

The Board of Commissioners has budgetary control over County funds, and exercises the legislative power of appropriation. MCL 141.436. The power to authorize agreements binding the County rests with the Board of Commissioners, unless some other statutory provision exists. MCL 46.1 1(1). [Also see: 7 Mich. Civ. Jur. Counties §86.] The Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is then authorized to sign agreements on behalf of the County or, in his/her absence, another County Commissioner selected by the Board of Commissioners. MCL 46.3. Thus, elected officials, other County officials and employees are not authorized by statute to enter into contracts *on behalf of the County*.

However, the County Board of Commissioners could specifically authorize officials to sign certain contracts within established guidelines when not otherwise prohibited by statute. This could be on a case by case basis through formal Board actions, or by a contracting purchasing policy setting forth Board approved procedures for such arrangements. However, absent a duly enacted County policy or specific resolution allowing the elected officers to enter into contracts on behalf of the County, these officers have no authority to enter into such contracts that purport to bind the County.