



Thrust Into the Spotlight

Aka: It's not about politics;
it's about my community!

Clark County, Ohio

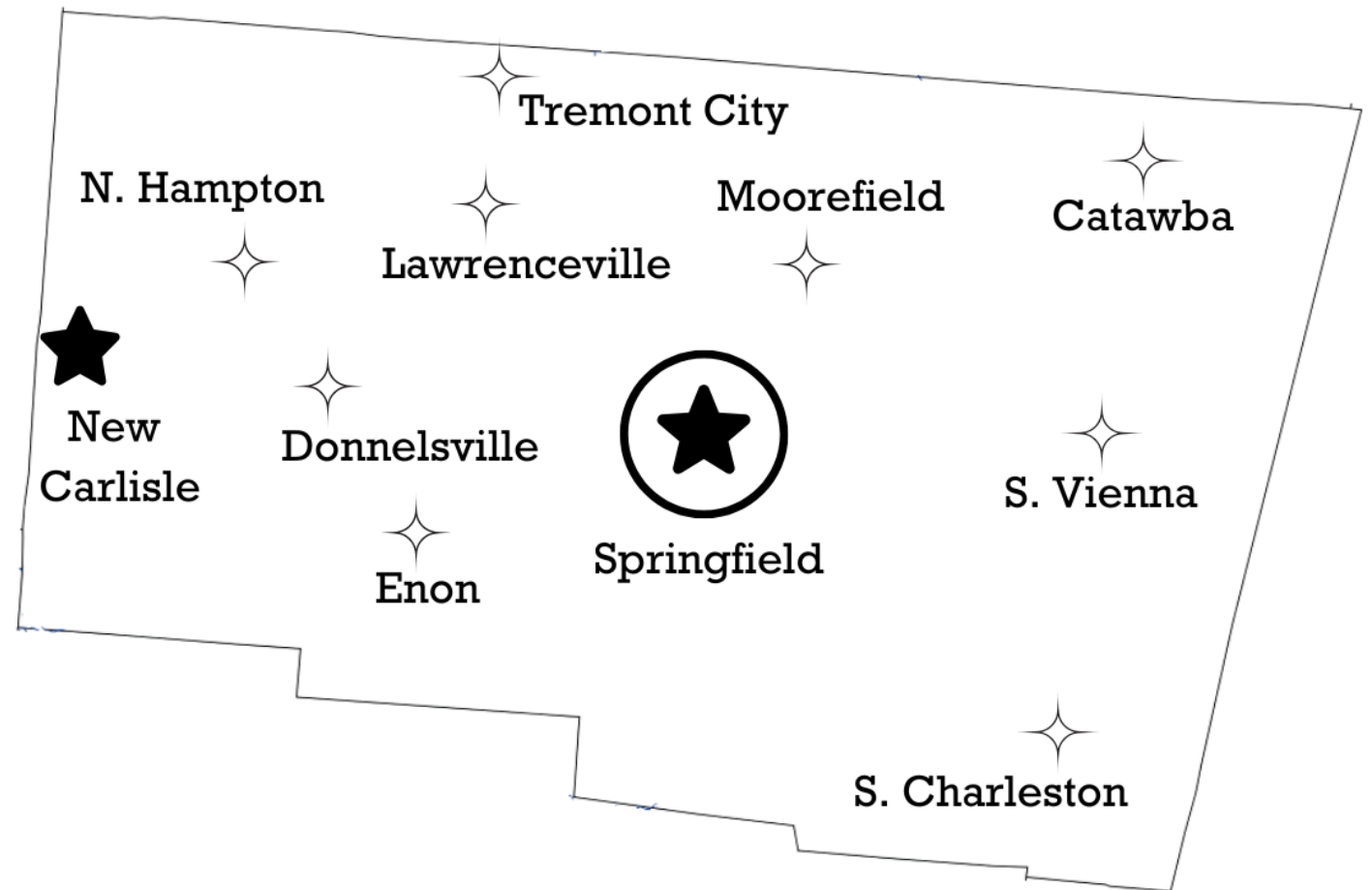
County Seat: Springfield

Population

Clark Co. = 138,000

City of Springfield = 58,000

+ 15,000-20,000 Refugees





Global Impact STEM Academy expansion (2025)



Mercy Health freestanding ER, Enon



New Carlisle



New Residential Housing Melody Parks, US 40 E



Gabe's Distribution Warehouse (2023)



New Residential Housing Leffel Lane and Burnett Rd



The Next Day





FOX
BUSINESS

GOV ABBOTT TO HOLD BORDER SECURITY NEWS CONFERENCE

▶ 10:31A CT

BORDER CRISIS

10YR YIELD 3.632% ▼ 0.021

30YR YIELD 3.949% ▼ 0.032

LAST TRADES ▶ MICRO DEVICES (AMD) 152.50 ▲ 0.19 | CHIPOTLE MEXIC

DOW

41,466.70

▲ 72.92

+0.18%

DEVELOPING STORY



Strategic Priorities

1. Strengthen economy and sales tax base
2. Retain and attract workforce
3. Improve digital and physical access to government services

My Philosophy

If the City is strong, so is Clark County.

A Few Facts for Context

Estimated 12,000-15,000 Haitian TPS

- Census numbers aren't accurate (2020)
- Most immigration occurred 2022-2024
- 6,600 Medicaid cases of Haitian Creole speakers as of Oct. 2024 (down from 7,900) (Total residents on Medicaid = 52,000)
- TPS status extended Aug. 4, 2024- Feb. 6, 2026
- 1 report of geese being hunted
- No reports of dogs or cats being taken or abused

Zero Haitian Creole speakers in Clark County

Population 138,000
City: 58,000

Many available jobs after pandemic

First group of Haitians quietly settle in Springfield

Commission becomes aware of the trend of Haitian refugees, thanks to Health department

JFS starts seeing influx of applicants

Visibility

Bus crash on first day of school at Northwestern. 6th Grader killed.

Local Task Force organizes

- Funding
- Lines
- Health concerns
- Public interest

Tension mounts

Presidential Debate

Bomb Threats

Demonstrations

2020

2021

Mid-2022

Aug. 2023

Oct. 2023

Sept. 2024



The National Media Swarms

- Should I do the interviews?
- The political implications
- Why should I step up?
- It's the City's problem, not the County's

Via Webex by CH40

Springfield, OH

7:42 PM ET



BREAKING NEWS

LIVE

OHIO GOV.: "NO TRUTH" TO TRUMP CLAIM OF IMMIGRANTS EATING PETS

Melanie Flax Wilt | Republican President of Ohio's Clark County Commission

CNN

7:42 PM ET

WILT SAID TUESDAY SHE IS SUPPORTING VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS, ENDING SPECULATION

SIÂN BURNETT
OUTREACH

Lessons Learned

And unsolicited advice for your next crisis

Use Your Public Platform

- To make a difference
- To speak up
- To change the narrative
- You have the power to decide what's what

Be the Leader They Need

- Courageous leadership
- Be a conduit for change
- There's risk involved
- Compassionate and conservative
- Critical thinkers don't align with 100% of a party platform

Authenticity Matters

- How you respect and treat others
- Are you after positive change or political gain?
- IDK: You don't have to have all the answers to speak out



Connect with me!

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