

**Fairfield County
Board of County Commissioners
Lancaster, Ohio**

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*Fairfield County Board of Commissioners
Mike Kiger, President
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Steve Davis, Commissioner*

Fairfield County recognized by NACo for innovative government efforts

Lancaster, Ohio – Fairfield County was recently recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for implementing innovative practices to better serve area residents. Fairfield County won a NACo Achievement Award for its program to improve transparency and develop communication strategies for stakeholders. The Achievement Award was given in the category of County Administration and Management.

The purpose of the program being honored was to improve access to information. The county website was upgraded. The assessment of the website in terms of the “Sunshine Review” by advocates improved from a D- to an A-. Further, the response time for public records requests improved. A majority of requests are now answered within one day. Carri Brown, Executive Director to the Commission, led a work group for the initiative.

“While it is always nice to be recognized for innovative work, it is especially gratifying that the initiative led to improved transparency and easier access to information.” Ms. Brown gave credit to the Commission’s department heads and administrative staff who worked on the initiative, including Rachel Elsea, the Commissioners’ Clerk. “Rachel Elsea has done an excellent job managing the social media aspects of the Commission,” she added. Further, a partnership with Ohio University-Lancaster was helpful in the effort. The university provided an intern for the project.

The NACo Achievement Award program recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government. Since the program’s inception in 1970, the NACo Achievement Award program has honored thousands of county government initiatives that have improved service delivery, achieved greater cost efficiency, provided finer customer service, and helped to develop a trained work force.

In 2014, five of Ohio’s 88 counties were honored with seven Achievement Awards. Summit, Franklin, Hamilton, and Montgomery counties join Fairfield in earning recognition for innovative county government programs.

For more information, please contact Carri Brown, at cbrown@co.fairfield.oh.us.

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