

Robert J. Bruner

Contact Information

Address:

Cell:

Email:

Education

- Master of Public Administration
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
 - Bachelor of Arts – Political Science, Economics and Management
Albion College, Albion, Michigan
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Work History

2019 to Present

City of Troy, Michigan (population 86,800)

Deputy City Manager

2014 to 2019

Michigan Municipal Services Authority

Chief Executive Officer

4/2014 to 8/2014

City of Mount Clemens, Michigan (population 16,000)

Interim City Manager

2011 to 2014

City of Birmingham, Michigan (population 20,000)

City Manager

2007 to 2011

City of Ferndale, Michigan (population 20,000)

City Manager

2004 to 2007

City of Ypsilanti, Michigan (population 19,500)

Assistant City Manager

2001 to 2004

City of Oak Park, Michigan (population 30,000)

Assistant to the City Manager

ROBERT J. BRUNER
ICMA Credentialed Manager

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-j-bruner/>

February 18, 2024

Jaymes Vettraino, Vice President
GovHR USA

RE: Troy, MI - City Manager position

Dear Mr. Vettraino,

I am writing to express my interest in the City Manager position. My unique combination of past city manager experience and recent experience in Troy has prepared me well to be Troy's next City Manager. This includes more than 22 years of public service with more than seventeen years in city management, including:

- 7+ years as city manager of three cities
- 7+ years as assistant or deputy city manager of two cities

The table below includes challenges, opportunities, personal traits, and experience from the recruitment brochure and examples of my relevant experience.

Municipal Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led a City Hall interior renovation and reorganization project in Ferndale to allow City staff to serve the community more effectively and efficiently.• Worked with the Ferndale Library Board on renovating and expanding the Ferndale Public Library.• Worked with the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham to develop a long-term vision of the building, leading to a three-phase renovation plan.
Public Safety Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led the consolidation of Birmingham's and Beverly Hills' Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), saving both communities between 30% and 40% annually.• Worked with the City Council and staff to replace Troy's volunteer firefighter incentive program.• Currently working with Fitch & Associates and the Troy Fire Department to evaluate emergency medical services (EMS).
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistently and proactively communicated with the Ferndale community through various channels, including as a contributor to Ferndale Friends newspaper.• Created Birmingham's first full-time communications position.
Retention and Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authored the attached 2018 Township Focus magazine cover story, <i>Surviving the 'Silver Tsunami.'</i>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked with the Ferndale City Council to establish the Environmental Impact Commission in 2007. Renamed Environmental Sustainability Commission, extended its term and increased membership in 2011.

<p>Strategic Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated a long-standing strategic planning process in Ypsilanti. • Initiated Ferndale’s first strategic planning process and used a resident satisfaction survey and priority-based budgeting to link strategic planning and performance measurement. • Conducted a resident satisfaction survey and modified Troy’s strategic planning process in 2021.
<p>Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped a digital marketing company based in San Diego open a new office in Ferndale by working with the City Council to provide personal property tax abatements and with the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) to give a \$3 million state income tax credit. • Led Ferndale’s effort to complete the Redevelopment Ready Communities® (RRC) program, a certification program supporting community revitalization and attracting and retaining businesses, entrepreneurs, and workers.
<p>Revenue Enhancement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead community engagement initiatives resulting in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 3, 2011: Ferndale voters increased the general millage rate by nearly 38%. • August 5, 2014: Mount Clemens voters increased the general millage rate by nearly 46%. • November 3, 2020: Troy voters increased the library millage rate by nearly 62%.

Troy city government is much different today than when I joined in 2019. I am excited to work with the Mayor and City Council members to continue the progress without losing momentum. I want the City Council to understand my approach to city management. Specifically, I want to share how I will proactively engage with elected officials, employees, residents, and other community members.

Elected Officials: I will call the Mayor and each City Council member weekly. I will invite each council member to a monthly one-on-one meeting. This worked well for me in the past and is essential to successful council-manager relations.

Employees: I will regularly host meetings with employees at each City facility. These “Breakfast with Bob” meetings have helped me build relationships in the past. I will also spend time with individual employees and teams in the field. For example, I will ride with the Police Department, plow snow with Public Works, etc. This will require a significant investment of time, but I believe it is essential for the next City Manager to be approachable and engaged with employees.

I am uniquely qualified to be Troy’s next City Manager, and I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bruner

ROBERT J. BRUNER
ICMA Credentialed Manager

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-j-bruner/>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE

- An experienced local government executive committed to proactive communication, innovation, and best practices in leadership and management.
- An ICMA Credentialed Manager dedicated to the highest standards of integrity and committed to lifelong learning and professional development.
- A team-oriented public servant with experience in public safety management, employee engagement, strategic planning, economic development, and revenue enhancement.
- An approachable leader who proactively engages with elected officials, employees, and community members.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy City Manager: City of Troy, Michigan **06/2019 – Present**
Troy is a city of 34.3 square miles with a population of approximately 87,000 in Oakland County.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Deputy chief administrative officer of the city government responsible to the City Manager for efficiently administrating assigned departments; Performs the Manager's duties in his absence.

Key Contributions

- Developed and executed the library millage community engagement plan in 2020. Voters increased the library millage by nearly 62% on November 3, 2020.
- Worked with the City Council and staff to replace the volunteer firefighter incentive program and preserve the Fire Department's unique combination of full-time staff and volunteer members.

Chief Executive Officer: Michigan Municipal Services Authority **08/2014 – 06/2019**
The Authority is a public body created in 2012 through an Interlocal Agreement between Grand Rapids and Livonia. Its purpose is to engage in cooperative activities with local governments.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Chief Executive Officer of the Authority responsible to the Executive Committee for the administration of all programs, funds, personnel, contracts, and all other functions of the Authority.
- Administrator of the Local Community Stabilization Authority and responsible to the Authority Council for administrating the METRO Act, Act 48 of 2002, and the LCSA Act, Act 86 of 2014.

Key Contributions

- Secured a \$5 million grant from the Michigan Department of Treasury to help establish the Authority's Financial Management Services (FMS) Program.
- Distributed local community stabilization share (LCSS) revenue to local government units throughout Michigan under the LCSA Act. Collected annual maintenance fees for use of public rights-of-ways from telecommunications providers and distributed the fees to cities, villages, and townships throughout Michigan under the METRO Act.

Interim City Manager: City of Mount Clemens, Michigan

04/2014 – 08/2014

Mt. Clemens is a city of 4.2 square miles with a population of approximately 16,000 in Macomb County.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Chief administrative officer of the city government and responsible to the City Commission for the administration of all departments, including Assessing, City Clerk, Community Development, Dial-a-Ride (public transportation), Finance, Fire, Human Resources, Public Services, Purchasing, Treasury, and Utilities (water and sewer).

Key Contributions

- Prepared the City's first Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and initiated community engagement. Voters increased the general millage by nearly 46% on August 5, 2014.

City Manager: City of Birmingham, Michigan

02/2011 – 02/2014

Birmingham is a city of 4.8 square miles with a population of approximately 20,000 and two AAA bond ratings (Fitch Ratings and Moody's) in Oakland County.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Chief administrative officer of the city government and responsible to the City Commission for the administration of all departments, including Building, City Attorney, City Clerk, Engineering, Finance, Fire, Historical Museum, Human Resources, Information Technology, Planning, Police, and Public Services.

Key Contributions

- Consolidated a neighboring community's Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) with the City's, saving both communities between 30% and 40% annually.
- Worked with City staff, community members, and consultants to develop a Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for the City to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

City Manager: City of Ferndale, Michigan

02/2007 – 02/2011

Ferndale is a city of 3.9 square miles with a population of approximately 20,000 in Oakland County.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Chief administrative officer of the city government and responsible to the City Commission for the administration of all departments, including Assessing, Treasury, City Attorney, City Clerk, Community Development, Finance, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Recreation.

Key Contributions

- Led the City to complete the Redevelopment Ready Communities® (RRC) program, a certification program supporting community revitalization and attracting and retaining businesses, entrepreneurs, and workers.
- Prepared the City's first Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and initiated a public education campaign regarding City finances consistent with the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Voters subsequently approved a Headlee Override on May 3, 2011.

Assistant City Manager: City of Ypsilanti, Michigan **08/2004 – 02/2007**
Ypsilanti is a city of 4.5 square miles with a population of approximately 20,000 in Washtenaw County.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Assistant chief administrative officer and human resources director of a full-service government with more than 100 Full-Time Equivalent employees; Performed the Manager's duties in his absence.

Key Contributions

- Prepared the City's first multi-year budget and coordinated town hall meetings to solicit public input on recommendations that the City's Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances prepared.
- Established an information technology partnership with Washtenaw County government that won Government Technology's 2006 Michigan Excellence Award for best IT collaboration.

Assistant to the City Manager: City of Oak Park, Michigan **10/2001 – 08/2004**
Oak Park is a city of 5.5 square miles with a population of approximately 30,000 in Oakland County.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Worked under the direction of the City Manager and served as a member of the Executive Team.

Key Contributions

- Employee engagement.
- Implemented a web-based citizen relationship management (CRM) system that helped reduce response time while service requests increased.

EDUCATION

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Phone: (734) 487-1849

- *Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management*

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202 | Phone: (313) 577-2424 or (877) WSU-INFO

- *Graduate Certificate in Economic Development*
- *Master of Public Administration (MPA) with concentrations in Economic Development Policy and Administration and Urban Policy and Management, May 2004*

Albion College, Albion, MI 49224-1887 | Phone: (517) 629-1000

- *Bachelor of Arts with majors in Political Science, and Economics & Management*

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Part-time Faculty: Wayne State University Department of Political Science **09/2013 – Present**

- Political Science 7375: Professional Development Seminar in Administrative Ethics
- Political Science 7250: Seminar in Urban Administration
- Political Science 7330: Public Budgeting and Finance