



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Commissioners Pass Balanced Budget

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, February 5, 2026— The Lake County Commissioners passed a balanced county budget for 2026 at the February 5, 2026, Commissioners meeting.

County Administrator Jason Boyd and staff, under the direction of the Commissioners, worked diligently with the elected officials and department heads to successfully create a balanced and sustainable budget for the County General Fund.

“From the start, my goal was to flat-line the budget and focus on responsible spending. While the 27th pay created an unavoidable increase this year, we still identified approximately \$1.8 million in savings by tracking efficiencies at every level—because even small wins matter. Through strong collaboration with our departments and elected officials, we protected services, paid down debt on the Safety Services Center, and demonstrated the fiscal discipline our taxpayers expect,” said Commission President Morris W. Beverage III.

“I am proud to vote for a balanced budget. In Lake County, we practice what we preach, and we do more with less, in order to deliver the best service in Ohio without deficit spending or raising taxes. Through attrition, efficiency improvements, strategic debt restructuring, and smarter use of existing county resources, we achieved meaningful cost savings without reducing or compromising core services relied upon by our residents,” said Commissioner John T. Plecnik.

The County General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County and accounts for the financial resources required to administer daily operations with the exception of those funds required by the Ohio Revised Code to be recorded in other accounts. The 2026 General Fund revenue is projected to be \$78,288,745 with projected expenses of \$78,250,562.91. Within the General Fund, the judicial system and public safety represent over 70% of the proposed budget.

"Delivering important services to the residents of Lake County is a challenging prospect. Balancing the need of the county along with fiscal responsibility is not an easy task. This budget is responsible, balancing managing the ongoing cost of government while making important investments for the community responsibly paying down debt, saving taxpayer money," said Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh.

The General Fund budget can be viewed at <https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/commissioners-office/>

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