

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PLANTE & MORAN, PLLC STUDY
OF THE COST OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Since taking office in January of 2003, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has been confronted with managing government in the face of unprecedented job loss and economic recession. While Executive Ficano has focused considerable time and effort on creating economic growth and opportunities, reality and sound forecasting of the economic downturn has led to a tremendous restructuring and reduction in the cost of government services.

In an effort to determine how his restructuring efforts compare to peer governments, Executive Ficano commissioned an independent study by noted audit firm, Plante Moran. This study compared Wayne County's cost of government to a group of like sized national peers as well as neighboring Oakland County. Plante Moran's findings show Wayne County near the top in a host of categories including:

- Ranking 1st in the lowest number of employees per 1,000 residents over the past two years, at a rate that is 45% lower than the average;
- The 2nd lowest cost of government per capita over the past two years, 34% lower than the average;
- The 2nd lowest cost of government per household over the past two years, 33% lower than the average; and
- The 2nd highest decrease in expenditures over the past two years, decreasing expenditures by 6% more than the average.

These findings are particularly impressive given the population served by Wayne County as compared to the peer group. On the whole, Wayne County hosts a greater percentage of households in poverty by 7% and \$12,000 less than its peer group in median household income. The remarkable point here is that County Executive Ficano has been able to reduce the cost of government service to among the lowest of all peer counties while, at the same time, continuing to serve the basic needs of a population that is far more reliant upon these government services. For a detailed copy of this report go to http://www.waynecounty.com/documents/exec_docs/WayneCountyCostComparisonAnalysis.pdf.