



Stark County Government Popular Annual Financial Report

For the year ended December 31, 2023

Issued by
Alan Harold
Stark County Auditor
www.starkcountyohio.gov/auditor

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

PRESENTED TO

**Stark County
Ohio**

**for the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2022**



Christopher P. Morrell

Executive Director / CEO

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 Stark County, Ohio for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2022. 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 popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular 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. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.

Centennial Plaza is a two acre, \$12 million dollar investment in the core of the Downtown Special Improvement District of Canton, Ohio. It serves as a sister site of the Pro Football Hall of Fame for commemorative events.

Photo credit: Joe Albert

Popular Annual **Financial Report**

September 2024



Alan Harold
Stark County Auditor

I am pleased to present the Stark County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2023. The report provides a brief analysis of where county revenues come from and where those dollars are spent, as well as an overview of trends in the local economy. Above all, it is designed to present a financial report that is easy to understand.

The PAFR, which has been generated internally by the Stark County Auditor's Office, summarizes the financial activities of the primary government of Stark County (County) and was drawn from the financial information appearing in the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR was prepared in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was audited by the Auditor of State of Ohio, receiving an unmodified opinion. The PAFR, however, 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. The statements presented within this report contain all funds used by the County to account for the financial activities of the primary government. Individuals who desire to review GAAP basis, full disclosure financial statements should refer to the County's ACFR, which is available from the County Auditor's office or visit the website at <http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/auditor>.

The Popular Annual Financial Report of Stark County is presented as a means of increasing public confidence in the County's government and elected officials through easier, more user friendly financial reporting. As you review our Popular Annual Financial Report, I invite you to share any questions, concerns, or recommendations you may have.

Sincerely,

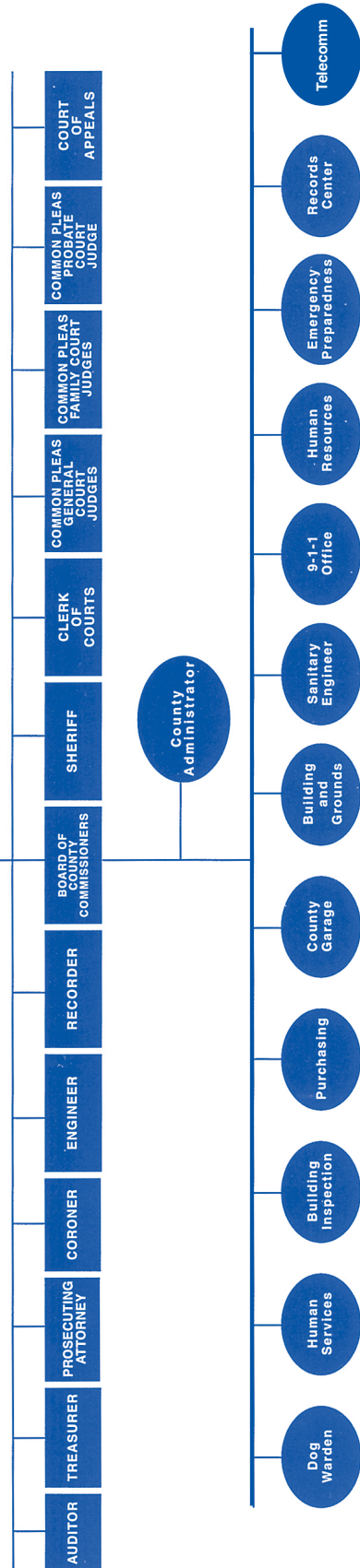
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Harold".

Alan Harold
Stark County Auditor

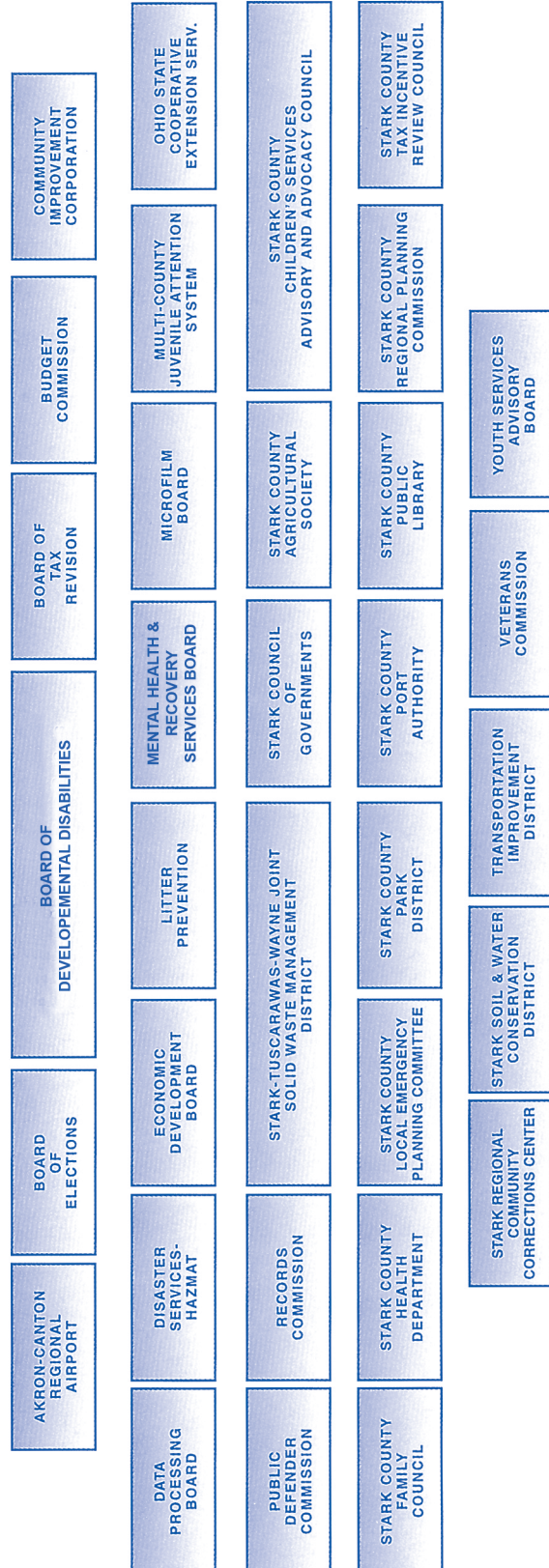


Stark County Government Organizational Chart

VOTERS OF STARK COUNTY



Appointed Board and Commissions; Statutory Boards and Commissions; or County provides space or gives financial support:



County Property Taxes

The following table provides the amount of taxes on an owner occupied home with a market value of \$100,000. The full tax rate appearing in the table includes both inside (not voted) and voted levies for all subdivisions within the taxing district. The effective tax rate is the tax rate actually applied in calculating your tax liability. The effective tax rate is determined by the State Department of Taxation each year. In essence, the effective rate ensures that an individual's tax liability does not increase on voted levies as a result of appreciation in value due to economic conditions. The tax on a home with a \$100,000 value is a relatively simple calculation: take the \$100,000 appraised value times 35% to get the assessed value; then multiply the assessed value by the effective tax rate. This is the gross tax due. This gross tax is then reduced by the Non-Business Credit and the Owner Occupancy Credit which is the amount the state pays on behalf of each individual homeowner who resides in that home under the state rollback programs currently in effect.

TAXING DISTRICT NUMBER AND NAME	FULL TAX RATE	EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	TAX ON \$100,000 HOME	TAXING DISTRICT NUMBER AND NAME	FULL TAX RATE	EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	TAX ON \$100,000 HOME
10 ALLIANCE CITY - ALLIANCE CSD	79.70	45.78	\$ 1,417.14	390 PARIS TOWNSHIP - MINERVA VILLAGE - MINERVA LSD	69.50	50.26	\$ 1,559.83
20 CANTON CITY - CANTON CSD	105.60	64.92	\$ 2,046.20	395 PARIS TOWNSHIP - BROWN LSD	75.25	56.09	\$ 1,742.82
25 CANTON CITY - CANTON LSD	76.30	42.71	\$ 1,355.43	400 PERRY TOWNSHIP - PERRY LSD	84.39	59.15	\$ 1,874.81
30 CANTON CITY - PLAIN LSD	84.10	43.37	\$ 1,357.63	405 PERRY TWP - CANTON CITY - PERRY LSD	82.00	58.43	\$ 1,859.18
35 CANTON CITY - LOUISVILLE CSD	85.50	52.16	\$ 1,643.62	407 PERRY TWP - MASSILLON CITY - PERRY LSD	78.50	55.63	\$ 1,758.01
40 MASSILLON CITY - TUSLAU LSD	81.80	43.10	\$ 1,334.08	410 PERRY TOWNSHIP - FAIRLESS LSD	77.89	53.32	\$ 1,664.82
45 MASSILLON CITY - FAIRLESS LSD	65.70	46.63	\$ 1,442.34	415 PERRY TOWNSHIP - NAVARRE VILLAGE - FAIRLESS LSD	76.50	53.58	\$ 1,670.92
50 MASSILLON CITY - MASSILLON CSD	72.70	58.99	\$ 1,816.49	420 PERRY TOWNSHIP - JACKSON LSD	77.89	51.70	\$ 1,615.36
55 MASSILLON CITY - PERRY LSD	70.60	50.87	\$ 1,603.33	430 PERRY TOWNSHIP - MASSILLON CSD	84.39	65.17	\$ 2,023.66
60 MASSILLON CITY - JACKSON LSD	64.50	43.82	\$ 1,356.13	440 PERRY TOWNSHIP - TUSLAU LSD	94.99	50.78	\$ 1,587.18
70 BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP - FAIRLESS LSD	68.50	48.73	\$ 1,517.77	445 PERRY TOWNSHIP - NAVARRE VILLAGE - PERRY LSD	81.40	57.81	\$ 1,831.91
80 BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP - TUSCARAWAS VALLEY LSD	60.10	51.92	\$ 1,637.62	450 PIKE TOWNSHIP - SANDY VALLEY LSD	70.10	44.92	\$ 1,391.65
90 BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP - NAVARRE VILLAGE - FAIRLESS LSD	68.60	48.82	\$ 1,516.24	460 PIKE TOWNSHIP - CANTON LSD	78.30	43.61	\$ 1,369.32
100 CANTON TOWNSHIP - CANTON LSD	82.70	46.56	\$ 1,464.87	470 PIKE TOWNSHIP - TUSCARAWAS VALLEY LSD	62.20	52.92	\$ 1,658.88
110 CANTON TOWNSHIP - CANTON CSD	111.20	67.96	\$ 2,131.15	480 PIKE TOWNSHIP - EAST SPARTA VILLAGE - SANDY VALLEY LSD	84.00	53.34	\$ 1,656.06
115 CANTON TOWNSHIP - CANTON CITY - CANTON CSD	114.10	70.66	\$ 2,222.10	490 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - PLAIN LSD	96.05	52.22	\$ 1,642.10
120 CANTON TOWNSHIP - MEYERS LAKE VILLAGE - CANTON CSD	114.10	70.25	\$ 2,207.85	500 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - CANTON LSD	87.65	50.96	\$ 1,621.52
130 JACKSON TOWNSHIP - JACKSON LSD	81.25	55.18	\$ 1,737.71	505 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - CANTON CITY - CANTON CSD	106.60	65.77	\$ 2,076.13
135 JACKSON TWP - CANTON CITY - JACKSON LSD	80.50	55.04	\$ 1,746.37	510 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - JACKSON LSD	79.95	55.47	\$ 1,741.77
140 JACKSON TOWNSHIP - PLAIN LSD	97.35	51.93	\$ 1,638.04	515 PLAIN TWP - CANTON CITY - JACKSON LSD	69.00	47.48	\$ 1,487.22
150 JACKSON TOWNSHIP - HILLS AND DALES VILLAGE - PLAIN LSD	115.40	62.36	\$ 1,967.64	520 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - NORTH CANTON CSD	119.85	63.70	\$ 2,026.81
160 LAKE TOWNSHIP - LAKE LSD	99.80	52.37	\$ 1,657.08	525 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - CANTON CITY - NORTH CANTON CSD	109.40	56.21	\$ 1,787.58
170 LAKE TOWNSHIP - NORTH CANTON CSD	111.40	57.47	\$ 1,826.44	530 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - NORTH CANTON CITY - NORTH CANTON CSD	109.40	56.02	\$ 1,764.73
180 LAKE TOWNSHIP - PLAIN LSD	87.60	45.99	\$ 1,441.72	535 NORTH CANTON CITY - NORTH CANTON CSD	108.30	55.06	\$ 1,731.74
190 LAKE TOWNSHIP - UNIONTOWN POLICE DISTRICT - LAKE LSD	110.60	57.32	\$ 1,808.89	540 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - NORTH CANTON CITY - JACKSON LSD	69.00	47.28	\$ 1,464.38
200 LAKE TWP - UNIONTOWN POLICE DISTRICT - NORTH CANTON CSD	122.20	62.43	\$ 1,978.24	545 NORTH CANTON CITY - JACKSON LSD	68.00	46.43	\$ 1,434.45
205 LAKE TOWNSHIP - HARTVILLE VILLAGE - LAKE LSD	97.55	49.83	\$ 1,562.34	550 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - NORTH CANTON CITY - PLAIN LSD	85.10	44.03	\$ 1,364.71
210 LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP - TUSLAU LSD	94.25	51.09	\$ 1,594.93	555 NORTH CANTON CITY - PLAIN LSD	84.10	43.17	\$ 1,334.78
215 LAWRENCE TWP-C F CITY-TUSLAU LSD	82.20	43.61	\$ 1,351.10	560 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - CANTON CSD	116.15	72.37	\$ 2,287.80
220 LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP - JACKSON LSD	77.15	52.01	\$ 1,623.10	565 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - CANTON CITY - PLAIN LSD	85.10	44.22	\$ 1,387.56
225 LAWRENCE TWP-C F CITY-JACKSON LSD	64.90	44.33	\$ 1,373.15	570 PLAIN TOWNSHIP - MEYERS LAKE VILLAGE - CANTON CSD	106.10	64.86	\$ 2,046.57
230 LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP - NORTHWEST LSD	84.05	51.21	\$ 1,590.29	580 SANDY TOWNSHIP - SANDY VALLEY LSD	72.60	48.52	\$ 1,535.09
240 LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP - CANAL FULTON CITY - NORTHWEST LSD	72.90	44.62	\$ 1,374.72	590 SANDY TOWNSHIP - CANTON LSD	80.80	47.21	\$ 1,512.76
245 CANAL FULTON CITY - NORTHWEST LSD	72.30	44.02	\$ 1,356.34	600 SANDY TOWNSHIP - OSNABURG LSD	88.70	46.13	\$ 1,461.87
250 LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP - MARLINGTON LSD	82.75	39.61	\$ 1,240.84	610 SANDY TOWNSHIP - BROWN LSD	75.75	56.96	\$ 1,786.13
260 LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP - ALLIANCE CSD	84.55	48.27	\$ 1,506.04	620 SANDY TOWNSHIP - MAGNOLIA VILLAGE - SANDY VALLEY LSD	88.00	55.51	\$ 1,736.18
280 MARLBORO TOWNSHIP - MARLINGTON LSD	83.20	41.14	\$ 1,295.83	630 SANDY TOWNSHIP - WAYNESBURG VILLAGE - SANDY VALLEY LSD	86.00	55.87	\$ 1,760.18
290 MARLBORO TOWNSHIP - LAKE LSD	101.60	54.18	\$ 1,722.52	640 SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP - FAIRLESS LSD	68.20	47.64	\$ 1,471.45
300 NIMISHILLEN TOWNSHIP - LOUISVILLE CSD	89.70	54.54	\$ 1,706.55	650 SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP - SOUTHEAST LSD	72.30	43.80	\$ 1,355.80
305 NIMISHILLEN TWP - LOUISVILLE CITY - LOUISVILLE CSD	90.50	55.34	\$ 1,731.04	660 SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP - BEACH CITY VILLAGE - FAIRLESS LSD	76.20	52.67	\$ 1,636.03
310 NIMISHILLEN TOWNSHIP - MARLINGTON LSD	82.90	39.89	\$ 1,233.73	670 SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP - BREWSTER VILLAGE - FAIRLESS LSD	69.10	48.84	\$ 1,516.81
320 NIMISHILLEN TOWNSHIP - PLAIN LSD	89.10	46.55	\$ 1,445.05	680 SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP - WILMOT VILLAGE - FAIRLESS LSD	64.20	45.57	\$ 1,408.09
330 LOUISVILLE CITY - LOUISVILLE CSD	80.50	48.29	\$ 1,508.20	690 TUSCARAWAS TOWNSHIP - TUSLAU LSD	83.80	44.59	\$ 1,386.66
340 OSNABURG TOWNSHIP - OSNABURG LSD	85.00	41.60	\$ 1,286.48	700 TUSCARAWAS TOWNSHIP - FAIRLESS LSD	66.70	47.13	\$ 1,464.30
345 OSNABURG TOWNSHIP - CANTON CITY - OSNABURG LSD	90.30	45.77	\$ 1,431.09	710 TUSCARAWAS TOWNSHIP - MASSILLON CSD	73.20	58.99	\$ 1,823.14
350 OSNABURG TOWNSHIP - CANTON LSD	77.10	42.67	\$ 1,337.37	720 WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - LOUISVILLE CSD	83.45	50.18	\$ 1,568.58
355 OSNABURG TOWNSHIP - CANTON CITY - CANTON LSD	82.30	46.74	\$ 1,478.91	730 WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - MARLINGTON LSD	76.65	35.53	\$ 1,097.68
360 OSNABURG TOWNSHIP - MINERVA LSD	64.60	45.88	\$ 1,410.22	740 WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - MINERVA LSD	61.95	44.13	\$ 1,359.37
370 OSNABURG TOWNSHIP - EAST CANTON VILLAGE - OSNABURG LSD	91.90	47.39	\$ 1,488.08	750 ALLIANCE CITY - MARLINGTON LSD	75.90	35.12	\$ 1,090.69
380 PARIS TOWNSHIP - MINERVA LSD	67.80	49.55	\$ 1,542.31	750 WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - ALLIANCE CITY - MARLINGTON LSD	79.65	37.81	\$ 1,175.56

Auditor's Office

Fiscal Services (Finance and Payroll)

The Stark County Auditor is the chief fiscal officer of the County. It is the auditor's responsibility to perform the following functions:

- Account for revenues received each year by the County.
- Issue warrants (checks) in payment of all County obligations, including the distribution of tax dollars to the townships, villages, cities, school districts and library systems, as well as other County agencies.
- Serve as the paymaster for all County employees.
- Administer and distribute motor vehicle license fees, gasoline taxes, estate taxes, fines and local government funds, in addition to real estate, personal property and manufactured home taxes.
- As required by law, prepare and produce the County's annual financial report. Stark County prepares a Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR).

Real Estate Taxes and Rates

Under Ohio law, the county auditor cannot raise or lower property taxes. Tax rates are determined by the budgetary requests of each governmental unit, as authorized by vote of the people, and are computed in strict accordance with procedures required by the Division of Tax Equalization, Ohio Department of Taxation. Annually, the auditor prepares the general tax list. Your tax bill is based on the tax rate multiplied by your valuation on this tax list. This is your proportional share of the cost of operating your local government including cities, villages, townships, schools and the County. Ohio law limits the amount of taxation without a vote of the people to what is known as the "10 mill limitation" (\$10.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation). County residents must vote any additional real estate taxes for any purpose. Your "tax rate" is an accumulation of all these levies and bond issues.

Real Estate Appraisal and Assessment

Stark County has nearly 197,000 separate parcels of real estate property. It is the duty of the auditor to see that every parcel of land and the buildings thereon are fairly and uniformly appraised and assessed for tax purposes. Ohio law mandates a general reappraisal every six years with an update at the three year midpoint. Stark County's next reappraisal will be in September 2024. The office maintains a detailed record of the appraisal on each parcel in the County. These records are open for public inspection. For taxation purposes, owners are assessed at 35 percent of fair market value.

Real Estate Conveyance and CAUV

This department is in charge of transferring all real estate that changes ownership in the County and collecting fees on this activity. They maintain all ownership records, acreage changes, real estate splits and provide information for maintaining tax plat maps. The auditor is also in charge of administering the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program that allows farmland to be taxed at its value for that use. Agricultural districts and forest certification are other responsibilities of this department.

Licensing

The auditor's office is the focal point in the County for issuance of licenses for dogs, vendors and cigarette sales. Stark County annually issues more than 50,000 dog licenses. Vendor licenses authorize businesses to sell tangible property to the public and collect sales tax, a part of which is returned for use at the local level.

Manufactured Housing

There are 50 manufactured home communities currently operating in the County. Stark County has one of the largest populations of manufactured homes in the state of Ohio. Under Ohio law, it is the responsibility of owners of manufactured homes to register their homes with the county auditor for tax purposes. Annually, the auditor's office assesses each manufactured home and prepares a tax list. Tax bills are sent to each owner semiannually. The manufactured home tax is distributed back to the local taxing districts in the same manner as real estate taxes.

Weights and Measures

The Department of Weights and Measures plays a vital role in our everyday lives. Our economy is essentially based on the monetary value placed on goods and services bought, sold and traded daily. That monetary value is ultimately determined by an accurate system of weights and measures. Each year the auditor's office inspects and certifies more than 5,200 devices in over 600 locations throughout the County. Weights and Measures, as defined by Ohio law, means all weights and measures of every kind, instruments and devices for weighing and measuring, and any appliances and accessories associated with any such instruments and devices, except that the term shall not be construed to include meters for the measurement of electricity, gas, or water when the same are operated as public utility system. The county auditor is required by Ohio law to inspect all commercial devices used in retail trade for weighing or measuring. This includes checking gas pumps, price scanners, meat and produce/truck scales.



Stark County Information Technology Services

The auditor is responsible for the management of the County Information Technology Center and serves as the Chief Administrator of the Data Processing Board. Changes in computer systems and planning must be approved by the board to automate various County functions. Improving financial and record keeping systems of the County will improve services, reduce costs and provide County officials with a modern management tool to better administer the business of government. The Stark County Information Technology Division supports all aspects of computing for government offices in the County. Some of these services include programming, personal computer hardware and software support, consultation, management, logistical support and network services. Information Services supports over 1000 nodes in the County computer network. A node is an active networked computer connection such as a personal computer, terminal, printer, server, switch, router, or other networked devices.

Additional Duties of the Auditor

Secretary of the Budget Commission
Secretary of the Board of Revision
Tax Incentive Review Council Records

Development & Trends

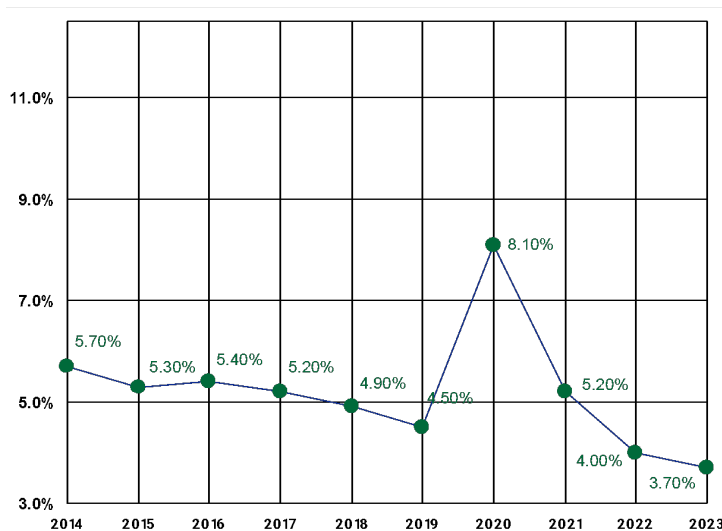
Stark County, which is located in the Northeastern section of Ohio, was established in 1808 and covers an area of 567 square miles and includes 17 townships, 13 villages, and 6 cities, the largest of which is the City of Canton, the County Seat, and the eighth largest city in the State. It is strategically located in proximity to all modes of transportation including truck, railroad, and air. Because of this, many businesses have chosen to make Stark County their home.

The Canton/Stark County area offers many of the amenities and activities of a big city, with the advantages of small-city living. The area's low cost of living makes it an appealing place for businesses and employees. As a matter of fact, many people who work outside of the county are settling here because of the quality schools, economical prices, and abundant housing.

Interstate 77 links Stark County with the national interstate highway network, providing easy access to all the major markets in the United States and Canada. In addition, freight and passenger services are readily available through three major carriers and a regional airport which provides commercial air service for nationwide travel, including direct flights to Chicago, New York City, Boston and Washington D.C. Neomodal, an ultramodern 28 acre rail/highway transfer facility, located in the county, transports products consistently and efficiently to both domestic and international locations. Neomodal provides convenient 24 hours access to Stark's three railroads.

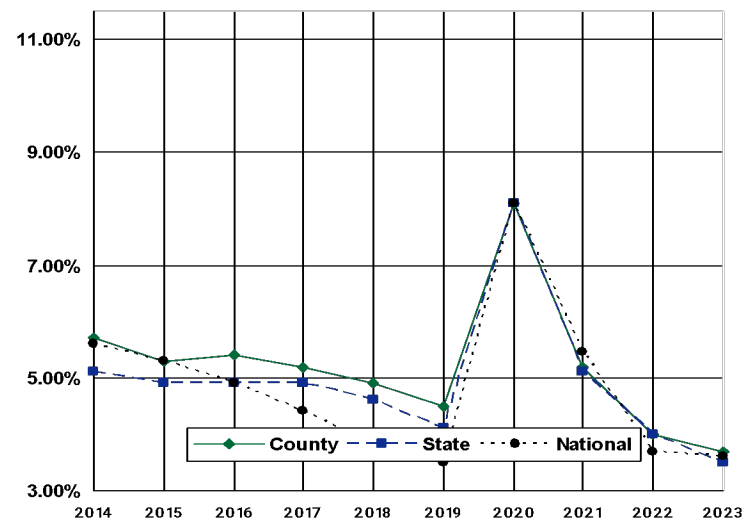
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Average County Unemployment Percentage Rates



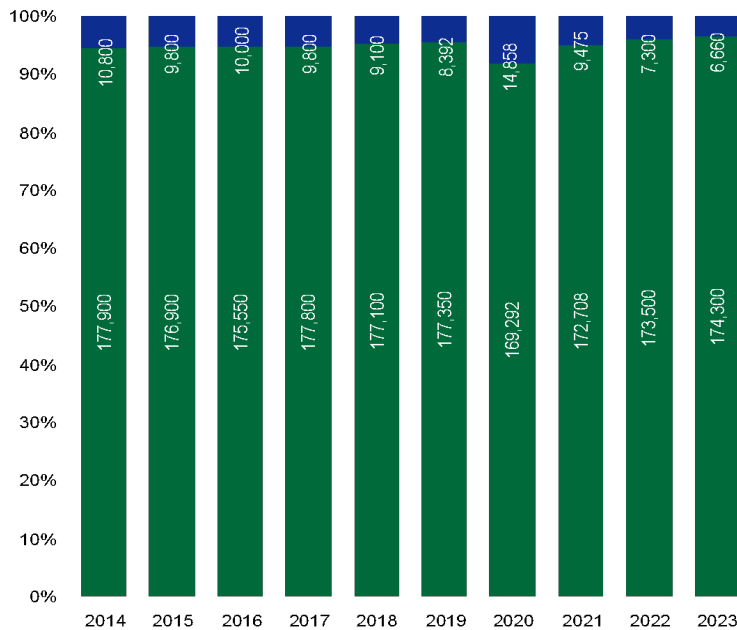
*Source: U.S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics*

National, State & County Average Unemployment Rates



*Source: U.S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Employed vs. Unemployed



Source: U.S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top Ten Employers Stark County Ohio

Largest Employers	Employees
Aultman Health Foundations	6,800
Cleveland Clinic	2,421
County of Stark	2,154
Freshmark, Inc	1,783
Metallus (FKA TimkenSteel)	1,704
Canton City Board of Education	1,702
Giant Eagle	1,166
The Timken Company	862
YMCA	850
Stark State College	794

Human Resources of Listed Companies as of
12/31/2023

Over the past 20 years, Stark County has had the same shift in its employment base as many other parts of the country have. Service and education have taken the place of manufacturing, and that is evident from the list of top 10 employers. Aultman Health Foundation tops the list again this year, with Mercy Medical Center, now part of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, in the top 10. Canton City Board of Education and Stark State College remain dominant service side employers as well. In a community with a long and rich history in manufacturing, only Timken Company and TimkenSteel Corporation remain at the top within this sector. Retail employers, such as Giant Eagle, are also a key sector in our diverse local economy.

The most recent fiscal year showed major gains in investment income showing signs of a strengthened economy. The decline in the inflation rate and the hint of a wider market breadth during 2023 allowed for higher rates of return across the Country. With an estimated 2.7% inflation rate in 2023, compared to a 6.5% inflation rate in 2022, the County's investment income grew by 181.8%.

It is important to note that the S&P 500 average rate of return in 2022 was -18.1%. This indicator should allow for the reader to see that although the market was strong in 2023, the large increase in earnings could also be credited to how weak the market was in 2022.

The County is home to the National Professional Football Hall of Fame, which is located in the City of Canton and attracts more than 225,000 visitors annually and is undergoing an ambitious redevelopment. We are blessed to have this national treasure as the driving force behind our County's vibrant tourism industry. Higher education is an important part of Stark County's economic landscape. Malone University, Walsh University, University of Mount Union, Kent State – Stark, and Stark State College of Technology are important partners in workforce training as they prepare students for meaningful work and fulfilling lives.

Striving for Continuous Improvement

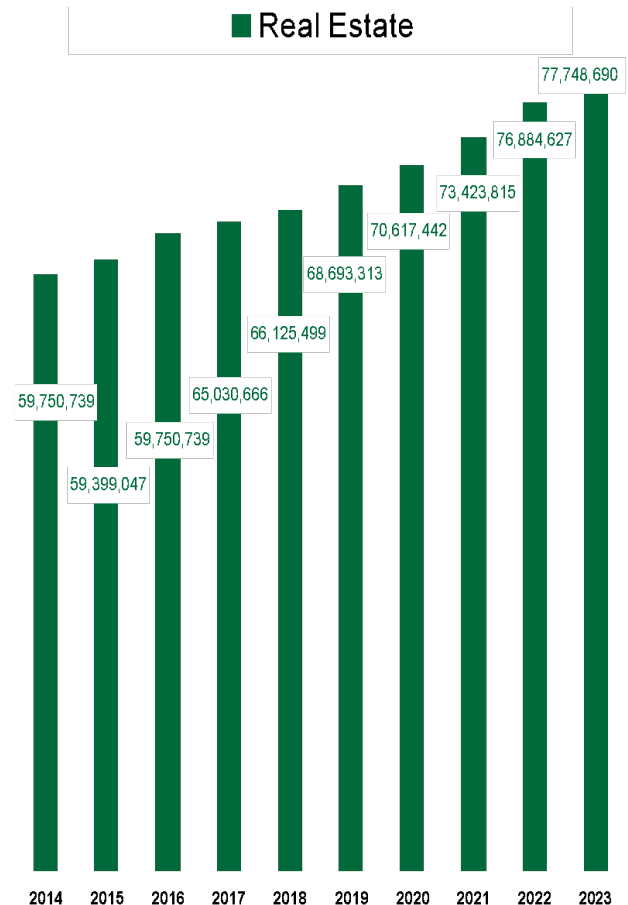
Stark County government has a ½% criminal justice sales tax, which was renewed in May 2017 to run through March 31, 2028. We are grateful to the citizens for this critical investment in its county government. The Commissioners continue to invest in restoring services to the public as well as in neglected infrastructure across county-owned property. In preparing the County budget this year, the Commissioners stressed the need for good stewardship of the County's resources. The budget was crafted in a way to keep services sustainable over the next five years. Stark County residents and visitors enjoy the lowest sales tax in the State of Ohio, and together we continue to make Stark County a great place to live and work.

The ARP State and Local Recovery is expected to refund the Sanitary Water fund for an ongoing water system loop project in Lake Township. Four loops are being installed totaling 23,180 linear feet with an expected total cost of \$7 million. \$2.7 million was spent on the project in 2023.

Assessed Taxable Property Values

Years	Real Estate
2023	\$10,199,937,130
2022	10,080,414,570
2021	8,796,845,090
2020	8,688,774,490
2019	8,332,960,910
2018	7,456,812,490
2017	7,319,088,780
2016	7,187,338,380
2015	6,564,508,240
2014	6,484,131,070

Property Tax Collections



Striving for Continuous Improvement

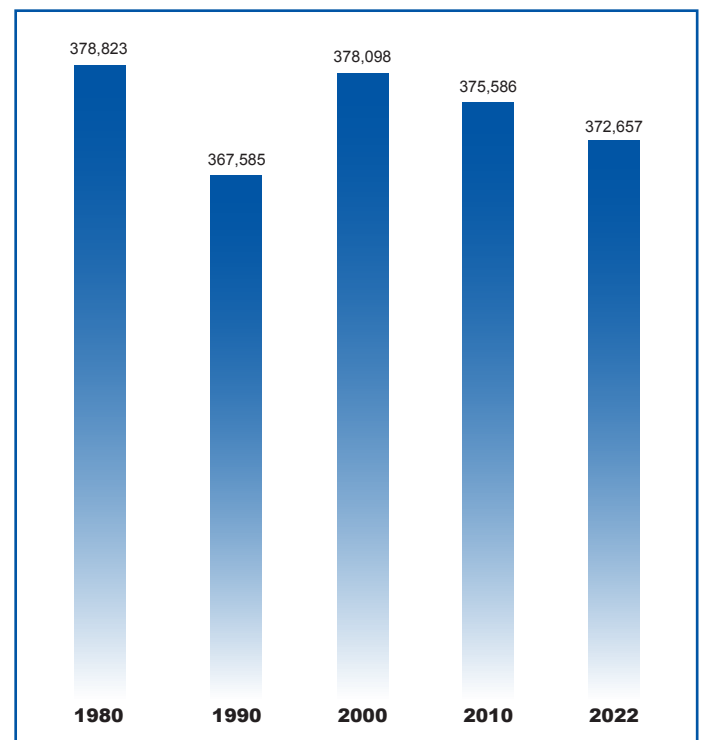
Economic development is critical to both the short- and long-term success of the region. The County remains engaged with Carroll and Columbiana counties to study and plan the expansion of Route 30. The County realizes the seriousness of drainage problems across the region and continues in its planning to address these needs. The Stark County Engineer's Office is responsible for maintaining the County roads, bridges, and storm sewers, and its investments in this infrastructure helps prepare our County for future growth and a safer community. The Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation ("land bank") works with each political subdivision to address blight that has been both decades in the making and as a result of the national mortgage crisis.

The Stark County Auditor's Office is committed to transparency, accountability, and efficiency not only in the Auditor's Office but across County government. The Auditor and Treasurer continue to hold monthly meetings with the Commissioners in an effort to keep both the board and the public aware of the County's financial condition. The Auditor's Office continues to find ways to streamline its processes and hopes to make significant improvements to its financial and payroll systems within the coming year.

Principal Property Tax Payers

Population

Taxpayers	Assessed Valuation
Ohio Power Company	\$ 290,799,760
AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc	148,562,010
Rover Pipeline LLC	145,070,550
Nexus Gas Transmission, LLC	111,460,320
East Ohio Gas	82,370,980
American Transmission System Inc	68,681,010
Ohio Edison	65,694,790
Aqua Ohio Inc	37,776,420
Strip Delaware LLC	22,886,360
Belden Park Delaware LLC	19,775,030



Financial Activity Statement

Summary

The Financial Activity Statement, known in accounting terms as the "Income Statement", is designed to provide record of the money received and spent during the year. Explanations of specific Resources and Services are shown in the following pages.

The Statement is presented on a non-GAAP basis. Copies of GAAP basis reports can be found in the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and can be obtained from the Stark County Auditor's Office. The statement presents governmental activities only.

Stark County 2023 Financial Activity Statement

Resources Taken In	2022	2023
Taxes	\$117,128,000	\$118,921,000
Licenses & Permits	362,000	388,000
Charges for Services	34,879,000	33,835,000
Fines & Forfeitures	933,000	1,344,000
Intergovernmental Revenue	142,125,000	146,554,000
Special Assessments	388,000	341,000
Investment Income	(7,612,000)	13,776,000
Other	5,847,000	6,448,000

Total Revenue & Resources	\$294,050,000	\$321,607,000
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Services Provided	2022	2023
Legislative & Executive	\$37,620,000	\$38,170,000
Judicial	18,816,000	19,275,000
Public Safety	47,406,000	49,323,000
Public Works	28,138,000	24,688,000
Health	83,215,000	87,977,000
Human Services	64,211,000	61,388,000
Capital Outlay	8,746,000	17,850,000
Debt Service	2,176,000	2,195,000

Total Expenditures & Services	\$290,328,000	\$300,866,000
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Revenues & Resources Over (Under)

Expenditures & Services	\$3,722,000	\$20,741,000
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Resources Taken In

Resources taken in are the amounts which the County receives from a variety of different sources in order to pay for the Services it provides.

Taxes are resources which include Sales Tax, Real Estate Tax, Personal Property Tax and a variety of smaller taxes.

Charges for Services are the combined resources of various County departments and agencies for fees paid to them by the public such as court cost and fees for recording deeds and transferring property.

Licenses & Permits are the revenues derived from the selling of vendor licenses, dog licenses, and other items.

Fines and Forfeitures are the resources derived from fines levied in the Courts and the monies received from a variety of forfeitures, including drug arrests and seized property.

Intergovernmental Revenues are the combined resources received from grants and from pass-through monies administered by the State of Ohio and Federal Government.

Special Assessments are amounts levied on real estate tax bills by the County and other local governments for providing improvements such as ditches, water and sewer service, curbs and lighting.

Investment Income is the earnings of the County Treasurer's investments.

Note 1: Revenues increased by \$27.6 million while expenditures increased by \$10.5 million when compared to 2022.

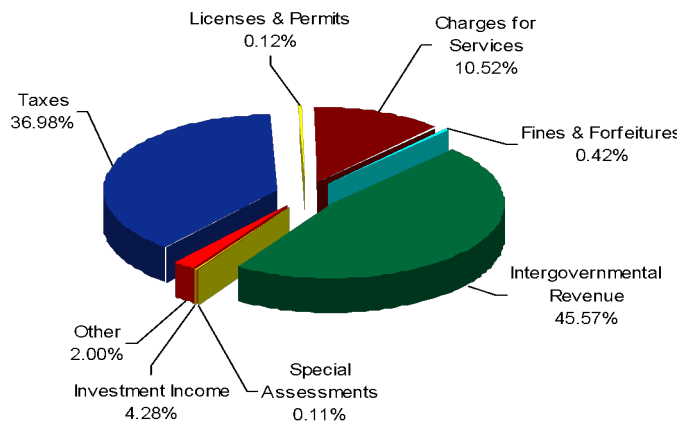
Note 2: Investment income was over \$21 million higher in 2023, outpacing the increase in expenditures. A lower rate of inflation allowed for a large expansion in the market during 2023. Whereas, the inverse effect occurred in 2022; inflation was at a much higher rate causing the market to contract reducing investment income. This made for an abnormally large change in the investment income line item when comparing 2023 to 2022.

Note 3: The significant increase in expenditures was mainly the result of a \$9.5 million increase in capital outlay. With the pandemic putting a halt on most construction in previous years, the County added \$21 million in construction in progress during 2023 in an effort to get roads, bridges and highway properly maintained.

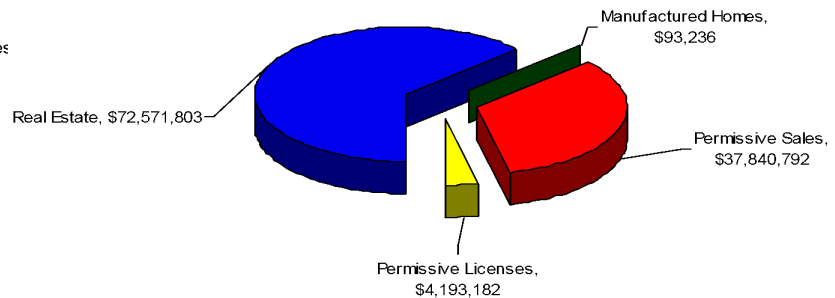
The Financial Activity Statement information was taken from the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for Governmental Activities located in the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Financial Activity Statement Resources Taken In • Services Provided

Resources Taken In



Taxes Further Broken Down



Services Provided – *Services Provided are the amounts spent in order to provide services to citizens.*

Legislative and Executive expenditures are the expenses incurred for administrative offices including the Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, and Recorder.

Human Services expenditures relate to the cost of the Human Services Department, the Board of Mental Retardation/Development Disabilities, and Children Services Board.

Intergovernmental expenditures are monies which are passed through the County government to other governments, including Transportation Improvement District.

Judicial expenditures reflect the costs of administering justice through the Stark County Courts, which include the Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile, and Domestic Relations.

Conservation and Recreation expenditures are costs incurred to maintain the County parks and for conserving the beauty of County lands.

Debt Services expenditures relate to the costs of paying interest and principal on County Debt.

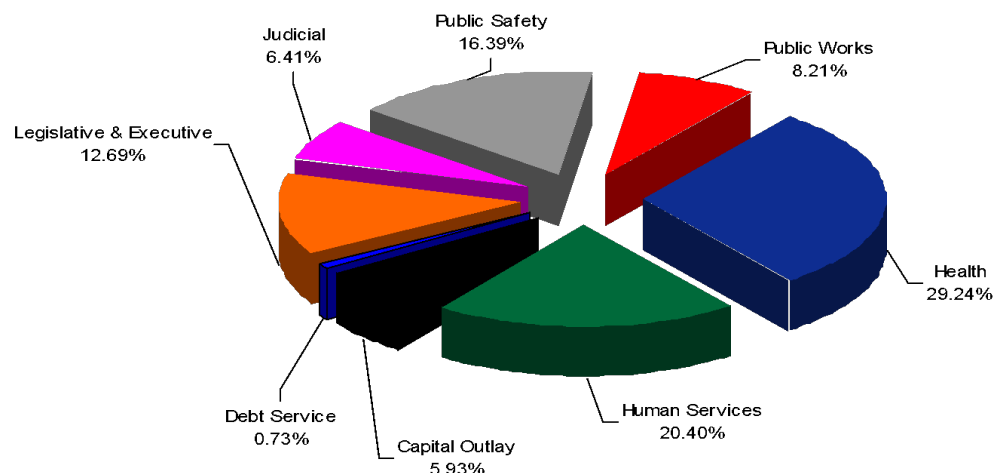
Public Safety expenditures reflect the costs of the Sheriff, Coroner, and Probation Departments.

Public Works expenditures reflect the costs incurred to maintain County roads and bridges

Economic Development expenditures reflect the work that is done to stimulate the economic development for Stark County.

Health expenditures are those services to maintain public health.

Services Provided



Financial Position Statement

Summary

The Financial Position Statement, known in accounting terms as the “Statement of Net Position”, is designed to provide a picture of the County’s Financial Position as of the end of the year. Explanations of specific accounts are as follows by where they appear in the financial position statement:

Stark County 2023 Financial Activity Statement

Financial Benefits

	2022	2023
Cash & Investments	\$303,000,000	\$ 317,000,000
Receivables	165,000,000	174,000,000
Property Equipment	216,000,000	225,000,000
Other Assets	21,000,000	5,000,000
Total Financial Benefits	\$705,000,000	\$721,000,000

Financial Burdens

Amount Owed to Employees and Vendors	\$86,000,000	\$86,000,000
Short-Term Debt	9,000,000	10,000,000
Long-Term Debt	79,000,000	194,000,000
Total Financial Burdens	\$174,000,000	\$290,000,000

Total Financial Benefits Over Financial Burdens	\$531,000,000	\$431,000,000
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Note 1: Financial benefits increased by \$16 million in 2023 when compared to 2022. Cash and Investments went up by \$14 million as due to the large increase in investment earnings. A strong economy, the decline in the inflation rate, and the hint of wider market breadth during 2023 allowed for higher rates of return across the County. With an estimated 2.7% inflation rate in 2023, compared to a 6.5% inflation rate in 2022, the County's investment income grew by 181.8%. Ultimately, the additional revenue to the Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments line item helped increase the County's Total Net Position.

Note 2: Financial burdens increased by \$116 million in 2023 when compared to 2022. Long-term debt increased by \$115 million due to an increase in pension and OPEB expense caused by volatile market conditions. Both retirement systems experienced a net loss from investing activity during the most current measurement period while in the prior measurement period, investing activity resulted in a gain. This was the most significant contributing factor to the increase in unfunded liability for both retirement plans and caused the OPERS' net OPEB asset to revert back to a net OPEB liability. These fluctuations are passed through to the County relative to their proportionate share of contributions of all members, which remained relatively constant from prior year for both retirement plans.

The Financial Activity Statement information was taken from the Statement of Net Position for Governmental Activities only located in the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The amounts are rounded to the nearest million and do not include deferred outflows or inflows of resources.

Benefits over Burdens

This amount represents the difference between the financial assets of the County and the liabilities which it must pay. The amount provides the net worth of the County.

Readers of the Financial Position Statement should keep in mind that the statement is presented on a non-GAAP basis, and those desiring to review GAAP basis reports should refer to the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for 2023 .

Benefits

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

Investments are made up of the funds not needed to be held to pay expenses, so the Treasurer invests these funds in a variety of different types of accounts. This allows the County to earn interest on its surplus cash.

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

Property & Equipment represent the furniture, equipment, vehicles, land, buildings, roads, bridges, and water and sewer plants and mains which provide for an economic benefit of greater than one year.

Burdens

Amounts Owed to Employees and Vendors are those items which the County owes to individuals and companies who supply a service or good, and the expected payment is to be made within twelve months.

Short-Term Debt represents amounts borrowed by the County which must be repaid within one year.

Long-Term Debt represents the amount of bonds which the County has issued and still owes. Bonds do not have to be paid off in one year, rather the County makes monthly or yearly debt payments on these amounts.

Other Liabilities are those items other than Amounts Owed to Employees and Vendors, as well as Short-Term and Long-Term Debt. Examples would be Amounts Owed to other Governments and other funds.

Receivables and Summary of Debt Instruments & Analysis

This summary provides an analysis of the different types of receivables carried by the County for Governmental Activities only.

Receivables

Amount

Accounts Receivable	\$963,468
Intergovernmental Receivable	68,682,194
Sales Taxes Receivable	9,909,312
Property Taxes Receivable	89,491,809
Special Assessments Receivable	1,029,333
Loans Receivable	2,782,360
Accrued Interest Receivable	1,004,515
Total Receivables	\$173,862,991

Summary of Debt Instruments

	Balance at 01-01-2023	New Money (ADDS)	Paid Off (DELETES)	Balance at 12-31-2023
Special Assessment	\$1,110,522	\$0	\$286,071	\$824,451
General Obligation Bonds	13,249,477	0	1,598,929	11,650,548
Loans	22,265,966	377,000	2,762,683	19,880,283
Total Debt	\$36,625,965	\$377,000	\$4,647,683	\$32,355,282

Special Assessments

Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for improvements benefitting property owners, and the owners pay the County over twenty years.

General Obligation

General Obligation Bonds are long-term debt instruments which are repaid from the County's general revenue sources.

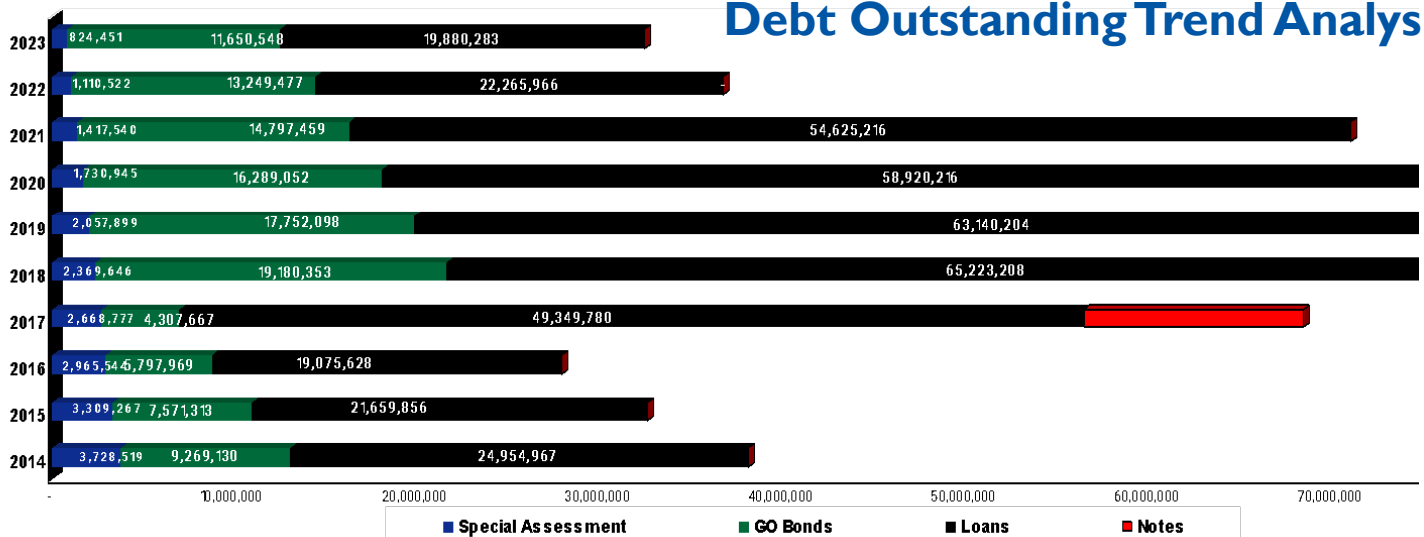
Bond Anticipation Notes

Bond Anticipation Notes are short-term, interest-bearing debt instruments that are paid off with future bond issuances for upcoming projects.

Loans

Loans are acquired from state agencies for various sewer, water, and road projects. These are repaid from operating revenue of the Sanitary Engineer's office and intergovernmental revenue of the Engineer's office.

Debt Outstanding Trend Analysis



The County's bond rating was Aa2 in 2023 from Moody's.

Stark County Elected Officials

For the year ended December 31, 2023

County Commissioners www.starkcountyohio.gov / commissioners	Janet Weir-Creighton Richard R. Regula Bill C. Smith	(330) 451-7371
County Auditor www.starkcountyohio.gov / auditor	Alan C. Harold	(330) 451-7357
County Coroner www.starkcountyohio.gov / coroner	Ronald R. Rusnak	(330) 837-9299
County Engineer www.starkcountyohio.gov / engineer	Keith A. Bennett	(330) 477-6781
County Prosecutor www.starkcountyohio.gov / prosecutor	Kyle L. Stone	(330) 451-7897
County Recorder www.starkcountyohio.gov / recorder	Jamie Walters	(330) 451-7443
County Sheriff www.starkcountyohio.gov / sheriff	George T. Maier	(330) 430-3800
County Treasurer www.starkcountyohio.gov / treasurer www.starktaxes.com	Alex A. Zumbar	(330) 451-7814
Clerk of Courts www.starkcountyohio.gov / clerk	Lynn Miller Todaro	(330) 451-7622
Common Pleas Judges www.starkcountyohio.gov / common-pleas	Kristin G. Farmer Frank G. Forchione Chryssa N. Hartnett Natalie R. Haupt Taryn L. Heath	(330) 451-7931
Family Court Judges www.starkcountyohio.gov / family-court	Rosemarie A. Hall Jim D. James Michelle L. Cordova	(330) 451-7415
Probate Court Judge www.starkcountyohio.gov / probate	Dixilene N. Park	(330) 451-7755
Ohio Court of Appeals Fifth Appellate District www.fifthdist.org	Craig R. Baldwin Patricia A. Delaney W. Scott Gwin William B. Hoffman Earle E Wise, Jr. John W. Wise	(330) 451-7765



Stark County Government Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

For the year ended December 31, 2023

Issued by
Alan Harold
Stark County Auditor
www.starkcountyohio.gov/auditor

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For the year ended December 31, 2022

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