



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

REGISTER
TODAY!



CRA'S COMMISSIONERS IN THE CLASSROOM WHAT'S NEW? TIME'S A-CHANGING!



Tuesday, February 17, 2026 | 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center | 2424 S. Mission St., Mt. Pleasant

It's time to hit the books! This brand-new, full-day "class schedule" is built to give commissioners the tools, tips and know-how to succeed in their role. Throughout the day, you'll:



- ✓ **Get a History Lesson** on county road agencies and what it takes to step into office;
- ✓ **Master Management skills** for running smooth, productive meetings;
- ✓ **Pass Law 101** with a crash course on FOIA and the Open Meetings Act;
- ✓ **Learn the difference between setting policy and managing staff** in our **Policy Primer**;
- ✓ **Take Civics Class** to understand the ins and outs of road funding;
- ✓ **Crunch the numbers in Math Class** with a look at agency budgets;
- ✓ **Prepare for the future in Study Hall** with a preview of what's coming your way; and
- ✓ **Build stronger agencies together in Gym Class**, focused on teamwork.



JUST \$175 TO ATTEND

REGISTER ONLINE! micountyroads.org/classroom

Overnight accommodations at the Comfort Inn & Suites available at \$98 per night by calling 989.772.4000.

For more information contact: Dustin Earley | 517.482.1189 | dearley@micountyroads.org | micountyroads.org

WORKSHOP AGENDA



7:30–8 a.m.

BREAKFAST



MORNING SESSION - THE BACKGROUND

**Presiding: Jo Ann McCollum, Chair, CRA Commissioners Committee and Chair
Washtenaw County Road Commission**

8 a.m.

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

8 – 8:30 a.m.

HISTORY LESSON - ALL ABOUT COUNTY ROAD AGENCIES

Get a quick primer on the origins of county road agencies, how commissions and departments are structured and the basics every commissioner needs to know, from meeting requirements to communications and the Oath of Office.

Speakers: Denise Donohue, CRA CEO and Larry Brown, PE, CRA Board, Commissioner (Allegan)

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

MANAGEMENT LESSON: - FOR PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

Learn how to run effective, efficient meetings by setting clear agendas, applying Robert's Rules of Order and managing public comment periods. Interactive session!

Speaker: Helen Lizzie Mills, Attorney, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

STRETCH & SNACK BREAK

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

LAW 101: - DOING THINGS RIGHT

A practical look at critical laws every commissioner must follow including the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

Speaker: Jennifer Henderson, JD, General Counsel (Oakland)

10:15 – 11 a.m.

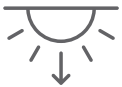
POLICY PRIMER: - COMMISSIONERS SET, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER EXECUTES

Understand the line between policymaking and management, including real-world examples like compensation plans, equipment purchases and township match programs.

Speaker: Helen Lizzie Mills, Attorney, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

11 – 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH



AFTERNOON SESSION

**Presiding: Russell Williams, Chair, CRA Commissioners Training & Education Subcommittee and
Commissioner, Marquette County Road Commission**

11:30 a.m. –
12:30 p.m.

CIVICS CLASS: - ROAD FUNDING 101

Explore the fundamentals of how Michigan's roads are funded with a dive into the Michigan Transportation Fund formula, plus where local and federal funds fit into the picture.

Speaker: Ed Noyola, CRA Chief Deputy and Legislative Director

12:30 – 12:45 p.m.

STRETCH & SNACK BREAK

12:45 – 1:30 p.m.

MATH LESSON: - ROAD AGENCY BUDGETS

Break down the numbers that keep road agencies running including revenue, expenditures and the role of the commissioner.

Speaker: Melissa Williams, Finance Director (Macomb)

1:30 – 2 p.m.

STUDY HALL: - FUTURE PLANNING AND WHAT'S COMING AT YOU?

Look ahead to the issues, opportunities and challenges road commissioners will face in the future.

**Speakers: Ken Hulka, Managing Director (Muskegon), Matt MacDonell, PE (Washtenaw) and
Jean Vanderville, Managing Director (Schoolcraft)**

2 – 3 p.m.

GYM CLASS: - TEAMWORK

Discover how commissioners and staff can work together to build stronger agencies through collaboration and trust.

Speaker: Linnea Rader, Finance/HR Director (Van Buren)

HOMEWORK: Commissioners Handbook and online quiz – For your FREE CRA hat!



SCHOOL'S OUT!