

Subject Line: Take a 5 minute Survey to Help Your County

Dear Berrien County Resident,

Now, more than ever, broadband Internet is an essential and crucial service to those who live, learn and work in Berrien County. The Berrien County Broadband Internet Task Force knows that in some areas, high-speed Internet is not available. In order to bridge this digital divide, the Berrien County Broadband Internet Task Force needs to gain a better picture of which properties do not have internet access in our area. For this, we need your help!

The task force has created a survey to gather this information in partnership with Merit Network. Your response is important so that we know which properties currently have broadband Internet access. This information will only be used to plan for broadband expansion, it will not be sold. Understanding which households are connected to the Internet at broadband speeds (25/3 mbps) is the first step in building support to seek funding to increase access in our area. Providing high-speed broadband Internet service throughout Berrien County has become a priority for the Berrien County Board of Commissioners as well as leaders throughout southwest Michigan- like the Pokagon Fund.

We need your response by March 26, 2021. All households should complete this survey whether you pay for Internet access at your property or not. If you do not pay for Internet access at this property, we understand that you may not have all the necessary information to answer each question; please answer to the best of your ability.

The survey can be accessed at **MichiganMoonshot.org/Berrien**.

For questions concerning this survey please contact:

Brian Dissette
Berrien County Administrator
269-983-7111 Ext. 8601
meritsurvey@berriencounty.org

Please join us in our efforts to make Berrien County fully connected to county-wide broadband.

Sincerely,

R. McKinley Elliot
Chairman Berrien County Board of Commissioners

K. John Egelhaaf, AICP
Executive Director
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Endorsed by:

David Vollrath
1st District Commissioner

Mamie Yarbrough
4th District Commissioner

Bob Harrison
7th District Commissioner

Mac Elliott
10th District Commissioner

Jon Hinkelman
2nd District Commissioner

Rayonte Bell
5th District Commissioner

Teri Sue Freehling*
8th District Commissioner

Jim Curran*
11th District Commissioner

Don Meeks
3rd District Commissioner

Julie Wuerfel
6th District Commissioner

Ezra Scott*
9th District Commissioner

Michael Majerek
12th District Commissioner

* Member of the Berrien County Internet Task Force

Why Broadband Matters

Broadband Internet is essential to those who live, learn, work and visit Berrien

County. Berrien County Broadband Internet Taskforce (BCBIT) knows broadband is not available in some areas. In order to bridge this digital divide, BCBIT needs more accurate data.

We Need Your Help!

Please complete our 5-minute survey using your home's primary Internet connection method.

MichiganMoonshot.org/Berrien