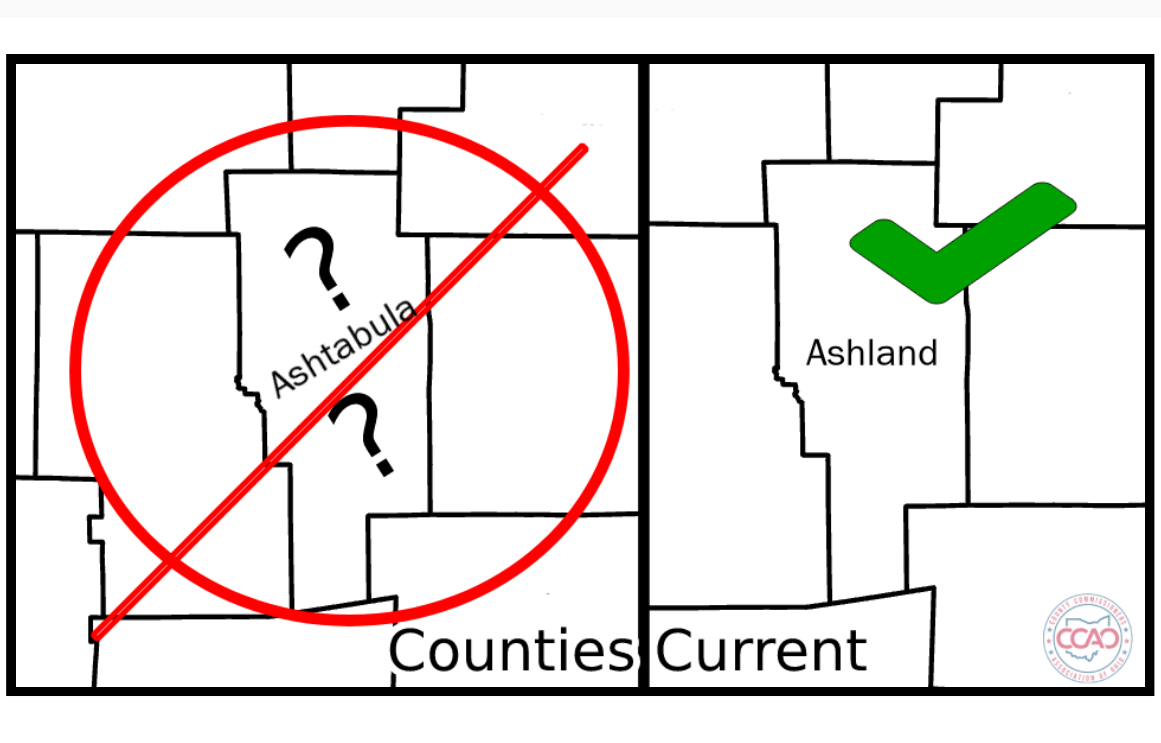

January 3, 2023

Oops. Last week's cover of Counties Current featured officials from Ashland County wearing ugly Christmas sweaters, but they were incorrectly identified as Ashtabula County officials. We apologize for the mistake and vow to study the county map more rigorously this year!

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Print Version | Dates to Remember

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CCAO seeks policy analyst

CCAO has posted a job opening for a policy analyst role with the CCAO policy team.

The position is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in working in the public policy field. CCAO is a well-respected trade association in the field of local government.

Among the responsibilities the position will fulfill are working with the rest of the policy team and Association members to advance county issues, advocate for Association priorities with the legislative and executive branch, and prepare materials for legislative testimony.

The minimum qualifications for an ideal candidate are a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts, social sciences, or a related field; between two and three years of experience with either county government, the state legislature, or the state executive; a valid Ohio driver's license; and the ability to meet insurance requirements.

You can access the complete job posting through the link above or here.

If interested, please submit a letter of interest, a resume, references, and a writing sample to CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at resumes@ccao.org by January 9.

URGENT: Only weeks remain to review broadband maps; BroadbandOhio to host virtual Q&A sessions in January

The Federal Communications Commission recently released new broadband maps that **will be used to determine the amount of funding Ohio will receive to expand broadband access throughout the state**. To improve the maps and ensure Ohio receives as much support as possible, we need your help!

You can view the current map through the link above or directly at BroadbandMap.fcc.gov.

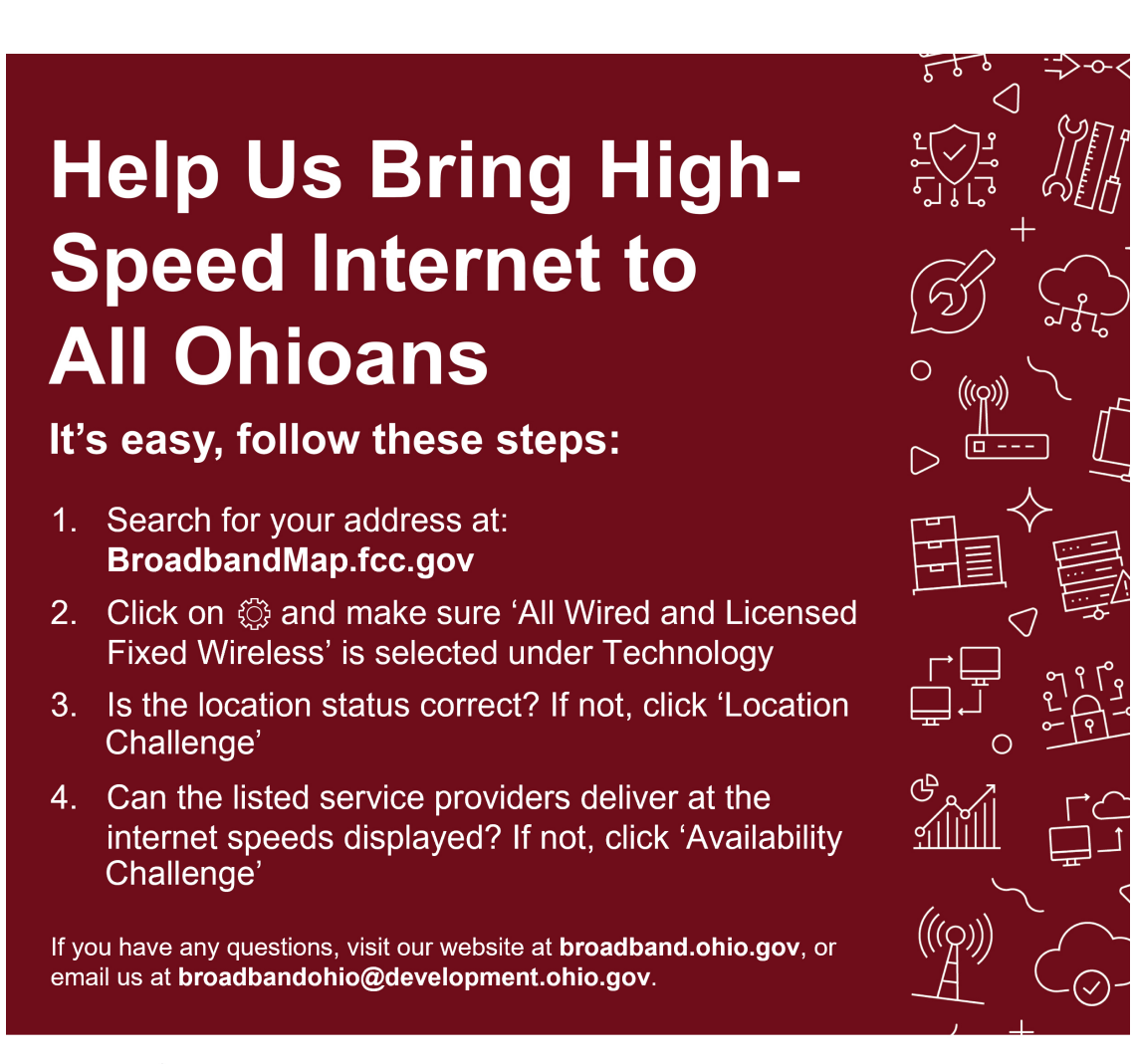
By Jan. 13, 2023, we need as many Ohioans as possible to check the federal maps, and if there is an inconsistency, submit supporting information. The FCC has released both an FAQ and the poster displayed below.

BroadbandOhio will additionally be hosting two virtual Q&A sessions to assist Ohioans on the process. The first will be held on January 4 and the second will be held January 10. Registration is not required. You can access the sessions at 10 a.m. each day through the links below.

- January 4, 10 a.m.
- January 10. 10 a.m.

BroadbandOhio is urging Ohioans to do the following, in addition to reviewing the maps for their area:

1. Share the email below with all listservs that reach your community, as well as your broader network in Ohio.
2. Share the attached poster on social media, in your office building, and in commonly used spaces in your community.
3. Talk to as many people as you can. The more people who know, the better!



Help Us Bring High-Speed Internet to All Ohioans

It's easy, follow these steps:

1. Search for your address at: **BroadbandMap.fcc.gov**
2. Click on ⚙ and make sure 'All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless' is selected under Technology
3. Is the location status correct? If not, click 'Location Challenge'
4. Can the listed service providers deliver at the internet speeds displayed? If not, click 'Availability Challenge'

If you have any questions, visit our website at **broadband.ohio.gov**, or email us at **broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov**.

Reimbursement for psychotropic drug reimbursement must be submitted by February 15

The Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement Program for County Jails will continue in SFY 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). OhioMHAS will provide reimbursement to counties for the cost of certain drugs dispensed to inmates of county jails in Ohio. Reimbursement for SFY 2023 shall be submitted by the county sheriff's office for the following periods identified below. Failure to submit reimbursement requests by the identified dates will result in the request being denied.

- July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 – submitted by February 15, 2023

The total reimbursement amount available for SFY 2023 is $3 million. Of the total amount, $1,500,000 is available for each reporting period. A county jail will receive reimbursement based on their jail's percentage of the total amount of reimbursement requested across all jails participating in the program. For example, if a county jail accounts for 1% of the total amount requested for the reporting period, the jail would receive $15,000.00.

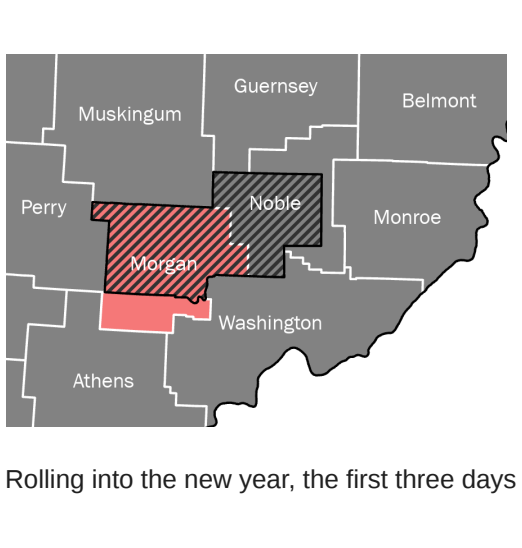
Attached is the Guidelines and Assurances and the Entry Form. Both documents must be submitted to jailreimbursement@mha.ohio.gov by the deadline to be eligible for reimbursement. More information about the Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement Program can be found on the OhioMHAS website.

OhioMHAS will upload payment amounts for each jail in the Grants and Funding Management System. Once processed, the ADAMH Board will receive the funds. For jails that are in multiple ADAMH Board counties, the payment upload will be processed to the Board in the county where the jail is located.

Please reach out to Chris Nicastro, Chief of the Bureau of Criminal Justice Services in the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, with questions. You can contact him at 614-466-9969 or christopher.nicastro@mha.ohio.gov.

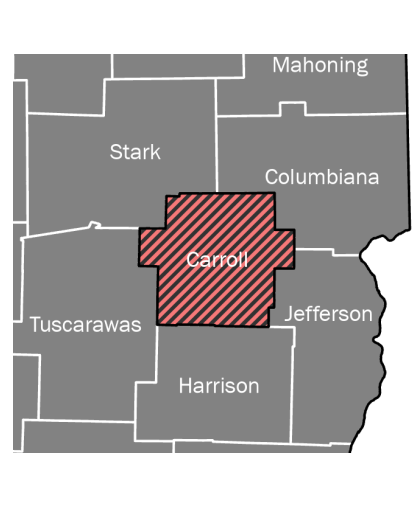
Happy birthday to Carroll, Darke, Hamilton, and Morgan counties!

Four counties have celebrated birthdays since the last issue of *Counties Current*.



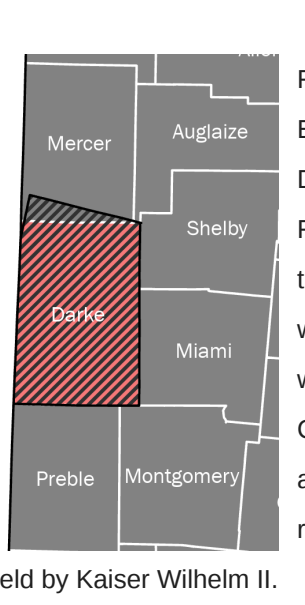
First, Morgan County celebrated the final county birthday of 2022, turning 205 on December 29. Created in 1817 from land formerly belonging to Guernsey, Muskingum, and Washington, Morgan County is named after Daniel Morgan, a Virginian officer in the Revolutionary War and a commander during the Whiskey Rebellion.

Rolling into the new year, the first three days each saw the establishment of a new county.



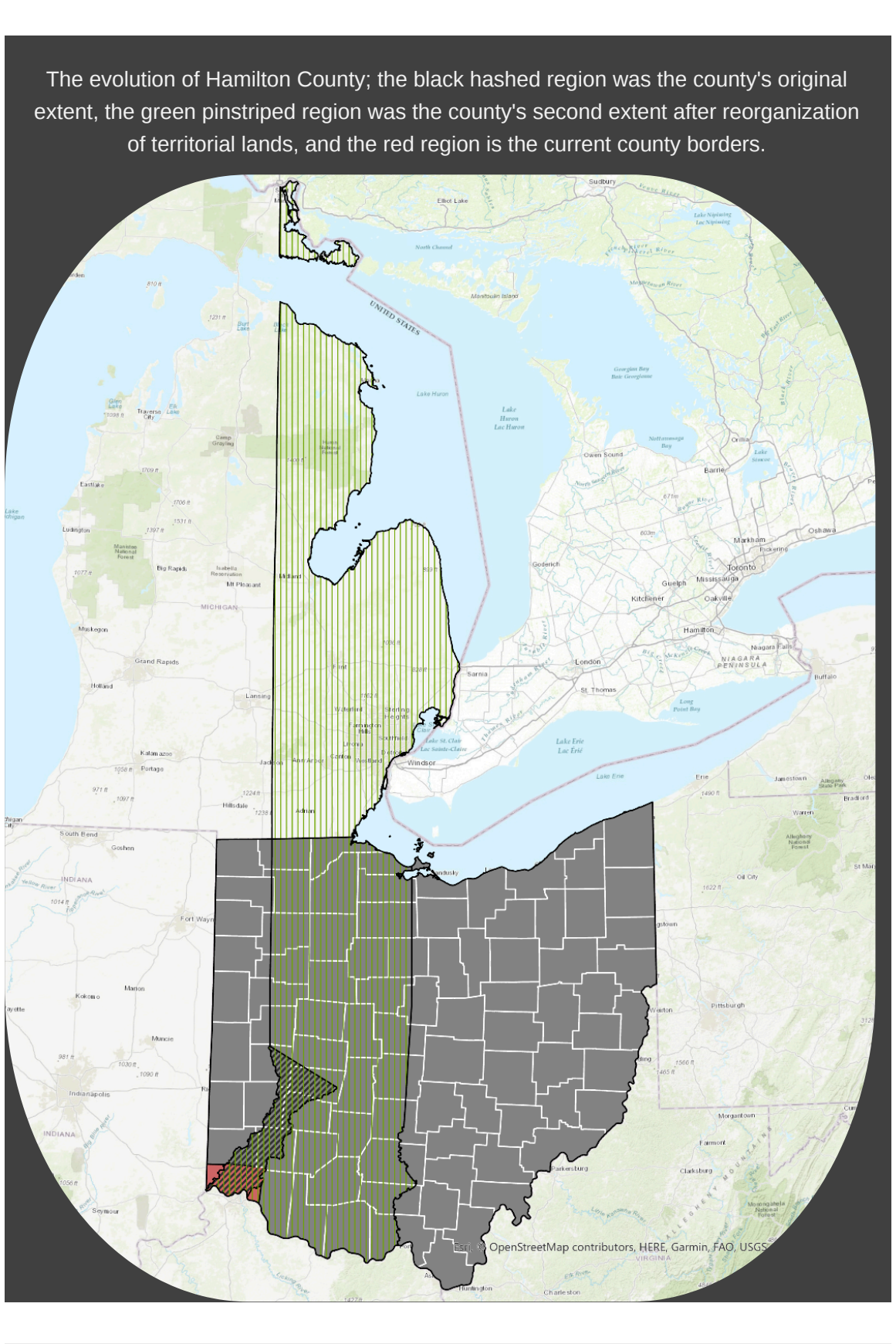
On January 1, 1833, Carroll County was created from land ceded by Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, Stark, and Tuscarawas counties, making this year its 190th birthday! The county is named after Charles Carroll, the longest-lived signatory of the Declaration of Independence, who died just two months prior to the county's creation. According to data compiled by the Newberry Library, Carroll County's borders have not changed since the county's establishment.

Hamilton County is celebrating its 233rd birthday, second only to Washington County's 235 years (which it will turn on July 27). One of the Pre-Statehood Nine, Hamilton County is 13 years older than Ohio. The county, named after the first Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, was originally bound by the Ohio River in the south and the Greater and Lesser Miami rivers in the west and east, respectively. The county's size exploded in 1792 (see map below) before steadily being diminished by the subsequent creation of other counties.



Finally, the day of this issue marks the 214th birthday of Darke County! Established on January 3, 1809, the county is named after William Darke, a colonial soldier who served in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the Whiskey Rebellion suppression, and attacks on the Northwestern Confederacy of Indians. Unlike other colonial figures who counties are named after, Darke had a direct impact on Ohio: he was the foster father of Thomas Worthington, himself a leader of the Chillicothe Junto, the leading pro-statehood faction in the future Ohio, and later the sixth governor of the state. Darke County was the home of renown sharpshooter Annie Oakley, who once shot the ashes off a cigar held by Kaiser Wilhelm II.

The evolution of Hamilton County; the black hashed region was the county's original extent, the green pinstriped region was the county's second extent after reorganization of territorial lands, and the red region is the current county borders.



OpenStreetMap contributors, HERE, Garmin, FAO, USGS

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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NACo is accepting applications for 2023 Achievement Awards

On December 19, NACo officially put out the call for applications for NACo Achievement Awards. The award program, entering its 53rd year, celebrates outstanding county government programs and services.

Achievement Award winners will be featured in County News, NACo's primary newsletter, and will be honored at NACo's Annual Conference. The recognition is also useful for highlighting important projects to your local community.

The awards cover 18 program categories, such as Children and Youth, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Health, Human Services, Planning, Transportation, and more.

In 2022, Ohio counties received 28 Achievement Awards. You can view a full list of NACo Achievement Award winners dating back to 2009 at NACo's award database.

The deadline to submit applications is April 7, 2023, with applications received before March 3 receiving $25 off the application fee.

Auditor of State releases summary of the federal Financial Data Transparency Act

Congress recently passed the Financial Data Transparency Act (FDTA) as part of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The FDTA is intended to improve data transparency through new standards that require financial information to be automated, searchable, and machine-readable. Full implementation of the legislation may take up to four years.

The Auditor of State's office created a summary to provide an overview of what to expect as the law moves forward. The office will also post additional guidance on its website (www.ohioauditor.gov) as it is released. A link to the bill's text is available in the PDF linked above.

If you have questions regarding the FDTA and how it may impact your county, please contact Tom Hancock, Legislative Director for Auditor of State Keith Faber, at 614-728-7171 or TEHancock@ohioauditor.gov.

County Occupational Estimates Reports published by ODJFS

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Bureau of Labor Market Information recently published 2021 County Occupational Estimates Reports. These reports can be helpful to anyone exploring new careers. They show estimated employment counts for the top occupations in each county, along with the typical education, work experience, and training required for each, and whether the occupation is a STEM career and/or an Ohio Top Job.

This information may be useful for county OhioMeansJobs affiliates and county JFS services to help Ohioans find careers that are best suited for them.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

PNC Bank to host economic forecasting webinar

On January 12, PNC Bank will be hosting a webinar entitled, "Forecasting Ohio's Economic and Political Climate." The webinar will focus on Ohio's economy, the work of the State Treasurer's office, and upcoming legislative changes that may affect the state's economic landscape.

The webinar will be hosted by Robert E. Dailey, the Executive VP and Managing Director of PNC Public Finance and will feature as speakers Robert Sprague, the Ohio Treasurer of State, kurt Rankin, a senior economist for PNC, and Brian Hicks, the President and CEO of Hicks Partners, LLC.

Registration for the webinar is free and can be completed here.

CCAO recommends counties register staff for the webinar to hear from experts on what the state can expect in the new year.

State and Federal grant overview

There are a number of state and federal grants whose application deadline is in January that CCAO believes would be beneficial to counties and the communities they serve. They are as follows, ordered by application deadline:

- **STATE**: Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grant (Deadline January 5)
  - To defray the expenses of a drug task force incurred by performing functions related to illegal drug activity.
- **FEDERAL**: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration (January 5)
  - To provide assistance to entities to encourage conservation, restoration, research, and management of fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin. NOTE: Only available to counties in the Lake Erie Basin.
- **FEDERAL**: Farm to School Grant (January 6)
  - To assist entities through grants and technical assistance in implementing farm-to-school programs that improve access to local foods.
- **FEDERAL**: Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grants (January 9)
  - Two separate programs, one to increase awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program among low-income households and one to facility the promotion of the program by providing assistance in completing the application.
- **STATE**: Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant (January 15)
  - To assist small, volunteer fire departments with the purchasing of equipment and funding of projects.
- **STATE**: Serving, Educating, and Empowering Fathers (January 20)
  - To support the well-being of Ohioans by strengthening families and promoting stability by serving fathers who are eligible for TANF.

You can see other grant opportunities at CCAO's Funding and Grant Opportunities page.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

County budgets for raises, additional workers

The Courier, December 29, 2022

The Hancock County commissioners this month approved $28.9 million in general fund appropriations for 2023, or 4.3% less than in 2022.

The department with the biggest budget is the Sheriff's Office, which is being allotted $11.3 million, an 8.2% increase. Anticipated pay raises for unionized employees is the biggest cause of the increase, Sheriff Michael Heldman said. The sheriff's office is in negotiations with employees' labor representatives and those will likely be settled after Jan. 1, Heldman said.

Other notable drivers of the increased appropriation are rises in medical costs for jail inmates and general inflation.

The Adult Probation Department will receive an 18.8% appropriation increase to $828,389 for an additional employee and other expenses to keep up with a growing number of criminal cases.

Northeast District

Lorain County prepares to celebrate bicentennial

Chronicle Telegram, December 31, 2022

Just over 200 years ago, on Dec. 26, 1822, the Ohio Legislature officially formed what is now Lorain County.

The Lorain County Bicentennial Committee recently was established to research, promote and celebrate important milestones in Lorain County's early history.

An 18-month celebration is planned to "highlight how Lorain County's 30 political subdivisions — townships, villages, and municipalities — worked together to make the county successful across Ohio's early history, two World Wars and today's period of growth," the Bicentennial Committee said in a news release.

Working with the Lorain County Historical Society and the Lorain County Visitor's Bureau, the committee plans to release special events on the calendar in the near future, and much of what it can do will depend on fundraising and financial support, Chairman Andrew Lipian wrote.

Central District

Richland County 2022 revenues exceed estimates by $1.5 million

Mansfield News Journal, December 31, 2022

Richland County Commissioner Tony Vero will be getting a free lunch courtesy of County Auditor Pat Dropsey. That's because the county ended 2022 with around $1.5 million more in revenue than Dropsey estimated for the year.

Dropsey told the board in November during 2023 budget discussions that county general fund revenue at the end of this year would total $42.3 million or about 7.4% more than was predicted for the 2022 budget because of a generally good economy. Vero predicted revenue would be around $1 million higher based on state sales tax projections for November and made a friendly lunch wager as he has done for the past three years.

Vero reported on Thursday during the commissioner's last regular meeting of 2022 that the county will end the year with $43.8 million in total revenue, which includes an expected $600,000 payment from the City of Mansfield for housing city prisoners in the county jail. The revenue total is $7.1 million more than the county spent this year.

Southwest District

Clark County Commission plans vehicle purchases, building projects

Springfield News Sun, December 27, 2022

The Clark County Commission reviewed general fund revenue and expenses for the past year in preparation for approving the county's budget early next year, and multiple projects have been proposed for 2023.

Part of the county's strategic plan moving into 2023 is to improve digital access to government services, retain and attract a workforce and strengthen the county's sales tax base, county administrator Jennifer Hutchison said at the commission's Dec. 21 meeting.

She reviewed the 2022 budget and projected revenue and expenses for next year's general fund.

Revenues from 2022 totaled $45 million, of which $30 million came from the county's sales tax. Revenue in 2023 is projected to total $48.4 million.

Southeast District

Washington County Commissioners approve 2023 budget

Marietta Times, December 30, 2022

Washington County Commissioners approved a 2023 budget Thursday that includes a 4% employee pay increase, with the goals of workforce retention and helping non-contract county workers deal with ongoing inflation concerns.

Last year's county wage increase was 3%.

There also will be a boost in the total funds allocated to roads, bridges and townships through the permissive sales tax revenue. The 2023 allocation will be 30%, up from 26% in previous years. That translates to $2,700,000 in 2023, compared to $2,598,798 in 2022 and $2,238,710 in 2021.

There is a $100,000 Capital Projects appropriation to pay for building and infrastructure updates. Among those plans is construction/renovation at 311 Third St. in Marietta. The building houses the Ohio Means Jobs Center, a part of the county's Job and Family Services system.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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JANUARY 9
LAST DAY TO HOLD ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 16
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY

JANAURY 20
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DID YOU KNOW?

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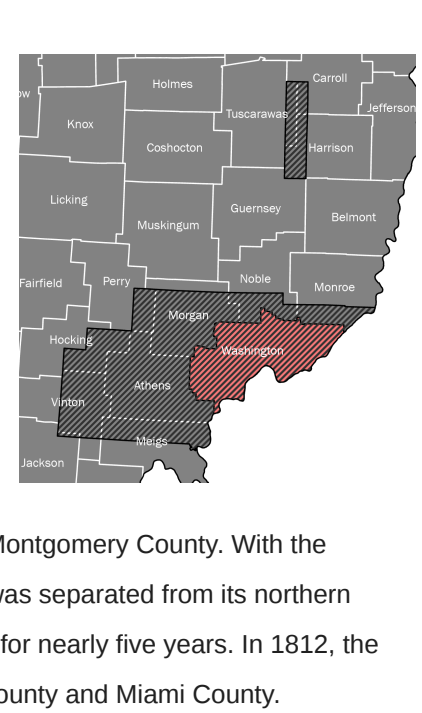
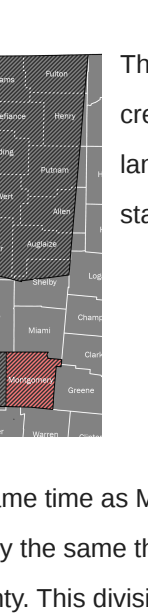
Delaware County, Franklin County, and Washington County

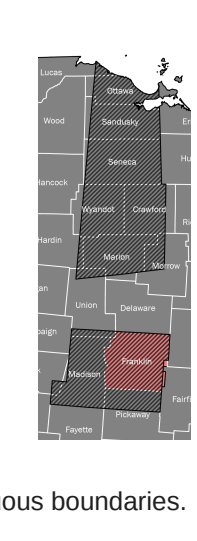
It may be hard to believe today, but four times in Ohio history a county has been non-contiguous. Washington County experienced this twice while Franklin County and Montgomery County each experienced it once.



The first occurred in 1803, when the creation of Muskingum County caused a splinter of land that belonged to Washington County to be separated from the rest of the county. This splint contained land that is now in Carroll, Harrison, and Tuscarawas counties. Washington County was restored as a contiguous county when the errant tracts were reassigned to Jefferson County in 1805.

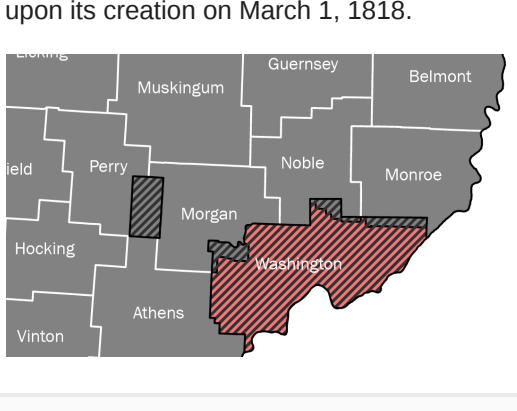


The next splinter occurred in 1807, this time to Montgomery County. With the creation of Miami County, Montgomery County was separated from its northern land. Montgomery County would remain divided for nearly five years. In 1812, the state attached the unconnected land to Darke County and Miami County.



At same time as Montgomery County was divided, Franklin County experienced nearly the same thing. The creation of Delaware County in 1808 bisected Franklin County. This division was notably shorter than the others, lasting only eight months until the county's northern lands were attached to Delaware County.

The shortest division, however, was also the last time a county has had non-contiguous boundaries. A decade after Washington County was restored to a single boundary, it was again divided by the creation of a new county, this time Morgan County's establishment on December 29, 1817. The errant land was only a part of Washington County for two months, as it became part of Perry County upon its creation on March 1, 1818.



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