



Franklin County, Ohio

Annual Financial Report

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010

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About the Cover

The new Franklin County Courthouse, built in 2010 and opened in June 2011, physically symbolizes both the literal and figurative concepts of Transparency of Justice through the inclusion of vast areas of glass across the building's facade.

Much more than symbolic, the glass is an integral component in the building's energy conservation systems, making this the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified courthouse in the State of Ohio.

Rendering by Arquitectonica, provided by the Franklin County Commissioner's Office

Message from Auditor Mingo

In today's busy world, we face a steady stream of facts, figures and statistics. Sorting through this information, deciding what is important to us, and then putting that information to good use can sometimes be a difficult task. As Franklin County's Chief Fiscal Officer, I remain committed to providing you with ready access to reliable information. This publication is intended to demonstrate governmental accountability to the citizens of Franklin County in a format that is readable and easy to understand.

The Franklin County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, presents an overview of the County's finances. The PAFR focuses on governmental activities, and is not as detailed as our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR contains full financial statements and note disclosures for all activities, funds and component units, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The information presented in this PAFR has been derived from the 2010 and 2009 CAFRs, which were audited by the Ohio Auditor of State, with both receiving unqualified opinions. The schedules shown in the PAFR are



different from the GAAP financial statements because accounting data has been summarized and combined, and business-type activities, component units, proprietary and fiduciary funds have been excluded.

I encourage you to explore our website at www.FranklinCountyAuditor.com, where you will find a full version of the CAFR and a wide array of county data, forms and applications. To obtain a copy of the CAFR on CD or in printed form, contact the Franklin County Auditor's office, Fiscal Services Division at (614) 525-7348, or write us: 373 South High Street, 21st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6310. You can also e-mail me or my staff with your comments concerning this report, or any other aspect of the operations of the County Auditor's Office.

I wish to commend the Fiscal Services Staff for continuing the tradition of excellence in financial reporting, which has garnered Franklin County awards from the Government Finance Officers Association for both the CAFR and PAFR in recent years.

Sincerely,

Clarence E. Mingo, II Franklin County Auditor

Clarence Mingo @Franklin County Ohio.gov

Government Finance Officers Association Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Franklin County, Ohio, for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Franklin County has received a Popular Award for the last fifteen years (fiscal years ended 1995-2009). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.

Franklin County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended 2009, from which information on pages 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 has been drawn, was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

PRESENTED TO

Franklin County Ohio

for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2009



President

Jeffrey L. Esser

Executive Director

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. Franklin County has received a Certificate of Achievement for the last twenty-seven years (fiscal years ended 1983-2009). We believe our CAFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement program requirements and we are submitting our CAFR for the current year to the GFOA.

Economic Outlook & Benchmarks

The County is located in central Ohio, within 500 miles of half the nation's population. Columbus, the largest city in the County, serves as the state capital and the county seat, and is home to The Ohio State University. Central Ohio's economy is broadbased. The County's largest employers represent government, education, retail trade, finance and health care.

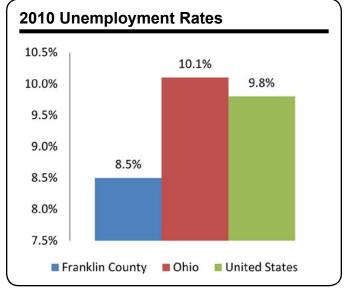
The diversity of business sectors helps the region weather economic fluctuations. The County's average unemployment rate increased from 8.3% in 2009 to 8.5% in 2010. However, the County's unemployment rate continued to be below the state and national average.

Nationwide Insurance and Limited Brands have located their headquarters and home offices in Franklin County. Other large employers include JPMorgan Chase, OhioHealth and Mount Carmel Health.

A factor contributing to the lower unemployment rate is the County's well-educated workforce. Based on 2009 educational

attainment data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, 88.6% of those age 25 and older graduated from high schools and 35.1% have completed four or more years of college.

The total value of new construction was \$753 million in 2010. In comparison, 2009 total new construction was \$885 million. The appraisal cycle is six years with an update performed at the mid-point. The mid-point update performed in 2008 applied no change to the 2005 real property values. Calendar year 2011 is a full reappraisal year.



County Comparisons

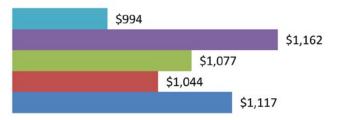
One way of evaluating a government's performance is to benchmark it against its' peers. The following charts compare key ratios for five of Ohio's metropolitan counties. The data used for calculations were taken from each county's most recently available CAFR, focusing on governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of net assets and statement of activities.

Statistics

County	Seat	Population
Franklin	Columbus	1,173,158
Cuyahoga	Cleveland	1,283,925
Hamilton	Cincinnati	853,508
Montgomery	Dayton	532,508
Lucas	Toledo	441,815

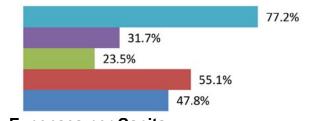
Revenues per Capita

This indicator is derived by dividing the county's population into total revenues of the governmental activities.



Net Assets as a Percentage of Expenses

This ratio illustrates each county's ability to support operations without considering operating revenue.



Expenses per Capita

This indicator is derived by dividing the county's population into total expenses of the governmental activities.



County Financial Position

The County's financial statements distinguish **governmental activities** that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues from **business-type activities** that cover their costs through user fees and charges and from **component units** for which the County is financially accountable. This report contains only information related to the County's governmental activities. Please refer to the County's 2010 CAFR for information on business-type activities and component units.

Assets provide financial benefits to the County. Cash and investments are comprised of cash, investments and demand deposits, whether held in the pool managed by the County Treasurer or in outside bank accounts. Property taxes receivable represents delinquent, real and tangible personal property and public utility taxes outstanding as of the last settlement date (net of allowances for uncollectible amounts) and real property and public utility taxes that were measurable at year-end and for which there is an enforceable claim. Capital assets are land, buildings and improvements, roads, bridges, equipment and construction in progress, and are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

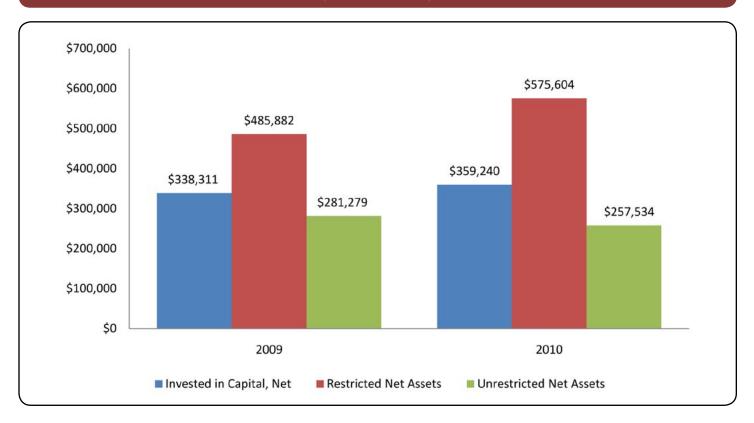
Liabilities place a financial burden on the County. **Unearned revenue** represents property taxes levied to finance 2011 operations, and grants received before eligibility requirements have been met. **Long-term debt** represents bonds, notes and loans that are being repaid over a period of years as well as payments under capital leases. **Other long-term liabilities** include compensated absences and workers' compensation.

Net Assets Governmental Activities (Amounts in 000's)

	2010	2009	% Change from 2009
Cash and investments	\$ 765,416	\$ 732,612	4.5 %
Property taxes receivable, net	449,545	455,649	(1.3) %
Other assets	232,486	231,777	0.3 %
Capital assets, net	651,831	595,526	9.5 %
Total assets	2,099,278	2,015,564	4.2 %
Accounts payable and other liabilities	81,182	94,959	(14.5) %
Unearned revenue	442,358	445,360	(0.7) %
Long-term debt	336,566	323,485	4.0 %
Other long-term liabilities	46,794	46,288	1.1 %
Total liabilities	906,900	910,092	(0.4) %
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	359,240	338,311	6.2 %
Restricted	575,604	485,882	18.5 %
Unrestricted	257,534	281,279	(8.4) %
Total net assets	\$ 1,192,378	\$ 1,105,472	7.9 %

Financial Analysis





Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. **Invested in capital assets, net of related debt**, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net assets are reported as **restricted** when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. **Unrestricted net assets** may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens, employees and creditors.

When reviewed over time, net assets may serve as a useful indicator of the County's financial position. The County's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$1.192 billion in governmental activities at the close of 2010. Compared with 2009, net assets increased by \$86.9 million or 7.9%.

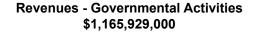
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt - A large portion of the net assets (\$359.2 million or 30.1%) reflects investment in capital assets less accumulated depreciation and any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. Although the investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the money needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. See page 11 for more detailed information about the long-term debt of the county.

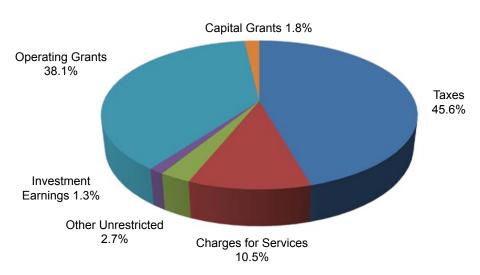
Restricted net assets - An additional portion of the net assets (\$575.6 million or 48.3%) represents resources that are subject to external or legal restrictions on how they may be used. There was an increase of \$89.7 million in restricted net assets due primarily to recent tax levies and in grants received.

Unrestricted net assets - The remaining balance of net assets (\$257.5 million or 21.6%) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations.

Dollars In...

The revenues presented here are reported as governmental activities in the 2010 CAFR's government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. The County also receives revenue from non-exchange transactions, such as taxes and grants, in which the County receives value without directly giving equal value in return. Sales tax revenue is recognized in the year in which the taxable sale occurs. Revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenues from grants are recognized when all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. The pie chart depicts revenues by source as a percent of the total revenue. The table summarizes revenues by source, and shows the increases (decreases) in relation to the prior year.





(Amounts in 000's)				
_	Actual 2010	\$ Change from 2009	% Change from 2009	
Taxes	\$ 531,351	\$ 25,214	5.0 %	
Operating grants	444,629	(30,250)	(6.4) %	
Charges for services	122,662	7,804	6.8 %	
Investment earnings	15,695	1,341	9.3 %	
Capital grants	20,512	3,468	20.4 %	
Unrestricted grants and other revenue	31,080	689	2.3 %	
	\$ 1,165,929	\$ 8,266	0.7 %	

Tax revenue increased due to higher sales tax receipts and a Children Services property tax levy.

Operating grants decreased for the County by \$30.3 million, but that is somewhat misleading as the decrease was primarily due to major human service programs being shifted to the State of Ohio. For most of the other programs, the level of state and federal funding actually increased.

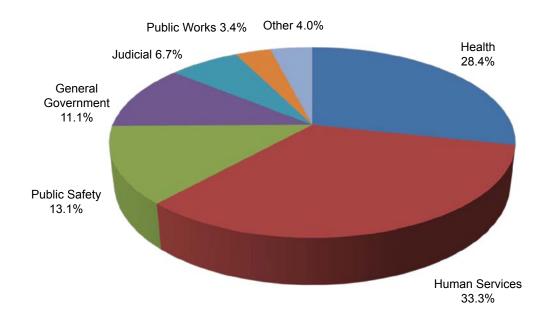
Charges for services increased by \$7.8 million due to a combination of rate and activity increases.

Capital grants increased by \$3.5 million, primarily due to a higher level of federal funding for infrastructure projects.

Dollars Out...

The expenses shown are those of the County's governmental activities. Expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred. The pie chart below depicts expenses by function as a percent of total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2010. Those functions that individually represent less than three percent of total expenses have been combined as "Other". These include conservation and recreation, community development, debt service and intergovernmental grants. The table shows expenses by function, and the increases (decreases) in relation to prior year amounts.

Expenses - Governmental Activities \$1,079,023,000



(Amounts in 000's)				
	Actual 2010	\$ Change from 2009	% Change from 2009	
Health	\$ 358,987	\$ 6,568	1.8 %	
Human Services	306,335	(74,798)	(24.4)%	
Public Safety	142,036	(1,540)	(1.1) %	
General Government	119,360	3,710	3.2 %	
Judicial	72,112	(201)	(0.3) %	
Public Works	37,187	(666)	(1.8) %	
Other	43,006	7	0.0 %	
Total	\$ 1,079,023	\$ (66,920)	6.2%	

There was a significant decrease in **human service** expenses, due to major programs being shifted to the State of Ohio. The decrease in expense was greater than the decrease in corresponding revenue.

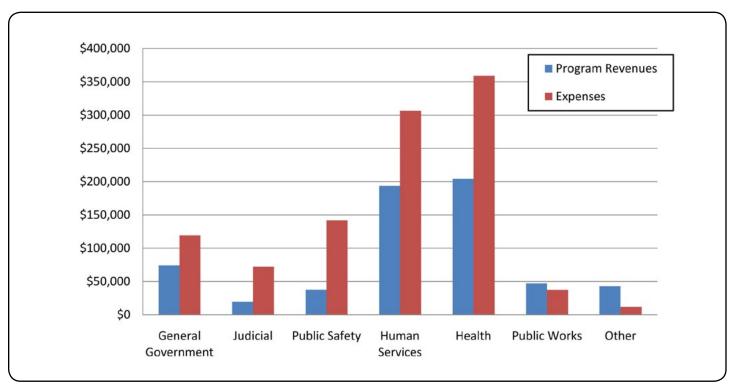
The increase in **general government** expenditures can be attributed to higher spending for grants to stimulate the economy and real estate appraisal services.

Expenses for health, public safety, judicial, and public works were maintained at levels relatively similar to the prior year.

County Programs

The chart below presents a comparison between direct expense and program revenues for each function of the County's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that 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 and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. All other revenues are considered general revenues of the County. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the County.

Expenses and Program Revenues – Governmental Activities (Amounts in 000's)



Operating and capital grants received from other governmental entities are often restricted for specific purposes. During 2010, the County recorded \$444.6 million in operating grants and \$20.5 million in capital grants; combined, this is 39.9% of total governmental revenues. The major recipients of operating grants were the Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Board (\$108.0 million) the Board of Developmental Disabilities (\$89.7 million), Public Assistance (\$88.2 million), and the Children Services Board (\$86.6 million).

Direct charges to users of governmental services, another type of program revenue, made up \$122.7 million or 10.5% of total governmental revenues. These charges include fees, fines, forfeitures, licenses and permits.

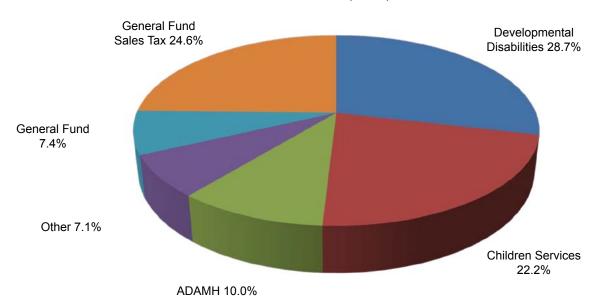
On the expense side, the largest activity in 2010 was health, accounting for \$359.0 million or 33.3% of the total expenses for governmental activities. The major providers of health activities are Board of Developmental Disabilities and the ADAMH Board. The human services program accounted for \$306.3 million or 28.4% of total governmental expenses.

The general government function represents activities related to the governing body as well as activities that directly support other County programs that serve the County's residents. In 2010, the total general government expenses were 119.4 million or 11.1% of the County's total governmental expenses.

Taxes

During 2010, the General Fund and County agencies received \$531.4 million in tax revenues. This pie chart shows the distribution of property and sales taxes to the various County agencies. Only the General Fund receives sales tax. Please note that there is no County income tax. The General Fund is the primary operation fund of the County and is available for any purpose as permitted by state law.

Taxes \$531,351,000



Property tax revenues account for \$400.5 million or 34.4% of total revenues for governmental activities. Property tax revenues increased by \$18.6 million compared to calendar year 2009. A contributing factor was in 2009 voters approved a 3.1 mill tax levy for the Children Services Board; 2010 was the first year of collection. The major recipients of property tax revenues are the Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Children Services Board, the ADAMH Board, and the General Fund. Another major component of general revenues is sales tax, which totaled \$130.9 million. This reflects an increase of \$6.6 million compared to the prior year. During 2010, the 6.75% sales tax collected by the State on sales made in Franklin County was split as follows: 5.5% for the State of Ohio; .75% for the County General Fund; and .5% for the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA).

Real Estate Taxes* on a \$100,000 Owner-Occupied Home or Business City of Columbus / Columbus School District

Home	Business
\$ 1,240.95	\$ 1,864.73
187.26	230.49
144.44	171.38
96.16	109.90
67.38	75.50
45.02	51.45
85.75	98.00
27.56	30.89
19.64	24.82
22.97	26.25
\$ 1,937.13	\$ 2,683.41
	\$ 1,240.95 187.26 144.44 96.16 67.38 45.02 85.75 27.56 19.64 22.97

^{*}Taxes based on 2010 rates, to be distributed in 2011

Major Initiatives



Construction of the new Common Pleas Courthouse in 2010 accommodated long-term growth, improved building safety and security and better met the court's technological and operating needs. The County also constructed tunnel and pedestrian concourse improvements. The total project, including land, tunnel and concourse improvements cost more than \$140 million dollars. The new Commons Pleas Courthouse opened on June 6, 2011.

The County continued its commitment to energy conservation at its facilities with an investment of more than \$25 million. These building improvements implemented during 2010 include items such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting and plumbing upgrades.

A new \$18 million animal shelter will replace a 31-year old facility during the summer of 2011 and provide expanded shelter and adoption capacity. The footprint will be nearly three times as big as the current shelter, with more than 48,000 square feet of space. The new shelter will have many advantages compared to the current shelter. Those advantages include additional kennels, increasing total capacity to 421 dogs, an indoor exercise space and rooms for puppies and smaller dogs.

Several infrastructure improvements were undertaken, the most major of which is the widening and reconstruction of portions of Clime Road at a cost of more than \$19 million.



Other infrastructure improvements undertaken by the County in 2010 include the design and construction of a water treatment plant as well as several wastewater system improvements. These infrastructure improvements included the Timberlake water treatment plant; the Timberlake wastewater system; the Cleveland Heights (Phase III) sanitary sewer system; and the Fern-Agler sanitary sewer system. The total spent or committed on these water or wastewater improvements was nearly \$6.4 million.

As the result of a strong community relations presence throughout 2010, the Franklin County Auditor's Office saw a 22% increase in the number of homeowners who qualified for the Homestead Tax Exemption over the prior calendar year. The Homestead Exemption provides a reduction in property taxes to any senior or disabled citizen, regardless of income, on the dwelling that is that individual's principal place of residence and up to one acre of land of which an eligible individual is an owner. The reduction is equal to the taxes that would otherwise be charged on up to \$25,000 of the market value of an eligible taxpayer's homestead. For example, if a home's market value is \$100,000, the home would be taxed as if it were worth \$75,000. More than 53,000 Franklin County homeowners are taking advantage of the Homestead Tax Exemption. Those residents saved a combined \$27.2 million in 2010. The average savings to someone who qualifies for this break is about \$532.



As part of an ongoing "green initiative" the Franklin County Auditor's Office partnered with the Franklin County Data Center and developed an electronic method of delivery for employee bi-weekly direct deposit pay advices. As a result, there has been a significant savings in resources as well as a decrease in our environmental impact. There is a 44% participation rate among county employees.

Long-term Activity

Capital assets - The amount reported in the financial statements for governmental activity capital assets increased from \$595.5 to \$651.8 million, a net increase of \$56.3 million in calendar year 2010. The increase was primarily in the "construction in progress" line with major additions being the new court building, government center improvements, energy conservation measures, the new animal shelter, and infrastructure projects. The investment in capital assets for governmental activities at December 31, 2010 and 2009, net of accumulated depreciation, is shown in the table to the right.

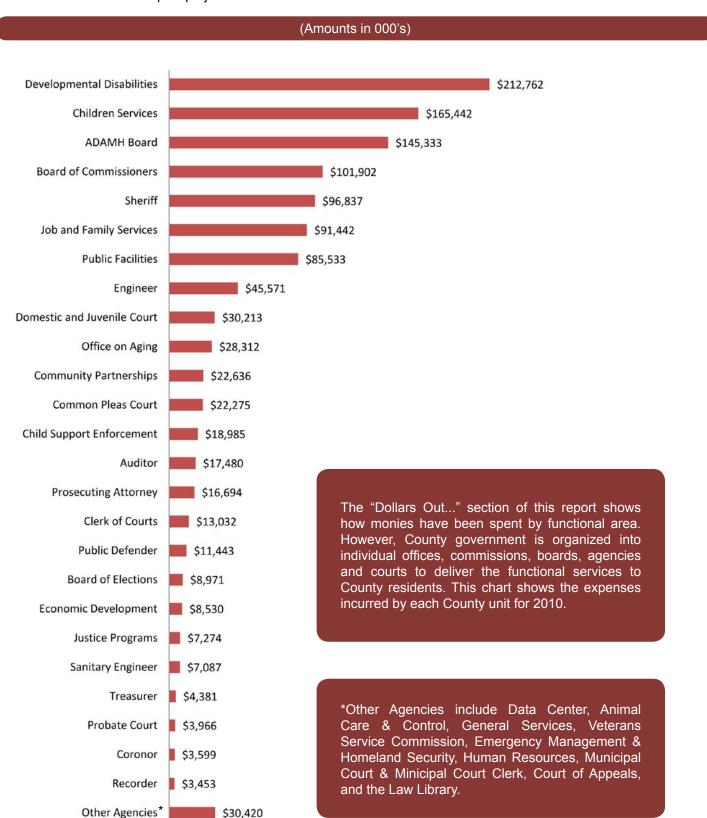
(Amounts in 000's)					
		2010			2009
Land	\$	57,068	5	5	55,810
Buildings and improvements		228,528			236,569
Infrastructure		136,040			134,738
Machinery and equipment		35,149			34,615
Construction in progress		195,046			133,794
	\$	651,831		5	595,526

Long-term debt - During 2010, the County went to market with various general obligation debt issues backed by the County's full faith and credit. New bonds totaling \$53.5 million were sold to finance governmental activity capital asset additions. In addition, a taxable special obligation bond anticipation note was issued in the amount of \$12 million for the purpose of retiring notes payable from non-tax revenues. Since 1993, the County has enjoyed a "triple A" credit rating, the highest rating possible, which was reaffirmed by rating agencies in April and November 2010. All of the County's debt is unvoted and within legal debt limitations. The table below shows the changes in long-term debt serviced by governmental activities during 2010:

(Amounts in 000's)				
	Beginning	Additions	Reductions	Ending
Series 1986 Mental Health Building	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ (35)	\$ -
Series 2003 Refunding	21,040	-	(6,275)	14,765
Series 2005 Road Improvements	3,270	-	(480)	2,790
Series 2005 Children Services Building	9,445	-	(405)	9,040
Series 2005 Refunding	7,500	-	(910)	6,590
Series 2007 Road Improvements	4,430	-	(490)	3,940
Series 2007 Courthouse Project	110,465	-	(1,145)	109,320
Series 2007 Animal Shelter Project	9,265	-	(45)	9,220
Series 2009 Government Center	19,400	-	(775)	18,625
Series 2009 Refunding	41,265	-	(645)	40,620
Series 2009 Energy Conservation Notes	22,600	-	(22,600)	-
Series 2010 Energy Conservation Bonds	-	22,755	-	22,755
Series 2010 Animal Shelter	-	10,075	-	10,075
Series 2010 Government Center	-	10,075	-	10,075
Series 2010-2 Road Improvements	-	3,015	-	3,015
Series 2010-2 Hall of Justice	-	7,570	-	7,570
Bonds serviced by others	12,705	-	(1,300)	11,405
General obligation bonds and notes total	261,420	53,490	(35,105)	279,805
Stadium Facility Project Bonds and Notes	42,500	12,000	(15,635)	38,865
OPWC loans	5,996	-	(361)	5,635
Special obligation bonds, notes and loans total	48,496	12,000	(15,996)	44,500
Unamortized bond premiums	14,406	36	(1,360)	13,082
Unamortized deferred charges	(2,012)	-	301	(1,711)
Capital leases	1,175	101	(386)	890
Total	\$ 323,485	\$ 65,627	\$ (52,546)	\$ 336,566

County Spending

This information was taken from the statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the governmental funds as presented in the County's 2010 CAFR. The amount shown for the Board of Commissioners includes debt service. Public Facilities includes capital projects.



County Government Working For You

County Agencies, Boards, Offices	Elected Officials as of December 31, 2010		
ADAMH Board (614) 224-1057	Auditor	Clarence E. Mingo, II	
Office on Aging	Board of Commissioners	Paula Brooks Marilyn Brown	
Animal Care & Control (614) 525-4360		John O'Grady	
Auditor	Clerk of Courts	Maryellen O'Shaughnessy	
Board of Commissioners (614) 525-3322	Coroner	Jan M. Gorniak, D.O.	
Board of Elections (614) 525-3100	Engineer	Dean C. Ringle, P.E., P.S.	
Child Support Enforcement (614) 525-3275	Prosecuting Attorney	Ron O'Brien	
	Recorder	Robert G. Montgomery	
Children Services	Sheriff	James A. Karnes	
Clerk of Courts	Treasurer	Edward Leonard Susan Brown	
Coroner	Court of Appeals Tenth District	Peggy Bryant	
Data Center	(614) 525-3580	John A. Connor	
Developmental Disabilities (614) 475-6440		Judith L. French William A. Klatt	
Economic Development		Patrick M. McGrath	
& Planning		Lisa L. Sadler G. Gary Tyack	
Emergency Management (614) 794-0213	Common Pleas Court	Laurel A. Beatty	
Engineer	General Division	John F. Bender	
Fleet Management	(614) 525-3453	John P. Bessey David E. Cain	
Homeland Security &		Kimberly Cocroft	
Justice Programs (614) 525-5577		David W. Fais Richard A. Frye	
Human Resources		Daniel T. Hogan	
Job & Family Services (614) 233-2000		Michael J. Holbrook	
Law Library		Timothy S. Horton Julie M. Lynch	
Municipal Court Clerk		Stephen L. McIntosh Beverly Y. Pfeiffer	
Prosecuting Attorney (614) 525-3555		Guy L. Reece II	
Public Defender		Charles A. Schneider Patrick E. Sheeran	
Public Facilities Management		Richard S. Sheward	
	Common Pleas Court	Kim A. Browne	
Purchasing	Domestic Relations/ Juvenile Division	Christopher J. Geer Elizabeth Gill	
Recorder	(614) 525-6320	Jim Mason	
Sanitary Engineer		Dana S. Preisse	
Sheriff	Common Pleas Court Probate Division	Alan S. Acker	
Treasurer	(614) 525-3894		
Veterans Service Commission (614) 525-2500			



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