

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As some of you may know, the County is considering issuing up to \$345 Million in bonds to fully fund its retiree pension and healthcare obligations. Like any major issue, it must be evaluated with clear and open minds. We must weigh the problems and advantages with a breadth of information and context.

As a firm believer in community engagement, openness and transparency, I have continued to demand better opportunities for public participation in the process. To that end, the Board will be holding a series of additional opportunities for public involvement.

As part of this series:

1. The county held a **Press Conference and Q & A on Monday, May 13** to ensure that members of the media had ample opportunity to ask questions and gather information.
2. A **Bonding Presentation** for the community with a Q & A period will be scheduled.
3. The board has scheduled two **Public Hearings** on the bonding.
June 5th 6:45 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room
July 10th 6:45 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room
4. There will be a **June 6th Working Session** where there are two opportunities for public comment. This meeting will be held in the Board of Commissioners Board Room.
5. Members of the public are always encouraged to speak before the board at the **public comment** periods at the beginning of Ways and Means and at the Board meetings.

More information on our meeting schedule:

<http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/boc/board-of-commissioners-2012-calendar>

Given my strong value in public engagement and my desire to ensure that my fellow commissioners had ample time to evaluate this issue, I felt that the first vote in the bonding process was too soon to allow for needed review. To give the public and the board a real chance to evaluate this proposal, the initial step in the bonding process was postponed.

While these opportunities should provide the framework for more meaningful public engagement, I still feel the need for a better way to communicate and gather feedback from you. To that end **I will be holding a series of coffee hours** throughout the 8th District that any member of the public may attend. At this event, I will share my thoughts and welcome your feedback, questions and concerns on the bond issue.

Thank you all for taking an active role in this process!

Yousef Rabhi

Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

County Commissioner, District 8

Bonding over Coffee

Tuesday, May 28th

4-6 PM

Basement of Elixir Vitae (formerly Café Ambrosia)

326 Maynard St.

Saturday June 15th

4-6 PM

Espresso Royale on Main Street

214 S. Main St, Ann Arbor

Wednesday, June 26th

4-6 PM

Caribou Coffee

1423 East Stadium Boulevard

On the corner of Packard and Stadium

