



October 15, 2019

Dear Chairman Merrin, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of H.B. 273 (Ryan, Lipps) which would allow the second delinquent property tax notice to be published online instead of in a newspaper of general circulation. This useful modernization of the notice process will ease the cost and administrative burden for county auditors. At the same time, the online publication option will allow an auditor to determine the best way to give notice to those appearing on the list.

Under the current process, within 60 days of delivering the duplicate of delinquent properties and listed owners to the county treasurer, the auditor must cause the list to be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation. The publication of the list is preceded by notice of when the list will be published. The notice that the list will be published will still occur in the newspaper for both the initial and the second list publication giving ample opportunity for the public to be informed of when it will appear both in print and online.

Online publication of the second delinquent list will also aid county auditors. First, it can be quite expensive to publish the list. In Franklin County the cost was just over \$15,000 for publication this year. That cost can significantly increase during an economic downturn as the list grows. Second, online publication can allow increased time to remove from the list those who have made payment arrangements or other needed corrections after the first publication.

This modern option will also aid county residents and property owners. Online-only is an increasingly popular option to receive information. The online list can be more accessible as the text could be enlarged or searched for particular content. The goal of the list is to inform those who have a delinquency so they can render payment or update the tax duplicate; moving the list online will maintain those goals.

I urge a favorable report of H.B. 273 by this committee and its adoption. I join with the County Auditors' Association of Ohio in supporting this bill to cut costs while keeping residents informed of property tax obligations.

Sincerely,

Michael Stinziano

Franklin County Auditor



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