

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2015

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WARREN MAYOR JIM FOUTS INVITES CITY COUNCIL TO JOIN HIM IN HIS LAWSUIT TO HALT PROPOSAL 1 IMPLEMENTATION

Warren, MI – Warren Mayor Jim Fouts is proposing that the Warren City Council approve the city join his lawsuit to stop implementation of State Proposal 1 that was approved by voters in the August 5 state Primary Election.

At his own expense, but representing Warren taxpayers, Fouts filed a Michigan Supreme Court appeal of the State Court of Claims decision December 9, 2014 that ruled against his case to stop Proposal 1 implementation.

“I will personally pay the first \$5,000 of the cost of the appeal to the Supreme Court, and I am asking the city council to approve the remainder of the cost that is estimated at \$15,000,” said Fouts, who will ask that his request be considered at the January 13 city council meeting.

City Attorney David Griem represented Fouts pro-bono in his lawsuit, but the appeal would be handled by outside counsel with expertise in appeals litigation.

“I am asking that the pursuit of the appeal be approved by all seven members of the city council, or I will withdraw my appeal,” said Fouts, “We need a united front on this critical issue because of the devastating financial effect it will have on our city.”

Fouts said the city assessor calculates the city will lose 400,000 annually the first two years and then \$10.6 million each following year. “This financial jolt could mean employee layoffs, including police and fire,” said Fouts.

Fouts was the only public official in the state to oppose Proposal 1 last summer and has followed up his opposition with a post-election lawsuit. “It’s a matter of financial survival for cities like Warren with a large industrial base and it’s a matter of fairness and following the law in the election process,” said Fouts.

**Attached is a December 8, 2014 op-ed written by Mayor Fouts
outlining reasons for his opposition to Proposal 1**