



**For Immediate Release**

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## **UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities Research Recognizes Birmingham for Supporting Business in the Community**

BIRMINGHAM, MI, November 5, 2020 – Birmingham has been recognized for its successes and efforts in contributing to Michigan's entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the [annual eCities study](#) conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Birmingham was honored as a five-star community along with 110 other communities across the state.

“The City is pleased to be named among the state's best communities for fostering economic development in the state. Over the years the City has strived to create an environment where businesses can thrive by providing outstanding governmental services and reinvestment in the City's infrastructure,” said Mark Gerber, City of Birmingham Finance Director.

The [2020 eCities study](#) analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments and cost of doing business within the community. For example, over the five-year period of 2015-2019, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 2.4% per year by investments such as library equipment, building, water and sewage improvements, and street renovations, while property tax rates increased by less than 1% on average per year. Although accounting for less than 20% of the State's cities and townships, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 70% of Michigan's population and 87% of the state's commercial property.

“Each year, the eCities project aims to highlight the successes and continued commitment of cities and townships to grow business and support entrepreneurship within their communities,” said Kari Kowalski, iLabs project manager.

“During the five-year period of the study from 2015-2019, the City of Birmingham has seen an average increase in taxable values of 5.1%. The City has used these resources to decrease the overall property tax rate by 0.7% per year, while increasing the capital assets of the City by an average of 2.8% per year. It is this kind of re-investment in roads, sidewalks, water, sewer and parking system that makes Birmingham a premier place to live, work and play,” said Gerber.

Learn more about the eCities study at [www.umdearborn.edu](http://www.umdearborn.edu).

*City of Birmingham – A Walkable Community. Visit the city's web site at [www.bhamgov.org](http://www.bhamgov.org).*

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