



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioners Approve 2026-2029 Senior Services Strategic Plan

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, September 24, 2026 – The Lake County Board of Commissioners announced today that the 2026–2029 Senior Services Strategic Plan has been formally recommended by the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel and approved for adoption by the Board. This milestone reflects one of the most comprehensive efforts undertaken in the last decade to understand how to best support older adults in Lake County.

Lake County’s older adult population is proportionately large, growing, and expected to remain high for more than a decade. At the same time, levy dollars are projected to stay flat, meaning the County must find new ways to do more with limited resources. The senior levy, first passed in 1992, continues to be one of Lake County’s most important public investments, and the County has a responsibility to ensure every dollar is directed to the needs residents have clearly expressed.

Over the past year, the County engaged in a broad review of senior services, gathering input from residents, community partners, and providers, and examining how programs are used across Lake County. This work consistently highlighted a clear theme: older adults need a system that is easier to access, better coordinated, and consistently accountable for results. It also positions Lake County to be proactive as the older adult population grows and needs continue to change, ensuring the system evolves with the community rather than responding only after challenges emerge.

Commission President Morris W. Beverage III stated, “The senior levy is one of the most significant tools we have to support older adults. Our job is to understand priorities, coordinate the system, and be fully accountable for public resources. This plan positions us to do that, and to direct funding to the needs residents identified.”

The County also emphasized the crucial role of the many providers who serve older adults every day—senior centers, transportation partners, in-home support programs, housing organizations, health systems, and community groups. Their dedication has made Lake County a leader in senior services, but they cannot meet rising demand without a system designed for today’s realities.

Commissioner John T. Plecnik noted, “The message from older adults was unmistakable. Needs are growing, but resources are limited. We have a duty to make this system clearer, stronger, and more responsive. We heard you, and we are listening.”

Based on the assessment findings, stakeholder input, and market study results, the County will begin building a new model—one that modernizes how levy dollars are allocated, strengthens coordination

among providers, improves access to information, and invests in infrastructure that helps seniors get the right support at the right time.

Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh added, “This is an important initiative and represents a tremendous opportunity to improve senior services in Lake County. I am committed to our seniors. We will shape this carefully, measure results, and adjust as we learn. We have one goal it is simple and unwavering: we want older adults to thrive in Lake County. We are committed to them and we will not let them down.”

The Board will provide regular public updates as implementation progresses, including opportunities for engagement and transparency around newly adopted processes.

Residents can read the full 2026-2029 Senior Services Strategic Plan at:

<https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/senior-services/strategic-plan/>

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