting Finance Manager in their absence and must be capable of independently managing financial operations while maintaining the highest level of accuracy, confidentiality, and professionalism.

This position requires strong analytical skills, sound judgment, and the ability to work collaboratively with the County Administrator, department heads, elected officials, and external auditors.

Key Responsibilities

Included but not limited to the following:

- Assist in managing the County's financial operations, including budgeting, forecasting, and financial reporting.
- Prepare and review monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements and internal reports.
- Support the preparation and monitoring of departmental budgets.
- Assist with cash flow analysis and projections.
- Help coordinate and prepare documentation for annual audits and the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal financial regulations and reporting requirements.
- Assist in developing and maintaining financial policies and internal controls.
- Analyze financial data and provide recommendations for operational efficiencies.
- Process and review bi-weekly/monthly payroll to ensure accuracy and compliance.
- Process Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable transactions.
- Assist with year-end payroll processing, including W-2 preparation and reporting.
- Coordinate with Human Resources to ensure accurate employee compensation and benefit records.
- Provide support and guidance to department heads regarding financial procedures.
- Serve as acting Finance Manager in their absence.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, Management, or related field required.

- Strong understanding of accounting principles and financial reporting.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, particularly advanced Excel skills.
- Ability to analyze complex financial data and communicate findings clearly.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and manage sensitive financial information.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Minimum of 2–3 years of experience in finance, accounting, or governmental accounting preferred.
- Knowledge of governmental accounting principles and public sector budgeting strongly preferred.
- Professional certifications (CPA, CMA, etc.) are a plus but not required.

What We Offer

- An excellent and comprehensive healthcare and fringe benefit package, including access to the County’s four-option Blue Cross Blue Shield plans on the first day of employment.
- A 6% Defined Contribution MERS Retirement Plan.
- A negotiable salary range of \$50,000 – \$60,000, dependent upon qualifications, education, and experience.
- Opportunity for professional growth and leadership development within County government.
- We offer a generous paid time off package:
 - Employees earn **one (1) sick day per month**, credited on their monthly employment anniversary.
 - Vacation time is awarded based on years of continuous service:
 - **After 1 year:** Two (2) weeks (10 workdays) of paid vacation
 - **After 3 years:** Three (3) weeks (15 workdays) of paid vacation
 - **After 10 years:** Four (4) weeks (20 workdays) of paid vacation
 - **After 20 years:** Four (4) weeks plus one (1) additional day per year of service thereafter, up to a maximum of five (5) weeks total
 - Three (3) paid personal days per year
 - Employees also receive paid time off for the following holidays:
 - New Year’s Day
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - Presidents Day
 - Good Friday
 - Memorial Day
 - Juneteenth
 - Independence Day
 - Labor Day

- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day After Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve Day

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit their application, resume, and cover letter to:

Chelsea Rheault

Houghton County Administrator

401 E Houghton Ave

Houghton, MI 49931

Or email: administrator@houghtoncounty.gov

All applicants must also complete an Application for Employment located under the "Employment" tab at:

www.houghtoncounty.gov

THIS POSITION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FILLED
ORIGINAL JOB POSTING DATE: