



Fairfield County, Ohio

Popular Annual Financial Report
for the year ended December 31, 2021

**Issued by Carri L. Brown,
Phd, MBA, CGFM
Fairfield County Auditor**

ROCK MILL

Stebelton Park at Rock Mill

1429 Rockmill Place NW; Lancaster

Rock Mill and Rock Mill Covered Bridge are probably the most-visited and most-photographed Fairfield County destinations!

As many of you know, the restoration of the 1824 gristmill was an arduous decade-long venture. Fairfield County Park District (FCPD) remembers it as an *adventure!* In the first eight years of work (2003-2011), progress was slow and halting because there was no regular source of funding for the restoration. There was even a time when work stopped; the doors were locked. Then, a countywide ten-year levy passed (2011) that provides funding for the Park District, allowing efforts to continue. Just two years later, the work was complete – Rock Mill was finally resurrected! See the documentary, “Rock Mill: Saving an Original” on the website, fairfieldcountyparks.org/historical-features/rock-mill.

Taking advantage of the time the building had to be closed in 2020 because of the pandemic, the waterwheel and forebay were repaired, the mill’s exterior was cleaned, stained and sealed, and the inside received a thorough spring-cleaning. Thanks to Fairfield County Forever, two benches and an ADA-compatible walkway to the front door of the mill were added to the park.

In recent years, Rock Mill has been a staple of annual Park programming. From May through October, the mill is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11am-2pm and Sundays from 1pm-4pm. Visitors can tour the building and learn about its operation. On the last Sunday of each month, corn is milled the way it was done 200 years ago!

It is FCPD’s plan to continue to be good stewards of this amazing structure that is a significant part of Fairfield County’s heritage!

Cover Photo Credit: Rock Mill at Sunset by Spencer Wood

Additional copies of this report may be obtained from:

Fairfield County Auditor’s Office
210 E. Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130

Phone requests can be made at (740) 652-7070 or (740) 681-7224 (fax).

A PDF version of this report is available online at:

http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/Annual-finance-reports/Financial_Reports_lead_page.htm

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AWARDS

Fairfield County participates in various awards programs sponsored by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Each individual program has certain requirements that must be met in order to qualify. During fiscal year 2021, the County received the following financial awards:

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Given for outstanding preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The County received this award in 2021 for the 32nd consecutive year.

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Given for outstanding preparation of the Popular Annual Financial Report

The County received this award in 2021 for the 20th consecutive year.



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Fairfield County Ohio

For its Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2020

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director/CEO

Citizens of Fairfield County



I am pleased to present the Fairfield County, Ohio Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), for the year ended December 31, 2021. This report provides a brief analysis of the sources of County revenues and where those dollars are spent, the County's financial position, an overview of local economic trends, and major goals and accomplishments. Above all, it is designed to present a readable and understandable financial report.

The information in this report was drawn from the financial information appearing in the 2021 Fairfield County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was prepared in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and was audited by the Ohio Auditor of State, receiving an unmodified opinion. An unmodified opinion means that the general-purpose financial statements of the County are fairly presented in all material respects. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report consists of approximately 335 pages of detailed financial statements, notes, schedules, and reports.

The PAFR is a condensed, more user-friendly financial report intended to provide highlights of the primary government from the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report contains information from all Fairfield County funds and is designed to bring greater awareness of the financial condition of our County to its citizens and other interested parties.

This report is unaudited and is presented on a non-GAAP basis. The major differences between GAAP and non-GAAP reporting deals with not including component units and in the presentation of segregated funds, as well as full disclosure of all material financial and non-financial events in notes to the financial statements. Individuals who desire to review GAAP basis, full disclosure financial statements should refer to the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which is available from the County Auditor's office and online at:

<http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/Annual-finance-reports/Financial-Reports-lead-page.htm>

The Fairfield County Popular Annual Financial Report is presented as a means of enhancing the public's confidence in County government and the stewardship of its elected officials through easier, more reader-friendly financial reporting. As you review the following pages, I invite you to share any questions, concerns, or recommendations you may have. Please call the Fairfield County Auditor's Office with questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this report at (740) 652-7020.

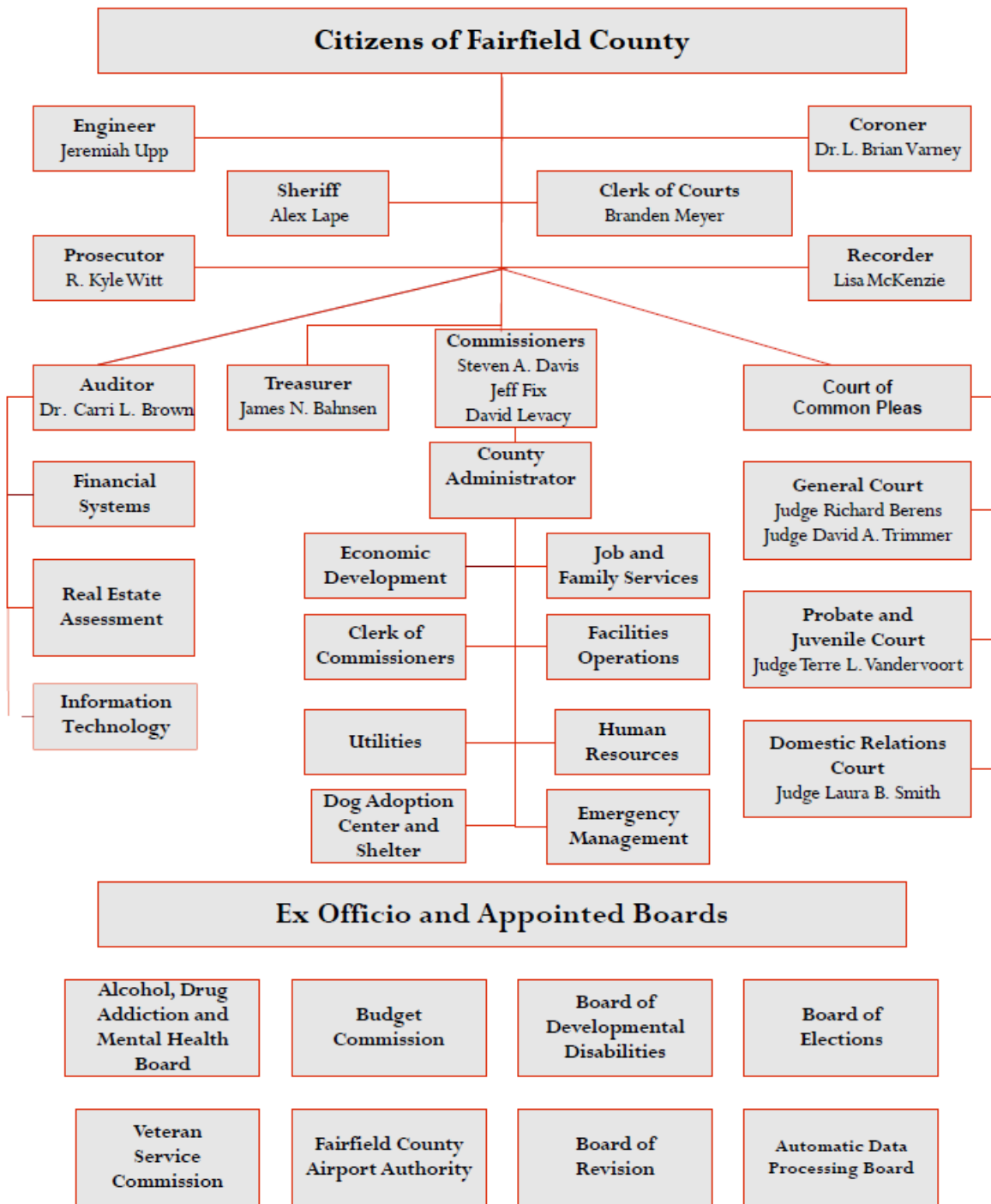
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carri L. Brown".

Carri L. Brown, Phd, MBA, CGFM.
Fairfield County Auditor



Your Fairfield County Government

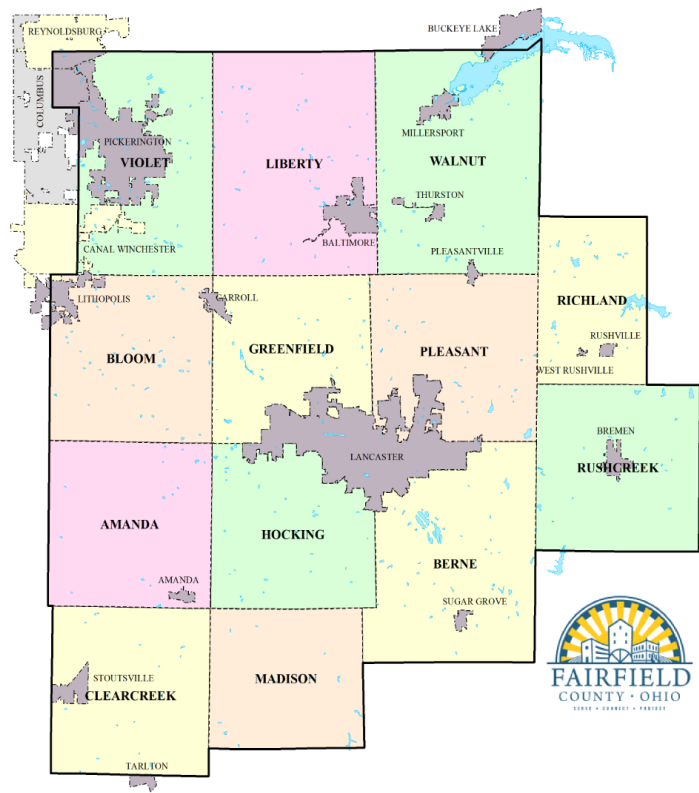


GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The County government has only those powers conferred upon it by the State of Ohio Constitution and Statutes. A three-member Board of Commissioners, a County Administrator, twelve other elected officials, and various department heads govern the County. As part of the “checks and balances” system, the elected officials and department heads manage the internal operations of their respective divisions with the Board of Commissioners authorizing expenditures and serving as the budget authority, the taxing authority, and the contracting body. Each Commissioner serves a term of four years.

In addition to the County Auditor, who serves as the Chief Fiscal Officer and the Tax Assessor, there are seven elected administrative officials, each of whom operates independently as set forth by Ohio law. These officials are: Clerk of Courts, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecutor, Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer. All of these officials serve four-year terms. The following judges are elected on a countywide basis to oversee the County’s judicial system: two Common Pleas Court Judges, a Probate/Juvenile Court Judge, and a Domestic Relations Court Judge.

The County provides citizens with a wide range of services including the following: human and social services, health and community assistance services; civil and criminal justice system services; road, bridge, and building maintenance; water and sewer utility services; and general and administrative support services provided by the offices of the Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, and Recorder.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The County's financial activities are accounted for primarily in governmental activities where the focus is not profit or loss, but rather on services rendered and the cost to provide those services. The County's business-type activities, similar to those found in the private sector, are accounted for in operation funds known as the Sewer and Water Enterprise Funds.

Revenues are monies the County receives from a variety of sources to pay for the services it provides.

Program Revenues include:

- *Charges for Services* – licenses, permits, and other fees, fines, forfeitures, and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by County programs.
- *Operating (and Capital) Grants, Contributions, and Interest* – grants and contributions received from other governments, organizations, and individuals that are restricted in some manner; investment earnings that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program.

General Revenues are those revenues that are not classified as program revenues. All taxes, even those that are levied for a specific purpose, are considered general revenues.

- *Unrestricted Grants and Entitlements*- Revenue from grants and pass-through monies administered by the State of Ohio that are not restricted on their use.
- *Unrestricted Interest and Contributions*- Monies earned through the County Treasurer's investments of cash on hand not needed for current period services; donor contributions that do not specify any restrictions.

Expenses are the amounts spent to provide services to citizens.

Legislative and Executive expenses are the costs incurred for the County's administrative offices, including the Auditor, Commissioners, Treasurer, Prosecutor, and Recorder.

Legislative and Executive-Intergovernmental expenses are Commissioner allocations made to local governments.

Judicial expenses are the costs of administering justice through the Fairfield County Courts system.

Public Safety expenses are the costs of the Coroner, Probation, and Sheriff's departments.

Public Safety-Intergovernmental expenses are the costs to assist in operating the Fairfield, Hocking, and Athens Counties Council of Governments on Major Crimes Investigations.

External Portion expense (**Public Safety, Public Works, Human Services**), are the costs of the limited risk health insurance program for employees of various external agencies within Fairfield County.

Public Works expenses are the costs incurred by the Engineer to maintain county roads and bridges.

Health expenses include services provided by the Developmental Disabilities Board, Dog Adoption Center and Shelter, and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board.

Human Services expenses are the costs of operating the Job and Family Services and Veteran Services Commission departments.

Urban Redevelopment and Housing expenses are the costs of the urban improvement program.

Urban Redevelopment and Housing-Intergovernmental expenses are costs to operate the Community Development Block Grant program on behalf of other local governments.

Transportation expenses are costs related to the County owned property located at the Fairfield County Airport.

Interest and Fiscal Charges expenses are interest and principal payments made for County debt.

Sewer and Water operations expenses are the costs to operate the County's business-type activity, providing sewer and water services to ever growing portions of the County.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY STATEMENT

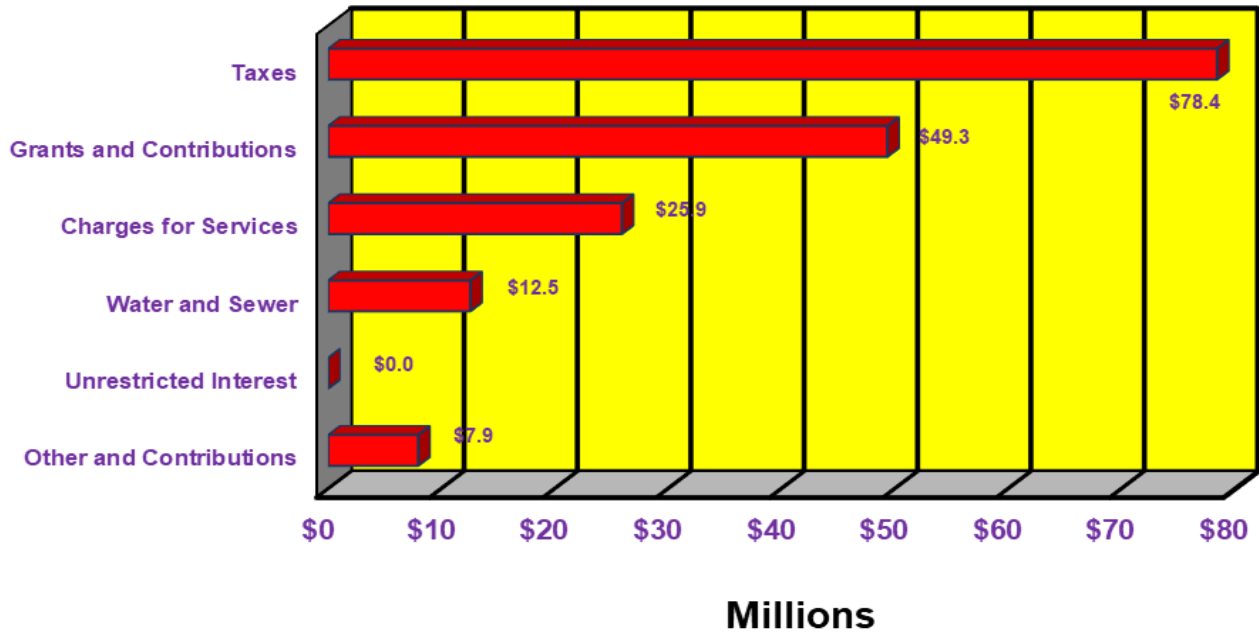
The **Changes in Net Position Statement**, traditionally known by many as the income statement, is designed to provide a record of the money received and spent by the County during the past year.

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
REVENUES						
Program Revenues						
Charges for Services.....	\$ 25,907,824	\$ 24,474,824	\$ 10,054,838	\$ 9,711,194	\$ 35,962,662	\$ 34,186,018
Operating Grants, Contributions, and Interest.....	42,346,816	48,844,350	-	-	42,346,816	48,844,350
Capital Grants, Contributions, and Interest.....	1,588,860	4,263,591	2,270,654	2,752,260	3,859,514	7,015,851
General Revenues						
Taxes:						
Property Taxes.....	45,998,696	44,551,706	-	-	45,998,696	44,551,706
Real Property Transfer Taxes.....	3,895,806	2,919,274	-	-	3,895,806	2,919,274
Lodging Tax.....	509,171	350,813	-	-	509,171	350,813
Sales Taxes.....	28,007,981	23,335,206	-	-	28,007,981	23,335,206
Unrestricted Grants and Entitlements.....	5,387,573	4,244,598	-	-	5,387,573	4,244,598
Unrestricted Interest.....	(524,176)	1,676,646	3,828	17,659	(520,348)	1,694,305
Unrestricted Contributions.....	22,693	3,540	-	-	22,693	3,540
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets.....	16,236	0	9,961	2,726	26,197	2,726
Other.....	7,902,683	3,521,718	202,894	36,251	8,105,577	3,557,969
Total Revenues.....	<u>161,060,163</u>	<u>158,186,266</u>	<u>12,542,175</u>	<u>12,520,090</u>	<u>173,602,338</u>	<u>170,706,356</u>
EXPENSES						
General Government:						
Legislative and Executive.....	13,245,603	18,221,816	-	-	13,245,603	18,221,816
Intergovernmental.....	1,526,078	1,811,142	-	-	1,526,078	1,811,142
Judicial.....	4,753,343	7,791,342	-	-	4,753,343	7,791,342
Public Safety.....	14,608,881	25,766,807	-	-	14,608,881	25,766,807
Intergovernmental.....	767,847	365,161	-	-	767,847	365,161
External Portion.....	550,599	588,369	-	-	550,599	588,369
Public Works.....	12,086,624	13,572,530	-	-	12,086,624	13,572,530
External Portion.....	251,024	304,157	-	-	251,024	304,157
Health.....	20,921,971	27,892,750	-	-	20,921,971	27,892,750
Human Services.....	24,375,582	33,755,959	-	-	24,375,582	33,755,959
External Portion.....	94,239	44,876	-	-	94,239	44,876
Urban Redevelopment and Housing.....	216,103	154,410	-	-	216,103	154,410
Intergovernmental.....	659,795	813,729	-	-	659,795	813,729
Transportation.....	325,641	321,951	-	-	325,641	321,951
Interest and Fiscal Charges.....	1,120,985	1,178,392	-	-	1,120,985	1,178,392
Business-Type Activities:						
Sewer.....	0	0	3,489,485	4,200,989	3,489,485	4,200,989
Water.....	0	0	3,084,967	3,664,568	3,084,967	3,664,568
Total Expenses.....	<u>95,504,315</u>	<u>132,583,391</u>	<u>6,574,452</u>	<u>7,865,557</u>	<u>102,078,767</u>	<u>140,448,948</u>
Increase in Net Position.....	65,555,848	25,602,875	5,967,723	4,654,533	71,523,571	30,257,408
Net Position - Beginning of Year.....	212,341,011	186,738,136	67,716,216	63,061,683	280,057,227	249,799,819
Net Position - End of Year.....	<u>\$ 277,896,859</u>	<u>\$ 212,341,011</u>	<u>\$ 73,683,939</u>	<u>\$ 67,716,216</u>	<u>\$ 351,580,798</u>	<u>\$ 280,057,227</u>

Net position for governmental activities increased by \$65,555,848 for 2021. This is attributed mainly to increases in revenue in the areas of charge for services, property and sales taxes, and other revenue. Property taxes increased due to increases in the assessed valuations. Sales taxes increased due to 2020 being the year of the Covid-19 pandemic and business being open for a full year in 2021. There were decreases in expenses due to decreases in pension and OPEB expenses due to decreases in the pension and OPEB liabilities. Net position for business-type activities increased \$5,967,723 due to increases in charges for services revenue by 3.5 percent while expenses decreased by 16.4 percent. Business-type activities charges for services revenues had an increase in rates, an increase in daily average treatments, and an increase in customers during 2021.

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

**Fairfield County Revenues for 2021
\$173,602,338**



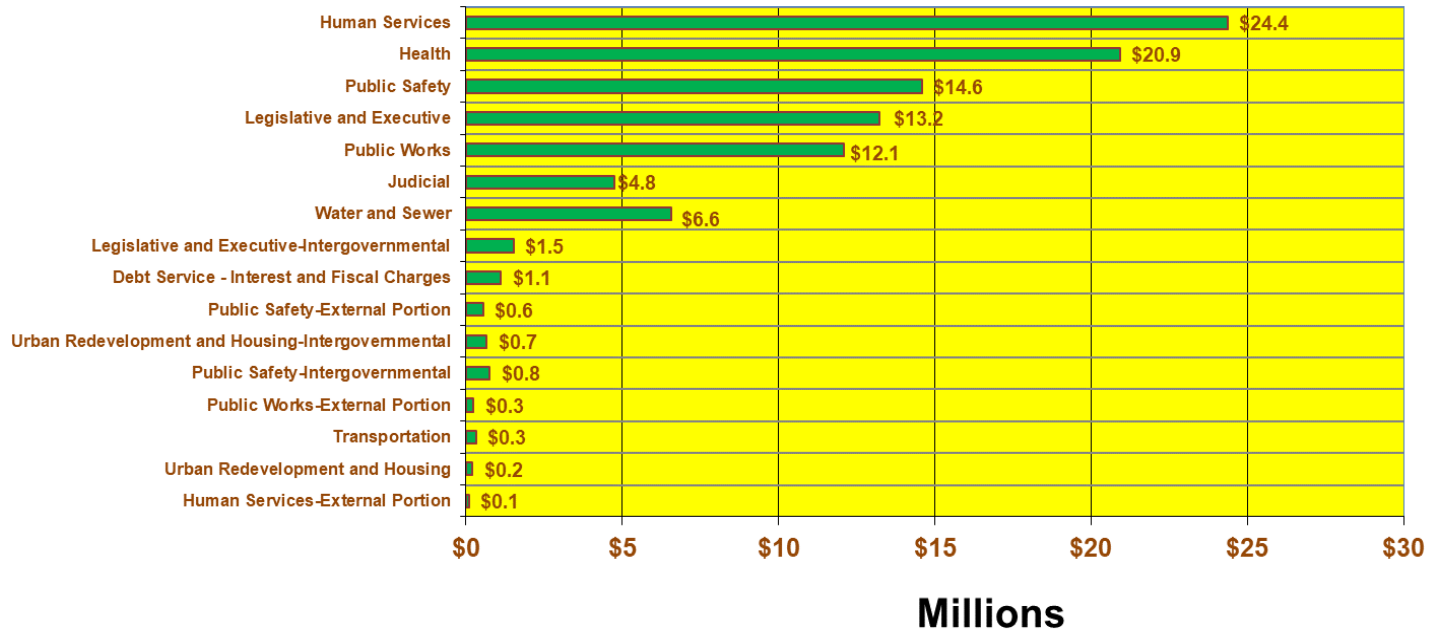
The primary government revenues presented here is reported in the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report’s government-wide statement of activities. The chart depicts revenues by source. The table below summarizes revenues by source and shows the percentage increases (decreases) in relation to the prior year.

REVENUES	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL	2020 ACTUAL	2021 ACTUAL	% CHANGE FROM 2020
Taxes	56,033,893	59,334,609	61,910,819	71,156,999	78,411,654	10.20 %
Grants and Contributions	38,639,413	43,052,655	44,725,382	57,352,539	49,323,249	(14.00) %
Charges for Services	21,575,639	22,689,851	23,138,425	24,474,824	25,907,824	5.85 %
Water and Sewer	10,428,020	12,435,068	11,607,551	12,520,090	12,542,175	0.18 %
Other and Contributions	977,128	1,412,452	1,639,134	3,525,258	7,941,612	125.28 %
Unrestricted Interest	995,494	1,782,378	3,592,037	1,676,646	(524,176)	(131.26) %
Airport Fuel Operations	269,335	0	0	0	0	- %
	<u>\$128,918,922</u>	<u>\$140,707,013</u>	<u>\$146,613,348</u>	<u>\$170,706,356</u>	<u>\$173,602,338</u>	1.70 %

County revenues increased by \$2,895,982 or 1.70 percent for 2021. This increase is mainly due to increases in taxes and other revenue which were mentioned on page 6. Grants and contributions decreased due to CARES Act Funding being received in 2020. In 2021, the County received federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 monies; however, the majority of those revenues were considered unearned revenues at year end. Water and sewer revenues increased from 2020 to 2021 due to mainly an increase in charges for services due to an increase in customer rates, from the prior year, an increase in customers, and an increase in daily water and sewer treatments.

WHERE THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Fairfield County Expenses for 2021 \$102,078,767



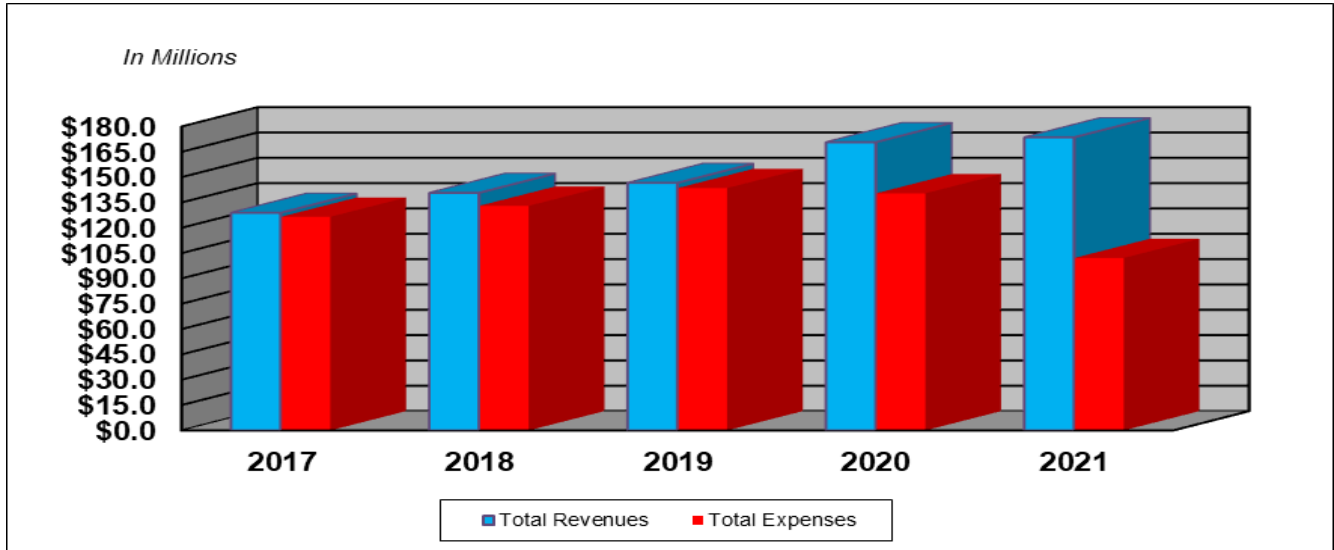
The primary government expenses presented here is reported in the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report's government-wide statement of activities. The chart depicts expenses by function. The table below shows expenses by function, and the percentage increases (decreases) in relation to the prior year.

EXPENSES	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL	2020 ACTUAL	2021 ACTUAL	% CHANGE FROM 2020
Human Services	\$ 27,734,143	\$ 30,703,562	\$ 32,870,167	\$ 33,755,959	\$ 24,375,582	(27.79) %
Health	23,580,852	24,988,893	27,815,291	27,892,750	20,921,971	(24.99) %
Public Safety	24,909,645	24,920,310	27,202,067	25,766,807	14,608,881	(43.30) %
Legislative and Executive	16,677,471	18,671,259	19,695,531	18,221,816	13,245,603	(27.31) %
Public Works	12,698,739	12,516,225	13,706,603	13,572,530	12,086,624	(10.95) %
Judicial	8,133,551	7,732,831	8,468,554	7,791,342	4,753,343	(38.99) %
Water and Sewer	7,046,530	7,743,729	7,989,477	7,865,557	6,574,452	(16.41) %
Legislative and Executive-Intergovernmental	2,034,601	2,369,951	2,361,477	1,811,142	1,526,078	(15.74) %
Debt Service - Interest and Fiscal Charges	1,453,296	1,413,208	1,348,832	1,178,392	1,120,985	(4.87) %
Public Safety-External Portion	565,168	558,145	592,073	588,369	550,599	(6.42) %
Transportation	461,105	-	280,995	321,951	325,641	1.15 %
Airport Fuel Operations	249,217	-	-	-	-	- %
Urban Redevelopment and Housing-Intergovernment	123,839	561,300	394,436	813,729	659,795	(18.92) %
Public Works-External Portion	240,101	261,766	309,647	304,157	251,024	(17.47) %
Urban Redevelopment and Housing	334,045	299,936	58,925	154,410	216,103	39.95 %
Public Safety-Intergovernmental	211,978	221,621	394,013	365,161	767,847	110.28 %
Human Services-External Portion	54,156	82,207	54,443	44,876	94,239	110.00 %
	<u>\$ 126,508,437</u>	<u>\$ 133,044,943</u>	<u>\$ 143,542,531</u>	<u>\$ 140,448,948</u>	<u>\$ 102,078,767</u>	(27.32) %

County expenses decreased by \$38,370,181 or 27.3 percent for 2021 due mainly to decreases in the pension and OPEB liabilities for 2021 compared to 2020. The pension and OPEB liabilities are prorated across expenses based on pension system payments made by the different County departments for their staff throughout 2021.

REVENUES AND EXPENSES TREND ANALYSIS

Past Five Years



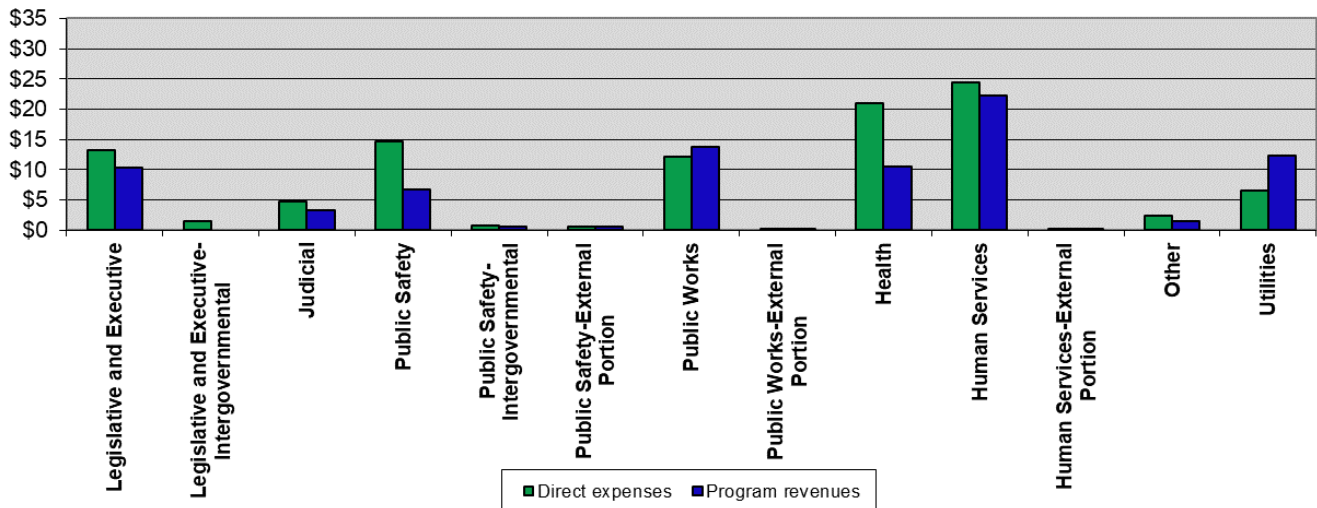
COUNTY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

This chart compares direct expenses and program revenues for each major function of the County. **Direct expenses** are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. **Program revenues** include (1) charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services and (2) grants, contributions, and interest that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program.

The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or else draws from the general revenues of the County. The County's human services, public safety, health, and legislative and executive, expenses accounted for the majority of costs not covered by program revenues. The health excess costs were funded with the County's tax revenues and the public safety, human services, and legislative and executive excess costs were funded with the County's general revenues.

Direct Expenses and Program Revenues

(In Millions)



FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT

The **Statement of Net Position**, traditionally known by many as the balance sheet, is designed to provide a picture of the major components of the primary government's financial position at the end of the year.

Statement of Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Assets						
Cash.....	\$ 157,793,591	\$ 107,635,541	\$ 30,806,953	\$ 26,448,764	\$ 188,600,544	\$ 134,084,305
Receivables.....	76,052,552	75,744,156	2,725,374	2,445,787	78,777,926	78,189,943
Capital Assets.....	211,702,352	211,952,283	55,470,481	56,910,206	267,172,833	268,862,489
Other Assets.....	8,266,065	2,982,025	364,918	236,683	8,630,983	3,218,708
Total Assets.....	453,814,560	398,314,005	89,367,726	86,041,440	543,182,286	484,355,445
Deferred Outflows of Resources						
Deferred Charge on Refunding.....	127,068	226,877	377,311	447,980	504,379	674,857
Asset Retirement Obligation.....	92,895	104,105	687,827	713,594	780,722	817,699
Pension.....	8,459,390	8,751,303	174,486	193,816	8,633,876	8,945,119
OPEB.....	3,636,430	5,846,220	75,656	132,414	3,712,086	5,978,634
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources.....	12,315,783	14,928,505	1,315,280	1,487,804	13,631,063	16,416,309
Liabilities						
Accrued Wages and Benefits.....	2,214,065	1,958,817	58,704	50,287	2,272,769	2,009,104
Payables.....	3,564,359	4,608,138	220,508	204,394	3,784,867	4,812,532
Due to Other Governments.....	1,936,270	1,197,434	55,285	49,639	1,991,555	1,247,073
Bonds, Loans, Leases Payable, Pension, OPEB, Asset Retirement Obligation and Compensated Absences..	85,466,905	129,348,017	14,983,516	18,245,092	100,450,421	147,593,109
Other Liabilities.....	14,157,637	1,199,069	882,789	814,942	15,040,426	2,014,011
Total Liabilities.....	107,339,236	138,311,475	16,200,802	19,364,354	123,540,038	157,675,829
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Property Taxes.....	46,387,778	45,187,646	-	-	46,387,778	45,187,646
Deferred Charge on Refunding.....	52,492	40,898	43,409	59,708	95,901	100,606
Pension.....	19,181,816	11,875,273	414,312	266,934	19,596,128	12,142,207
OPEB.....	15,272,162	5,486,207	340,544	122,032	15,612,706	5,608,239
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources.....	80,894,248	62,590,024	798,265	448,674	81,692,513	63,038,698
Net Position - excess of Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources over Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources..	\$ 277,896,859	\$ 212,341,011	\$ 73,683,939	\$ 67,716,216	\$ 351,580,798	\$ 280,057,227

Assets are those items owned by the County that will provide a benefit in the future.

Cash is the amount of physical cash held by the County in checking accounts and on hand for purposes of paying expenses.

Receivables represent the amounts that are owed to the County and are expected to be paid over the course of the next twelve months.

Capital Assets represents furniture, equipment, vehicles, land, buildings, water and sewer lines, and the County's roads and bridges infrastructure that provide for an economic benefit to the County of more than one year.

Deferred Outflows of Resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources until then.

Deferred Charge on Refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its acquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt.

Asset Retirement Obligation results from the difference in the asset retirement obligation liability and the amount that has been amortized over then life of the assets to date.

Pension/OPEB represents the differences between expected and actual experience and County contributions subsequent to the measurement date.

Liabilities are those items that the County owes to individuals, companies, other governments, and lenders.

Accrued Wages and Benefits are those payments that the County owes to employees for salaries, the associated benefits, and accrued leave.

Payables are those payments that the County owes to individuals or companies who supply services or goods to the County.

Due to Other Governments are primarily the amounts owed to other governments outside the County for goods or services provided by them to the County.

Bonds, Loans, Leases Payable, Pension, OPEB, Asset Retirement Obligation and Compensated Absences are the amounts owed for the issuance of debt, net pension liability, net OPEB liability, and compensation of absences on which the County still owes.

Deferred Inflows of Resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources until that time.

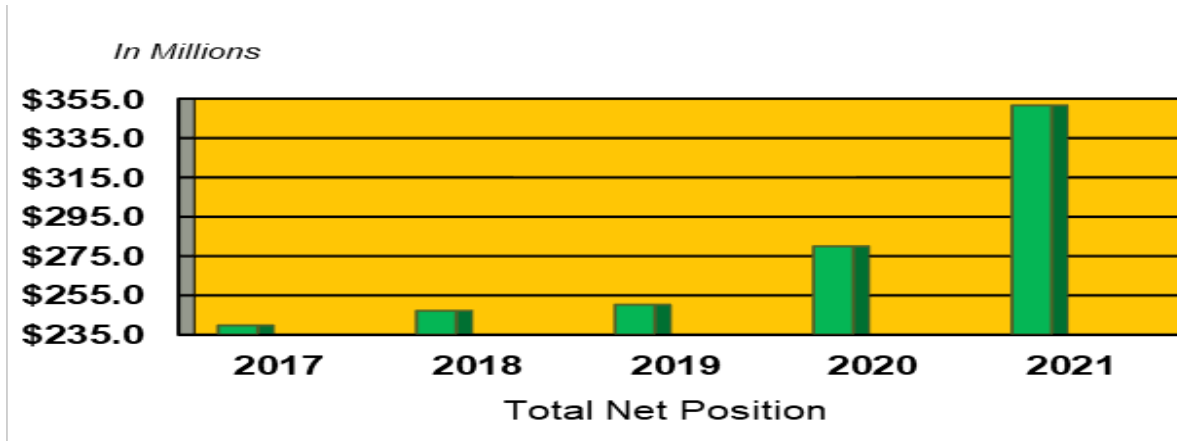
Property Taxes represent the amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of December 31, 2021 but which were levied to finance 2022 operations.

Deferred Charge on Refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its acquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt.

Pension/OPEB represents the net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments and change in proportionate share.

TOTAL NET POSITION TREND ANALYSIS

Past Five Years



Net position is the difference between assets and liabilities and can serve as a useful indicator of the government’s financial position. The application of GASB 68 and GASB 75 reporting for pension and OPEB liabilities has caused some fluctuations over the years. GASB 68 for pension liabilities was implemented in 2015 which restated 2014 balances. GASB 75 for OPEB liabilities was implemented in 2018 which restated 2017 balances. GASB 84, Fiduciary Activities, was implemented in 2019 which restated 2018. GASB 83, Certain Asset Retirement Obligations, was implemented in 2020 which restated 2019. For more information, refer to the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Management’s Discussion and Analysis.

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are defined as property and equipment owned by the County and purchased by each department as needed. This summary is the total dollar amount of governmental and business-type activity assets, net of depreciation, held by the County. Governmental activity capital assets decreased from \$212.0 million in 2020 to \$211.7 million in 2021, a net decrease of \$.3 million. The decrease is primarily due to the current year accumulated depreciation. Business-type activity capital assets remained fairly consistent from 2020 to 2021. Business-type activity capital assets decreased during 2021 due to current year depreciation.

SUMMARY

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities	
	12-31-2021	12-31-2020	12-31-2021	12-31-2020
Land	\$ 6,286,988	\$ 6,166,488	\$ 3,275,664	\$ 3,275,664
Buildings and improvements	56,189,187	58,753,432	11,051,218	11,782,627
Improvements other than buildings	7,084,743	6,604,624	-	-
Equipment and Furniture	3,891,704	3,492,526	113,337	145,996
Infrastructure	131,859,727	132,848,491	40,163,925	41,304,836
Vehicles	3,045,621	3,172,748	198,423	141,784
Construction in progress	3,344,382	913,974	667,914	259,299
	<u>\$ 211,702,352</u>	<u>\$ 211,952,283</u>	<u>\$ 55,470,481</u>	<u>\$ 56,910,206</u>

THE COUNTY'S DEBT INSTRUMENTS

As of December 31, 2021

The County employs the use of several different types of debt instruments for short and long-term financing. Fairfield County's bond credit ratings is "Aa2" which demonstrates the County's very strong creditworthiness relative to other United States municipal or tax-exempt issuers or issues. The benefits of the "Aa2" rating is that the County has lower interest costs when it issues debt in comparison to a less favorable bond credit rating and enables the County to get finance easily for growth and expansion of facilities.

General Obligation Bonds are long-term debt instruments that are repaid from the County's general revenue sources. They are backed by the full faith and credit of the County.

Recovery Zone Bonds are long-term debt instruments issued to pay for a portion of the cost of the utilities department administration building. They are repaid from revenues derived by the County's operation of the water and sewer systems. They are backed by the full faith and credit of the County.

Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for improvements benefiting property owners. The property owners repay the County over a period of years for the debt.

Long-Term Loans and Notes are debt instruments issued by the State of Ohio for a shared electronic document storage and retrieval system and various public works projects. The County's General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Water Fund, respectively, will repay the balances.

Capital Leases are contracts made by the County's departments for the acquisition of assets such as copiers. The departments pay for these contracts from their annual budgets.

SUMMARY OF DEBT OBLIGATIONS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

SUMMARY

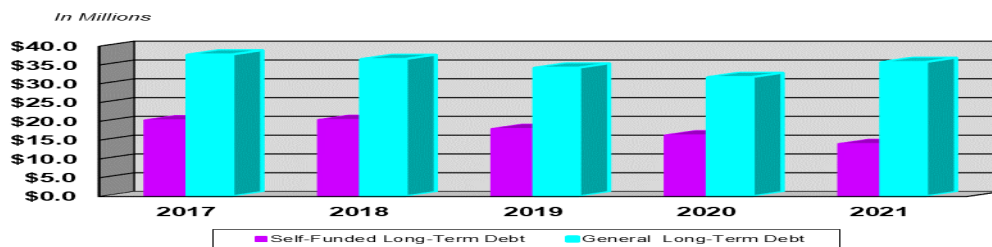
	Balance at 12-31-2020	Additions	Deletions	Balance at 12-31-2021
General Obligation Bonds.....	\$ 42,240,256	\$ 15,869,030	\$ 11,367,948	\$ 46,741,368
Recovery Zone Bonds.....	2,485,000	-	2,485,000	-
Special Assessment Bonds.....	413,000	-	103,000	310,000
Long-Term Loans.....	2,734,361	-	320,051	2,414,310
Capital Leases.....	174,477	34,730	59,569	149,638
	<u>\$ 48,047,094</u>	<u>\$ 15,903,760</u>	<u>\$ 14,335,538</u>	<u>\$ 49,615,316</u>

Allocation of County Debt

	Percent	Amount
Governmental Funds	74.3%	\$ 36,843,598
Water and Sewer Funds (self-funded)	25.7%	12,771,718
		<u>\$ 49,615,316</u>

DEBT OUTSTANDING TREND ANALYSIS

Past Five Years



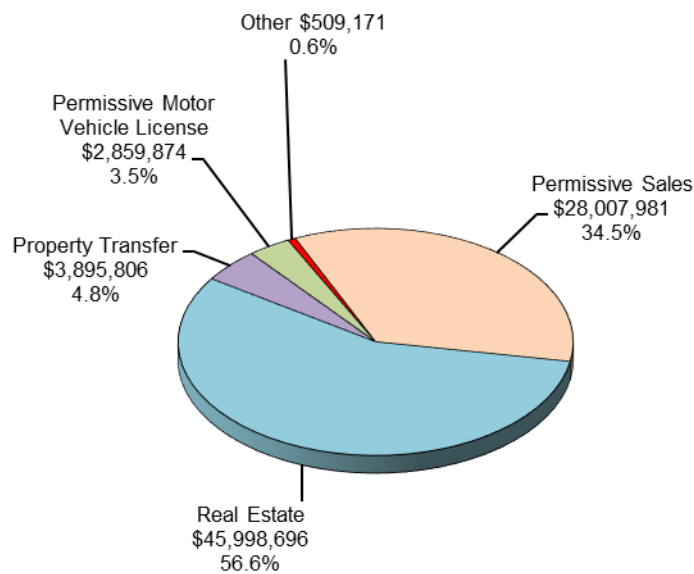
Self-Funded Long-Term Debt are debt obligations whose principal and interest are payable from revenue sources for which the debt was originally issued. Self-Funded Long-Term Debt at the end of 2021 was \$13,953,356. General Long-Term Debt at the end of 2021 was \$35,661,960.

TAX REVENUES

During 2021, the County’s governmental activities received \$81.3 million in tax revenue and \$161.1 million in total revenues. Real estate property taxes account for approximately \$46.0 million or 28.6 percent, real property transfer taxes approximately \$3.9 million or 2.4 percent, and lodging taxes approximately \$.5 million or 0.3 percent for approximately \$50.4 million, or 31.3 percent, of total governmental revenues. Sales taxes, which are received from the State for vendor collections of the tax paid, provided approximately \$28.0 million, or 17.4 percent, of total governmental revenues. Motor Vehicle licenses provided approximately \$2.9 million or 1.8 percent of total governmental revenues.

Breakdown of Tax Collections in 2021

\$81,271,528

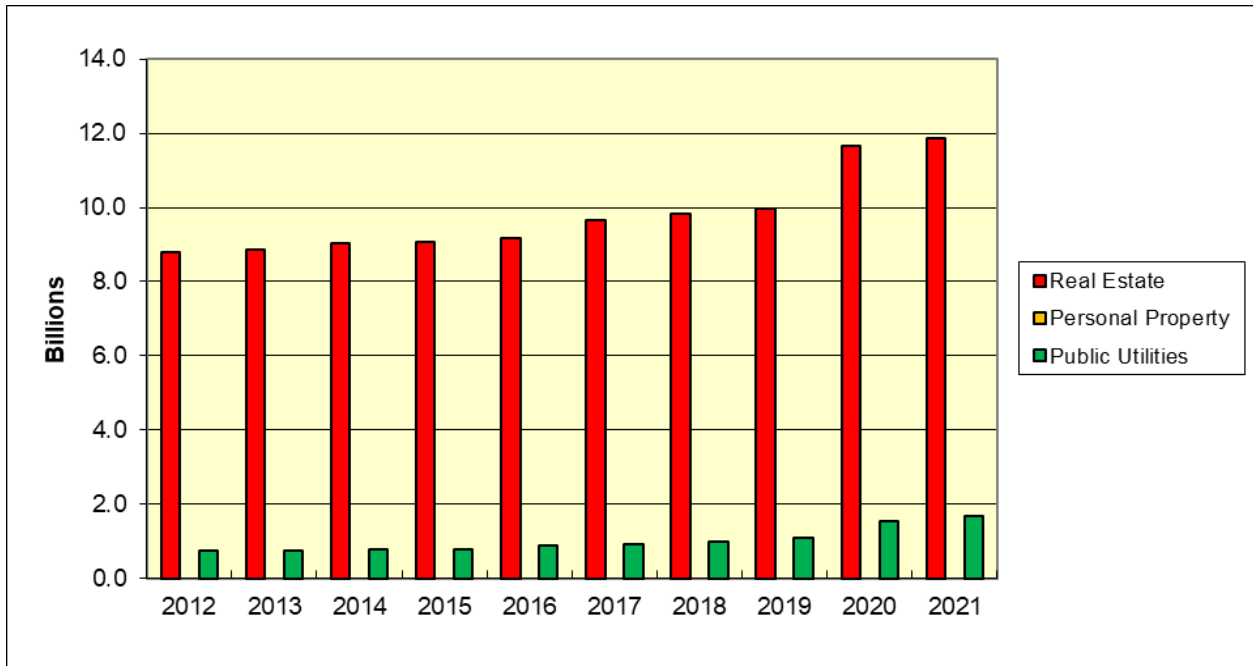


Ten Largest Taxpayers in County in 2021

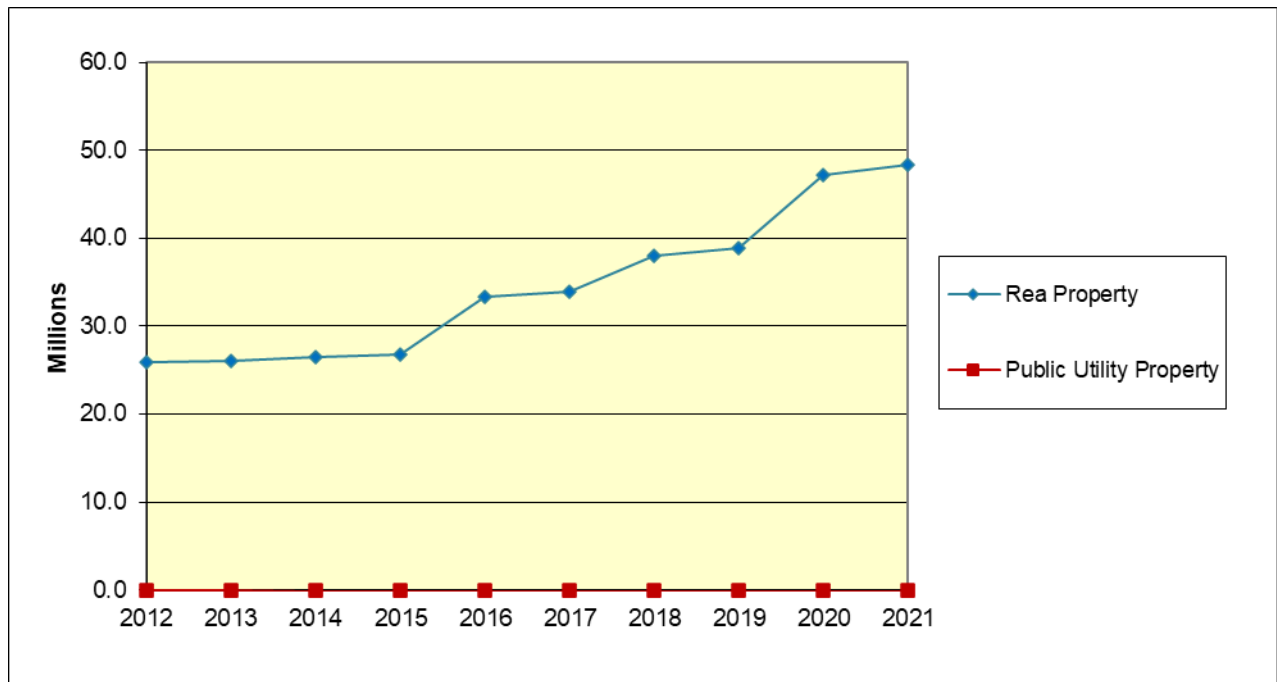
Enterprise	Nature of Business	Value To Be Taxed
Columbia Gas Transmission	Natural Gas Utility	\$168,046,500
Ohio Power Company	Electric Utility	71,330,500
American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company	Electric Utility	55,407,920
Rockies Express Pipeline LLC	Natural Gas Utility	52,174,120
South Central Power Company	Electric Utility	33,949,400
Texas Eastern Transmission	Natural Gas Utility	14,823,120
Eastern Gas Transmission	Natural Gas Utility	9,146,060
Zane Properties	Retail	7,447,740
Creekside Acquisition	Apartments	7,150,430
Columbia Gas of Ohio Inc.	Natural Gas Utility	7,058,680

PROPERTY VALUES AND TAX COLLECTIONS

Property Values for the Last Ten Years

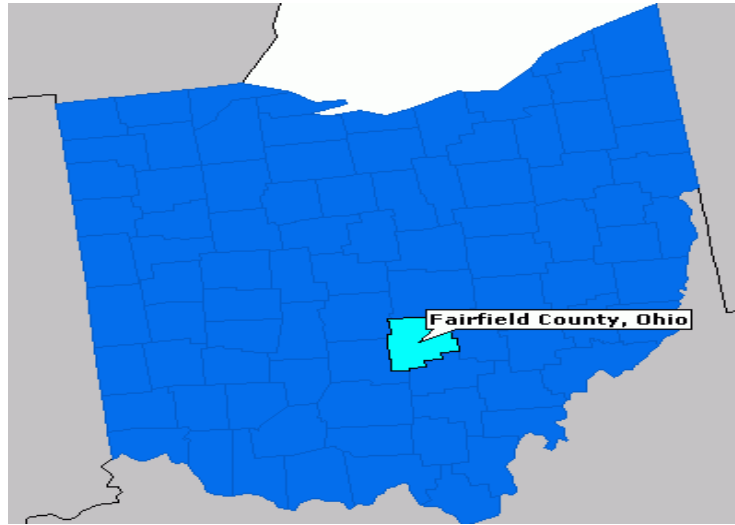


Property Tax Collections for the Last Ten Years



With the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34 in 2003, the tax collections are presented on the accrual basis of accounting which recognizes revenue in the year for which the taxes are levied. The property tax collections chart reflects current tax collections and do not include homestead and rollback. Property tax collections increased during 2021 due to the increase that occurred in assessed valuations.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY



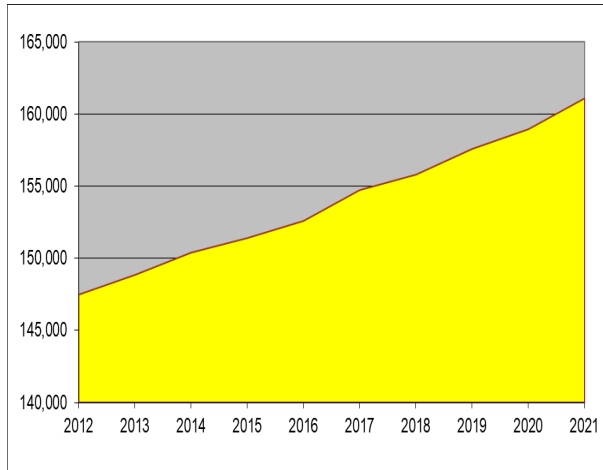
The County of Fairfield was created by proclamation of the Northwest Territory on December 9, 1800. Residents named the county after the area’s “fair fields.” Located in the south-central portion of Ohio, Fairfield County is adjacent to Licking, Perry, Hocking, Pickaway, and Franklin Counties. The County is predominantly rural, with less than two percent of the County’s 506 square miles consisting of urban areas.

PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Percentage of Total County Employment</u>
Fairfield Medical Center	Health Care - Hospital	1,980	1	2.52%
Pickerington Schools	Public School	1,215	2	1.55%
Fairfield County	Government	982	3	1.25%
Oneida	Manufacturer – Glasswares	900	4	1.15%
Kroger	Grocery	828	5	1.06%
Lancaster City Schools	Public School	793	6	1.01%
NIFCO	Manufacturing	552	7	0.70%
City of Lancaster	Government	450	8	0.57%
Magna	Manufacturing	390	9	0.50%
Southeastern Correctional Institution	Government Jail	329	10	0.42%
Total		<u>8,419</u>		10.73%
Total Employment Within County		<u>78,500</u>		

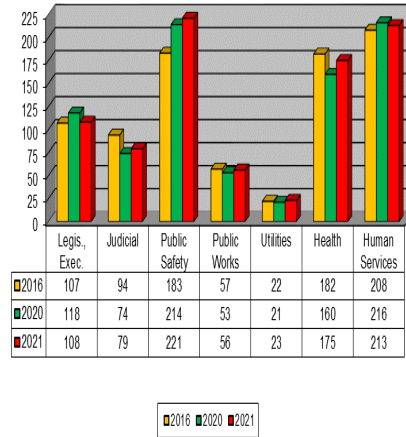
FAIRFIELD COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

COUNTY POPULATION



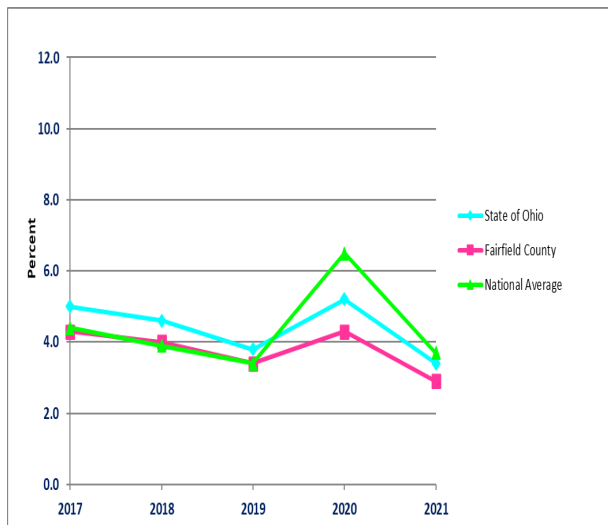
Information provided by The Ohio Department of Development from 2012 to 2021. According to population estimates, 161,064 people reside within the County.

COUNTY EMPLOYEE WORKFORCE



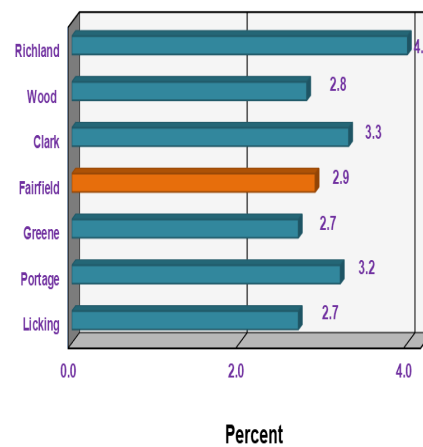
Employees above listed by Function of Government. These employees are paid from revenues in the governmental funds and in the enterprise funds.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TREND



In 2021, the County's unemployment rate decreased from 4.3 percent to 2.9 percent. For 2021, the County's unemployment rates are lower than the State average and are lower than the National average.

COMPARABLE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR 2021



Source: Office of Workforce Development, Bureau of Labor Market Information. In comparing Fairfield County's unemployment rate to other counties, Fairfield County remains stable and constant with most counties of similar size in the State.

MAJOR GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



South Central Power completed its new company headquarters located in Lancaster’s Rock Mill Industrial Park. This new building will consolidate 180 employees into one location. South Central Power is an 85-year-old electric cooperative that serves rural counties throughout Ohio. Its new headquarters shows its commitment to Lancaster and Fairfield County for the long term.



There will be more than 1,100 homes built in Pickerington and Violet Township in the next year. This will continue the rapid growth in the northwest portion of Fairfield County. The Lancaster Port Authority is also working in one of its two Opportunity Zones to build multifamily housing to help address the shortage of affordable housing



The Fairfield County Workforce Center began offering regular programming focused in healthcare, skilled trades, and manufacturing. It served more than 150 individuals throughout the year, including a Ready to Work Manufacturing program and an apprenticeship program with Claypool Electric. In the fall, more than 30 students from Pickerington Schools participated in a Discovery Semester where they received hands-on training in various industries to find a career that interested them. Twenty of those students signed up for pre-apprenticeship classes in 2022.



Chiyoda Integre Co. Ltd. Leased the Lancaster Port Authority’s 50,000-square foot spec building to open its first manufacturing operation in the United States. The Japanese Company manufactures parts for the automobile industry and for office products. It will open in 2022 with 15 employees and the company hopes to use this to launch a larger manufacturing base in the United States. It continues to expand Fairfield County’s automobile supplier base.

HOW TO CONTACT US

December 31, 2021

Fairfield County Website

<https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us>

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Commissioners

Steven A. Davis (740) 652-7090
Jeff Fix (740) 652-7090
David Levacy (740) 652-7090

Auditor

Dr. Carri L. Brown. (740) 652-7020

Clerk of Courts

Branden Meyer..... (740) 652-7388

Coroner

Dr. L. Brian Varney (740) 652-2865

Engineer

Jeremiah Upp..... (740) 652-2300

Prosecutor

R. Kyle Witt..... (740) 652-7560

Recorder

Lisa McKenzie (740) 652-7100

Sheriff

Alex Lape (740) 652-7900

Treasurer

James N. Bahnsen. (740) 652-7140

Court of Common Pleas:

General

Judge Richard Berens (740) 652-7428
Judge David A. Trimmer..... (740) 652-7429

Court of Common Pleas:

Probate and Juvenile

Judge Terre L. Vandervoort..... (740) 652-7460

Court of Common Pleas:

Domestic Relations

Judge Laura Smith (740) 652-7440

PRINCIPAL APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

County Administrator

Aundrea Cordle (740) 652-7090

Deputy County Administrator

Jeff Porter (740) 652-7895

Board of Elections, Director

Jane Hanley..... (740) 652-7000

Facilities Operations, Manager

Dennis Keller (740) 652-7940

Dog Adoption Center and Shelter, Warden

Erin Frost (740) 652-7180

Utilities, Director

Tony Vogel (740) 652-7120

Department of Job and Family Services, Director

Corey Clark (740) 652-7890

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board, Director

Marcy Fields..... (740) 654-0829

Developmental Disabilities Board, Superintendent

John Pekar (740) 652-7220

Emergency Management, Director

Jon Kochis (740) 652-7960

Economic Development, Director

Richard Szabrak (740) 652-7162

Information Technology, Administrator

Daniel Neeley (740) 652-7075

Real Estate Assessment, Director

David Burgei (740) 652-7055

Financial Systems, Director

David Miller..... (740) 652-7046

Veteran Services Commission, Director

Park Russell (740) 652-7921