The Roles of the Fairfield County Auditor
FACT SHEET

FAIRFIELD COUNTY · OHIO AUDITOR

The brand of the County Auditor's Office is excellence!

As the chief financial officer for Fairfield County, the County Auditor:

- Monitors expenditures to promote compliance with laws and regulations.
- Certifies sufficient funds are available for expenses.
- Maintains the official financial records for the county.
- Issues payments from the county treasury, making sure bills and payroll are paid in compliance with the approved budget.
- Is the first point of contact for financial audits.
- Produces an internal control manual to help ensure expenses are made for proper public purposes.
- Prepares multiple financial reports, such as the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the Popular Annual Financial Report.

Reports

County Finance: Did you know?

- The five categories of sales tax ($30 M), real property taxes ($14 M), investment earnings ($8 M), conveyance fees ($3.2 M), and casino revenues ($2.3 M) comprise more than 85% of the total general fund estimate for 2025.
- The total "all funds" budget is more than $200 M.
- Fairfield County's sales tax rate has not increased since January 1, 2010. At 6.75%, it is the lowest sales tax rate in central Ohio and is among the lowest in the state.
- More than 25,000 checks and electronic fund transfers (EFTs) are issued annually.
- More than 1,000 payroll checks are issued every two weeks.

As the chief appraiser and administrator of the real estate assessment and settlement offices, the County Auditor:

- Coordinates with the Ohio Department of Taxation and ensures properties are valued in accordance with Ohio law, evaluating the market and statistical data.
- Records the value of new construction for the county.
- Handles tax exemption requests to the state of Ohio.
- Maintains all valuation data and conveyance of property records.
- Manages legal ownership and description information for real property & manufactured homes.
- Processes applications for participation in the Homestead Tax Exemption Program for seniors and Veterans and the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) Program.
- Administers other tax reduction processes, including the owner occupancy credit.
- Provides property tax payments to appropriate political subdivisions.

Real Estate: Did you know?

- The Auditor's Office offers three short educational videos about Ohio's appraisal process.
- The next sexennial update for real estate appraisals is required in 2025 for tax payments in 2026.
- New construction in Fairfield County is more than $100 M annually.
- About 8,000 conveyances of property occur annually; the vast majority of these are done electronically.
- There are more than 70,000 parcels in Fairfield County.
- About 8,500 residences are included in the Homestead Tax Exemption Program.

Homestead

As the chief weights and measures inspector, the County Auditor:

- Ensures commercial weighing and measuring devices are accurate, fair, and in compliance with regulations.
- Protects consumers and businesses by maintaining fairness where goods are sold by weight, measure, or counted.
- Helps maintain integrity in the marketplace and prevents fraud or inaccuracy in the sale of goods.
- Is a strong partner with County Fair Boards, ensuring proper testing of scales.

#Serve.Connect.Protect.

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As the chief administrator of the geographical information system (GIS) and map room, the County Auditor:

- Oversees integration and management of geographic data to support essential services - from tax assessments to 911 communications, law enforcement, regional planning, utilities, transit, social services, economic development, and more.
- Ensures accurate and up-to-date spatial data is available to government agencies and the public.
- Maintains mapping infrastructure in compliance with legal and regulatory standards.
- Reviews legal descriptions and lot splits for accuracy.

GIS and Mapping: Did you know?

- There are 800 tax maps created for the county.
- About 12,000 legal descriptions are reviewed annually – with same-day service.
- GIS is a strong partner with law enforcement, the Engineer's Office, and multiple departments.
- GIS establishes boundaries for the US Census.
- The July 2022 US Census estimated Fairfield County's population to be 162,898.
- GIS prepares maps for educational and outreach purposes.
- Online information is updated regularly – the next addition will be street-level imagery.
- There is a new online process for lot splits.

Maps

Lot Splits

As the secretary for the County Board of Revision, the County Auditor:

- Hears complaints on the market value of property.
- Conducts critical administrative tasks, such as review of remittance of penalties and interest.
- Conducts education and outreach, including maintaining a manual and website for statewide use.
- Maintains online records of all BOR cases for quick and easy public access.

Board of Revision

Board of Revision: Did you know?

The Board of Revision is comprised of the County Auditor, County Treasurer, and a County Commissioner.

As the secretary of the County Budget Commission, the County Auditor:

- Evaluates whether tax levies are properly authorized and allocated to local governments and libraries.
- Helps certify available funds and promotes fiscal responsibility & transparency.
- Created a new technology known as DocLink to support multiple political subdivisions.

Budget Commission

Budget Commission: Did you know?

The Budget Commission is comprised of the County Auditor, County Treasurer, and County Prosecutor.

County Auditor Roles: Did you know?

Even more goes into the role of the County Auditor:

- The County Auditor issues dog licenses (17,000+ annually), vendor licenses (500+ annually), and other licenses.
- The County Auditor collects county hotel/motel lodging taxes, which are distributed by the Ohio Revised Code to the Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio.
- You can find the County Auditor's strategic plan here.
- You can find a directory here.
- You can find our Code of Conduct here.

Strategic Plan

Directory

Code of Conduct

The mission of the Fairfield County Auditor's Office is to perform statutory duties of the County Auditor with excellence, integrity, and innovation while embracing outstanding internal and external customer service to continuously improve county government.

Our Why Statement: With servant leadership values and community collaboration, the County Auditor's Office provides essential financial reporting and data management to improve accountability, trustworthiness, and credibility in all sectors.

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