



# THE STRENGTH OF EXPERIENCE

**ERIC COLEMAN**

*FOR*

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 35-DEMOCRAT**

**PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release**

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## **Oakland County Commissioner Eric Coleman Announces Candidacy as Michigan State Representative**

Southfield, MI – Eric Coleman, after serving 14 years as an Oakland County Commissioner, is announcing his candidacy for the Michigan House of Representatives for the 35<sup>th</sup> District. This district serves the Cities of Southfield, Lathrup Village, Oak Park and the Charter Township of Royal Oak.

The incumbent for the 35<sup>th</sup> District has announced that he will not be seeking re-election. Coleman noted that, “because I have worked hard to make a positive change for the people of our community, several friends and supporters had approached me about running for the position of State Representative for the 35<sup>th</sup> District.”

Coleman stated, “Without question, the legislative process in Lansing is broken. I believe that because of my unique leadership experience, I will be able to bring fresh ideas and a more positive perspective to Lansing.” As a County Commissioner, Coleman has worked on a bi-partisan basis to adopt a balanced \$800 million budget in Oakland County, which is the only county in the nation that has adopted a 3-year balanced budget.

“The State of Michigan, our communities and schools are in the midst of a fiscal crisis. We need proven and experienced leadership that is dedicated to putting the needs of our people and communities above partisan and regional bickering,” said Coleman.

**CITIZENS TO ELECT ERIC COLEMAN TO MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 35**

***BARBARA TALLEY, COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN***

18141 WESTHAMPTON AVENUE, SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075 (248) 569-4599

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As County Commissioner, Eric Coleman, served as President of the National Association of Counties, Chairperson of the Oakland County Democratic Caucus and as a member of SEMCOG. His initiatives include: a Prescription Drug Discount Program; mandatory employment diversity training for all Oakland County supervisors and managers; Oakland County's Prevention of the Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force (become the framework for a national program); and the "Bid & Breakfast" program, which provides opportunities for small, women-owned and minority-owned businesses to gain access to and successfully compete for contracts with Oakland County, the State of Michigan and other municipalities.

Coleman also stated, "I am humbled and extremely thankful for the support that I have received in representing my community. Now is the time for leadership in Lansing that is experienced in building coalitions and making tough budgetary decisions that reflect the priorities of our taxpayers, schools, businesses and communities." Adding, "Now is the time to send to Lansing a leader who possesses the experience, integrity, and a proven ability to effectuate change."

In conclusion, Eric Coleman noted, "This campaign is not about me, but, how we can work together to overcome obstacles. This campaign is about addressing the real issues that are threatening the very survival of our youth, our homeowners, our students, jobseekers, city services and the survival of local businesses. Now is the time! And, I am ready to work with you and for you and continue to serve our community as your representative in Lansing!"

Additional information regarding Eric Coleman can be found at either [www.EricColeman.org](http://www.EricColeman.org) or [www.oakgov.com/boc](http://www.oakgov.com/boc). An brief biography is attached.

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## **Eric Coleman - Biography**

Eric Coleman, an Oakland County Commissioner, has represented the 23rd District since 1996. Mr. Coleman is a business executive and a former elementary, high school and community college educator. Mr. Coleman is a former President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Southfield School Board (1986-1990), a former Oakland County Parks Commissioner (1999), Co-Chairman of the Tri-County Economic Development Task Force, and member of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). He serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the 20 member Finance and Budget Committee.

Mr. Coleman recently served as President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and continues to serve in a leadership role on the Executive Committee. NACo was created to ensure that counties have a voice in the nation's capital. NACo has more than 50,000 members, representing more than 3,000 counties and 80 percent of the nation's population.

Eric Coleman is the first Executive Committee member elected from Oakland County and only the second from the State of Michigan. As President, Mr. Coleman guided NACo to increased membership, increased the revenue from \$19.6 to \$27 million and was instrumental in successfully advocating to protect the vital funding for Community Development Block Grant programs. During his term on the Executive Committee, he introduced the successful roll out of the CVS/CAREMART discount prescription drug program. Oakland County residents alone have saved over \$2 million on their prescriptions since the inception of this program.

Throughout the years, Eric Coleman has been actively involved in his community, including but not limited to serving as: Chairperson, City of Southfield's Parent-Youth Guidance Commission; President, Southfield-Lathrup Village Optimist Club International; founder and former advisor Southfield Youth in Government Club; founding member and former First Vice President, South Oakland County NAACP; founder and former President, Southfield Schools Educational Foundation; Southfield Community Foundation; Citizens Advisory Council for Fiscal Responsibility and Policy; Southfield-Lathrup Village Multi-cultural Coalition.

Mr. Coleman has been the recipient of numerous civic awards, including the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award and the State of Michigan Service to the Community Award.

Mr. Coleman serves on the Board of Commissioners' Personnel Committee as the minority Vice Chair. Previously, he served as Vice Chair to the Finance and Personnel Committee and the Planning and Building Committee. He holds a B.F.A. degree from The School of the Art Institute in Chicago. He is also an MBA candidate in finance. Mr. Coleman is a Taubman Fellow, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The Commissioner and his wife Judy are parents and grandparents and have resided in Southfield for 33 years.

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