

**HON. DAVID L. JORDON (RET.)**  
506 BELMONTE CIRCLE, EAST LANSING, MI 48823

May 3, 2019

Mayor Mark S. Meadows  
Mayor Pro Tem Erik Altmann  
Ruth Beier, Council Member  
Shanna Draheim, Council Member  
Aaron Stephens, Council Member  
George Lahanas, City Manager  
City of East Lansing  
410 Abbot Road, Room 100  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Re: 54-B District Court Consolidation Opposition**

Dear Mayor Meadows and Council Members:

As a retired District Court Judge in East Lansing I have been following with great interest the recent proposal to consolidate all Ingham County District Courts. It is my understanding that the three constituent funding units (Lansing, East Lansing, out-county) are studying whether to adopt a plan allowed under a recently passed state law. When I read that the City of East Lansing was studying the matter and was interested in possible cost savings, I felt it was prudent for there to be a careful and thorough study, even though I had misgivings.

Ingham County has now presented a "Preliminary Fiscal Analysis" which demonstrates that financial savings are not a reason to proceed with the consolidation because savings would be insignificant and as much as a decade in the future. It also appears that the East Lansing Council is proceeding in this matter without any significant education, outreach and opportunity for citizen input. Consequently, I am left with the following serious misgivings should East Lansing agree to the consolidation plan.

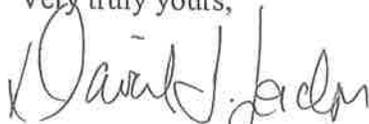
1. With no cost savings it makes no sense as to why East Lansing citizens would want to give up the right to elect their own District Judges, and to administer their own District Court.
2. Under the consolidation plan, there is no way to guarantee the continued operation of East Lansing's treatment courts. The Sobriety, Veterans, and Drug Treatment Courts are flourishing, providing needed treatment and monitoring for those whose primary

problems can never be addressed by traditional incarceration alone. The overwhelming success of these courts in Michigan is chronicled in the FY 2018 Problem- Solving Courts Annual Report at <https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/Publications/ReportsPSCAnnualReport.pdf>.

East Lansing's 54-B District Court runs extremely efficiently, with a strong commitment to fair and efficient services for all court users. Judges Larkin and Ball, in partnership with their administrative team and outstanding staff, work tirelessly to deliver justice every day. From my dad's Michigan farmer folks an old saying comes to mind—"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

I respectfully urge the Council to reject this consolidation plan.

Very truly yours,



Hon. David L. Jordon (Ret.)

cc: Honorable Curtis A. Hertel Jr.  
Honorable Julie M. Brixie