

State of the County Address #36 - 2023
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 22, 2023

State of the County

Registration for the State of the County address officially began at 11:00 a.m., at the Wigwam Event Center, 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd., Pickerington, OH. The following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis. There were approximately three-hundred and fifteen in attendance including County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, the Commissioners' staff, elected officials from Fairfield County and the State of Ohio, and residents and business owners from throughout the region.

Lunch/Welcome

Lunch began at 11:30 a.m. Travis Markwood, President of the Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, welcomed everyone at 11:40 and spoke about the event sponsors.

Kim Barlag, President of the Pickerington Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged all of the elected officials in attendance.

Posting of the Colors/Pledge of Allegiance

The Color Guard Posted the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Markwood.

Invocation

Dr. David Uhl, Superintendent of the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities, gave the invocation.

Introduction of County Commissioners and Administrator

Mr. Markwood introduced Commissioner Steve Davis.

Call to Order

Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

County Administrator Aundrea Cordle

Administrator Cordle thanked everyone in attendance for joining the 2023 State of the County event and spoke about the County's tag line, which is Serve, Connect, and Protect. Ms. Cordle stated that the commitment to connect is what sets Fairfield County apart from other entities and that connections are critical to the County's success. She spoke about the roles of the Commissioners which are set by the Ohio Revised Code and added that connection is the key to making those roles effective. Ms. Cordle used the Connect Four game as an analogy and added that there is power in numbers and connecting people and businesses increases your numbers. She continued by speaking on the importance of convening, collaborating, cooperating, and coordinating and added that the Commission sees the importance of going beyond what is required and making a lasting impact. Ms. Cordle finished by stating that Fairfield County is a leader that identifies problems and opportunities and works to solve and emphasize them.

Video

A video was shown that highlighted the agencies and programs that received monies through Fairfield County from the American Rescue Plan funding.

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Commissioner Steve Davis

Commissioner Davis thanked Innerphase Video for covering the event and for their part in the production of the video. The Commissioner spoke about the County's increased commitment to the Lancaster Fairfield County Transit Authority (Transit) and provided that the County's funding for Transit increased from \$25,000 in 2022, to \$125,000 in 2023. He added that other agencies were contacted for support of Transit and that funding has increased for the agency. The Commissioner stated that there was a contract with RLS and Associates to assist with the review of Transit and possible transfer of governance and that a resolution of intent was provided by the City of Lancaster to transfer governance. The Commissioner provided a twelve year cash balance history of the County's General Fund and added that Fairfield County has the lowest tax rated in Central Ohio. He provided additional statistics on historical data and five year projections; and spoke about the positive financial outcome of the jail, SWAT building, One Stop Shop solar array, and Records Center projects. The Commissioner stated that the County's employment remains stable, therefore so do the services provided. And, he added that the County was fiscally prepared to manage unforeseeable situations when the pandemic started and therefore, we were able to handle and continue all operations. Commissioner Davis concluded his address by stating, "The State of the County is strong."

Commissioner Dave Levacy

Commissioner Levacy started his address by stating that this was his 11th State of the County event as a commissioner. He added that the Commissioners may have differences of opinion but that they successfully work together. Commissioner Levacy then introduced the Commissioners' Staff, County Directors, additional County Elected Officials, and the Fairfield County City Mayors, who all work together to accomplish great things for the residents and business of the County. The Commissioner transitioned into speaking about the new era of artificial intelligence (AI), its capabilities, and its possible effects on the workforce. Commissioner Levacy concluded by speaking about the Fairfield County Workforce Center (the Center), awards received by the Center, the \$4.5 million allocated to the Center by the State of Ohio, and the Center's collaborations with Ohio University-Lancaster and Hocking College.

Commissioner Jeff Fix

Commissioner Fix opened his address by speaking about family gatherings in Wisconsin that consisted of lots of food and good conversations. He continued by stating that his family often did not agree on the topics in which they were conversing, but that they always respected one another and spoke and debated in a manner that allowed everyone to speak and be heard. Commissioner Fix stated that this is how he learned to debate politics; to listen and address with respect. He added that the federal way politicians address each other is neither healthy nor productive. The Commissioner then spoke about topics that have had some residents in the County concerned, those being solar projects and comprehensive land use plans. He added that he has held an elective office for eighteen years and has never worked with a group (the Board of Commissioners) who is as concerned about doing the right thing for the right reason. The Commissioner spoke about residents who address the Commissioners in public forum regarding topics which are not within the Commission's control. He also spoke about the manner of disrespect in which some residents address the Commissioners, and others, and about the unproductive and destructive nature of those presentations. The Commissioner then highlighted conversations he has had with individuals that were productive and informative. He spoke about Evan Martin, a firefighter in the County, who asked to sit down with him to talk about his personal and professional concerns regarding industrial projects, and Beth Cottrell who invited the Commissioners to sit on her front porch to better understand her concerns. Commissioner Fix

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AGENDA

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners:

Steven A. Davis
Jeffrey M. Fix
David L. Levacy

County Administrator

Aundrea N. Cordle

Deputy County Administrator

Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk

Rochelle Menningen

2023 State of the County Address

August 22, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.

Wigwam, 10190 Blacklick-Eastern Road NE, Pickerington

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the State of the County Address is to provide an update to the residents of Fairfield County.

AGENDA

11:00 am	Registration	Chamber Staff
11:35 am	Lunch/Welcome	Travis Markwood, President Lancaster Fairfield Chamber Kim Barlag, President, Pickerington Chamber
11:40 am	Posting of the Colors/Pledge of Allegiance	Travis Markwood
11:45 am	Invocation	Dr. David Uhl
11:50 am	Introduction of County Commissioners and Administrator	Travis Markwood
12:00 pm	Call to Order	Commissioner Steve Davis
12:02 pm	County Administrator Aundrea Cordle	Aundrea Cordle
12:09 pm	Video	Innerphase Video
12:20 pm	Commissioner Steve Davis	Commission Steve Davis
12:30 pm	Commissioner Dave Levacy	Commissioner Dave Levacy
12:40 pm	County Commissioner Jeff Fix	Commissioner Jeff Fix
1:00 pm	Adjourn	Fairfield County Commissioners

SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT



FAIRFIELD

COUNTY • OHIO



Aundrea N. Cordle

*Fairfield County
Administrator*







Steven A. Davis

*Fairfield County
Commissioner*



General Fund Cash Balance

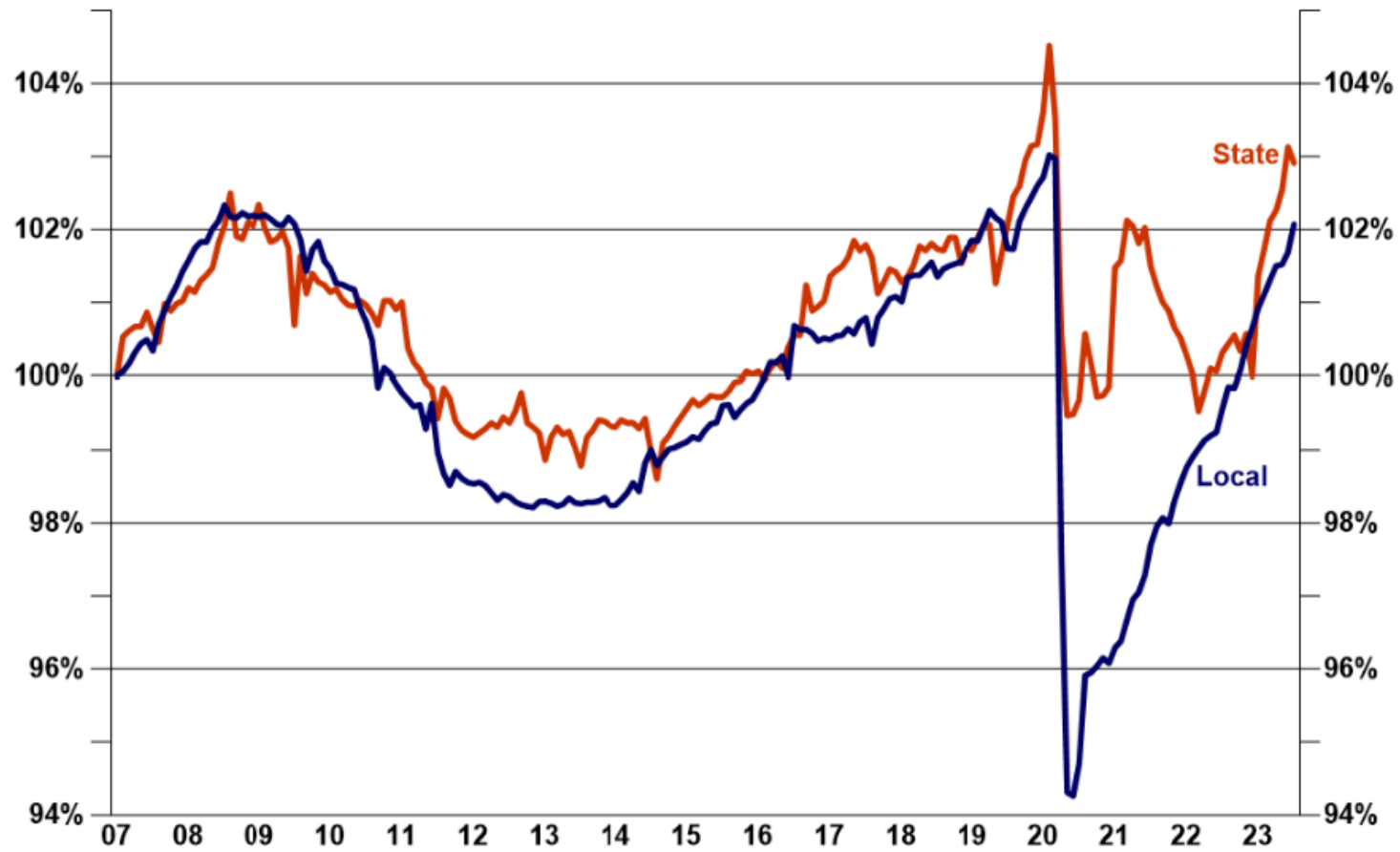
In Millions

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Revenue	33.9	35.7	37.3	39.4	41.3	42.9
Expense	32.4	32.6	38.5	38.1	43.0	41.1
Cash Balance	8.7	10.7	11.3	12.0	9.5	10.6
Red Line	5.3	5.4	6.4	6.3	7.1	6.8
Cash Over Red Line	3.3	5.3	4.9	5.6	2.4	3.7
			Jail Expense			

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	44.9	47.7	47.5	55.2	58.1	64.6
Expense	44.8	46.4	45.8	45.6	54.5	54.2
Cash Balance	10.8	11.5	12.7	22.0	25.5	34.4
Red Line	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.5	9.0	9.0
Cash Over Red Line	3.4	3.8	5.1	14.4	16.4	25.4



Monthly Changes in State and Local Government Employment 2007-2023



U.S. Bureau of
Labor Statistics,
compiled by NASRA

Data preliminary as of July 2023





David L. Levacy

*Fairfield County
Commissioner*



County Administration



Aundrea Cordle
County Administrator



Jeff Porter
*Deputy County Administrator &
Human Resources Director*



County Administration



Rochelle Menningen
Commissioners' Clerk



Bennett Niceswanger
Records Manager & Asst. Clerk



Commissioners' Finance



Bart Hampson
Budget Director



Staci Knisley
Budget Officer & Airport Clerk



Emylee Gussler
Account Clerk



Christina Foster
Payroll Clerk



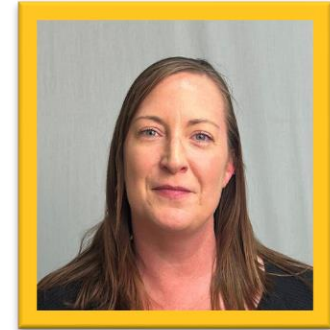
County Human Resources



Lori Hawk
Human Resources Asst.



Abby Watson
Deputy Director



Amberly Hannum
Human Resources Officer



Ashley Lynch
Human Resources Officer



Commissioner Department Heads



Jon Kochis
Facilities & EMA



Leighann Adams
Dog Shelter



Dan Neeley
Information Technology



Rick Szabrak
*Economic & Workforce
Development*



Jeff Porter
Human Resources



Corey Clark
Job & Family Services



Tony Vogel
Utilities



Elected Officials



Dr. Carri Brown
Auditor



Branden Meyer
Clerk of Courts



Richard Berens
Common Pleas Court Judge



David Trimmer
Common Pleas Court Judge



Dr. Brian Varney
Coroner



Jeremiah Upp
Engineer



Elected Officials



Kyle Witt
Prosecutor



Lisa McKenzie
Recorder



Laura Smith
Domestic Relations Court Judge



Terre Vandervoort
*Juvenile and Probate
Court Judge*



Alex Lape
Sheriff



Jim Bahnsen
Treasurer



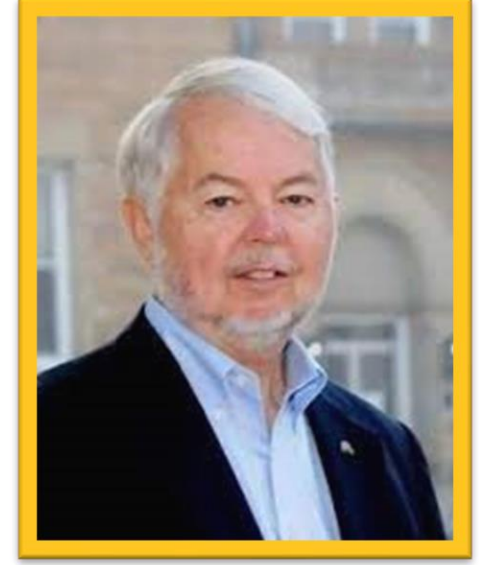
City Mayors



Mike Ebert
*Mayor of
Canal Winchester*



Lee Gray
*Mayor of
Pickerington*



David Scheffler
*Mayor of
Lancaster*



Violet Township Trustees



Terry Dunlap
Trustee



Darrin Monhollen
Trustee



Lori Sanders
Trustee





Fairfield County Workforce Center





Jeffrey M. Fix

*Fairfield County
Commissioner*



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