



2012 Budget in Brief

Hamilton County, Ohio



Board of County Commissioners

Greg Hartmann, President

Chris Monzel, Vice President

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About the Cover

The 2012 Budget in Brief cover showcases six county entities that celebrated milestone anniversaries during 2011.



Coney Island - 125 Years

The sixth oldest amusement park in the United States, Coney Island opened as an apple orchard and picnic grounds in June 1886. The park is home to the world's largest recirculating swimming pool and boasts 24 classic amusement rides, as well as live stage shows, miniature golf, Coney's Mining Town and more.



City of Wyoming - 150 Years

Residents cherish the City of Wyoming for its appealing combination of small town friendliness and progressive amenities. Great schools, warm neighbors, beautiful tree canopy, historic and modern homes, boutique shops, restaurants and recreational opportunities complement an efficient and effective government.



City of Milford - 175 Years

First settled along the banks of the Little Miami River in 1800, Milford was incorporated as a jurisdiction in 1836. Today Milford's historic Main Street central business district is a thriving neighborhood with a mix of restaurants, shops and offices that still occupy some of the original buildings.



MidPoint Music Festival - 10 Years

An annual music mecca for the entire region, Midpoint Music Festival showcases pioneering artists from all over the world in Cincinnati's historic Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. Over 20 venues host three nights of performances attracting over 20,000 music fans each year.



Mt. Airy Forest and Ault Park - 100 Years

Named an historically significant location by the National Park Service in 2011, Mt. Airy Forest was one of the first municipal reforestation projects in the nation and features 1,459 acres of hiking and bridle trails. Ault Park, with its striking Italianate pavilion, is known for its lookout point and beautiful gardens.



City of Forest Park - 50 Years

A planned community since its incorporation in 1961, Forest Park is now Hamilton County's third largest city. A diverse area of nearly 19,000 residents and 550 businesses, Forest Park offers reasonably priced homes, a convenient location along I-275, and many recreational opportunities.

About Hamilton County

Hamilton County covers 414 square miles in the southwestern corner of the state of Ohio. Located on the Ohio River, with its county seat in Cincinnati, Hamilton is the third most populous county in the state.

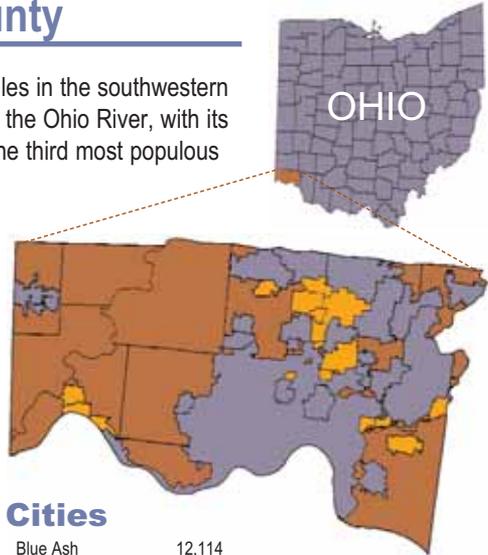
Named for Alexander Hamilton and established in 1790, the county was only the second to be carved out of the Northwest Territory. It predated Ohio statehood by 13 years and its boundaries included one-eighth of what is now Ohio.

Cincinnati was the population center of Hamilton County until the industrial era, when the city's inhabitants began to spread to the suburbs. The city contained 80% of the county's population in the 1900 census, but the 2010 census shows only 37% of the population resides in Cincinnati.

Government Structure

Hamilton County has no top executive and no single overall governing body. Administrative powers rest with a three-person Board of County Commissioners and eight other elected officials who function as the independent heads of their departments.

In 1963, the Board of County Commissioners created the appointed office of County Administrator to manage Board policies and prepare the county budget.



Cities

Blue Ash	12,114		
Cheviot	8,375	Mt. Healthy	6,098
Cincinnati	296,943	North College Hill	9,397
Deer Park	5,736	Norwood	19,207
Forest Park	18,720	Reading	10,385
Harrison	9,897	Sharonville*	11,197
Indian Hill	5,785	Silverton	4,788
Loveland*	9,348	Springdale	11,223
Madeira	8,726	St. Bernard	4,368
Milford*	29	Wyoming	8,428
Montgomery	10,251	Total	471,015

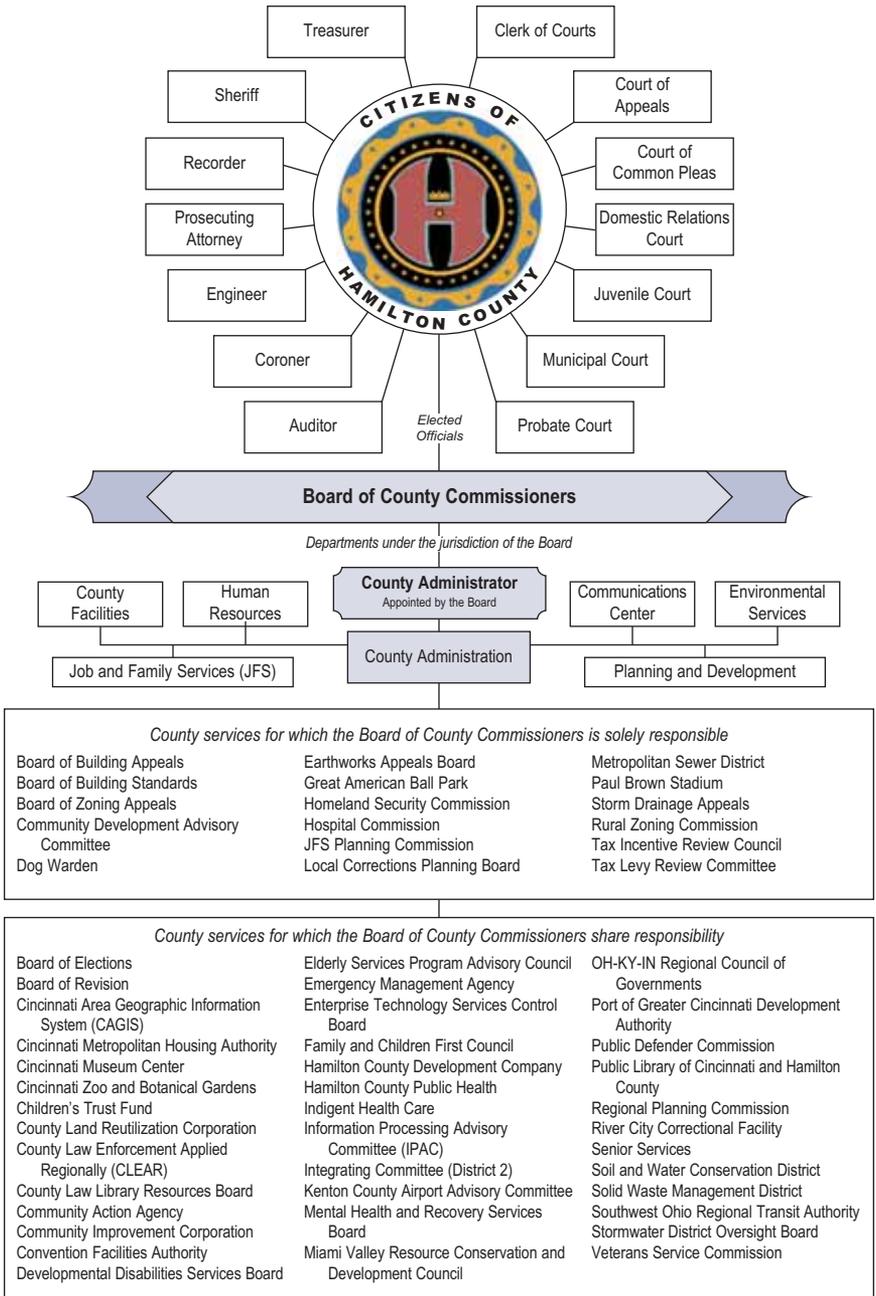
Villages

Addyston	938	Greenhills	3,615
Amberley Village	3,585	Lincoln Heights	3,286
Arlington Heights	745	Lockland	3,449
Cleves	3,234	Mariemont	3,403
Elmwood Place	2,188	Newtown	2,672
Evendale	2,767	North Bend	857
Fairfax	1,699	Terrace Park	2,251
Glendale	2,155	Woodlawn	3,294
Golf Manor	3,611	Total	43,749

Townships

Anderson	43,446	Miami	10,728
Colerain	58,499	Springfield	36,319
Columbia	4,532	Sycamore	19,200
Crosby	2,767	Symmes	14,683
Delhi	29,510	Whitewater	5,519
Green	58,370	Total	287,610
Harrison	4,037		

Population by Jurisdiction. *The total county population, according to the 2010 census, is 802,374. Populations for cities with an asterisk (*) above include only those portions within Hamilton County.*



Organization Chart Hamilton County's judges and other elected officials (grouped around the citizens at the top of the chart) function as independent administrators of their departments. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and the County Administrator as its representative, have direct jurisdiction over the seven areas beneath the Board. The BOCC also has sole responsibility for the 17 other entities grouped in the next box and shares responsibility for the remaining 38 services in the box at the bottom of the chart.

Fund Structure

The accounts of the county are organized on the basis of funds. Fund accounting segregates revenue according to its intended purpose and is used to demonstrate compliance with legal and contractual provisions. The county has over 100 appropriated funds and subfunds. The county **general fund** is used to account for all resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. **Special revenue** funds are restricted for specific purposes. The county has over 80 special revenue funds to account for tax



The Hamilton County courthouse.

levies, grants, and social service programs, among many other restricted functions. **Debt service** funds are used to account for the payment of principal and interest on county indebtedness. **Enterprise** funds track activities for which the county recovers some or all of the costs from parties outside the government. Enterprise funds include parking and stadium operations, and the Metropolitan Sewer District. The county's **internal service** funds allocate costs to other government funds. For example, the Auditor's computer center is supported through fees charged to various county agencies, the Sheriff's rotary fund supports township patrols by billing the jurisdictions that receive services, and the workers compensation reserve fund allocates costs across all funds according to employees' salaries.

Basis of Accounting and Budgeting

County accounting is performed on the modified accrual basis for all funds except enterprise funds. Revenues are recognized in the period when measurable and available to meet obligations. For enterprise funds, actions are recorded on the accrual basis of accounting: revenues are recognized when earned and measurable, and expenses are recognized as incurred. Counties in the state of Ohio are required to prepare budgets on a cash basis: revenues are recognized when received and expenses are recognized when incurred.

A Balanced Budget

The state of Ohio requires that all funds be balanced; that is, resources must equal or exceed expenditures. The Board of County Commissioners strives to achieve a general fund budget that is structurally balanced; that is, on-going revenues meet or exceed on-going expenditures.

Fiscal Year

All counties in Ohio operate on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

2012 General Fund Budget

Function/Department	Revenues	Expenses	FTEs ¹
Public Safety			
Communications Center - 911 Call Center	--	869,739	-- ²
Coroner	854,200	3,307,799	44.33
Emergency Management	--	290,000	-- ²
Prosecutor	1,847,603	10,859,403	152.38
Sheriff	14,270,075	57,517,333	732.40
Judicial			
Clerk of Courts	14,259,780	10,566,809	179.96
Court of Appeals	100	50,000	-- ³
Court of Common Pleas	47,988	6,957,114	38.25
Court of Domestic Relations	338,000	3,256,283	50.01
Court Reporters	1,000	2,457,003	39.50
Juvenile Court	7,657,000	18,512,760	298.10
Municipal Court	138,105	4,716,267	77.58
Probate Court	1,373,990	2,771,124	40.00
Probation	355,869	6,719,045	124.25
Public Defender	5,139,861	14,108,336	127.61
General Government			
Auditor	129,826,223	1,839,334	20.19
Board of Elections	1,411,000	10,310,339	46.40
Commissioners and County Administration	1,037,238	4,186,227	49.87
Communications Center - Telecommunications	60,000	1,430,568	8.58
Contracts and Subsidies	324,150	1,045,380	--
County Facilities	3,062,959	17,466,108	92.25
Non-Departmentals	1,730,567	6,164,006	2.00
Recorder	3,100,000	1,410,746	24.00
Treasurer	9,300,200	786,265	5.65
Debt Service			
	--	9,072,511	--
Public Works			
Planning & Development - Building, Planning & Zoning	2,523,500	2,553,906	37.45
Planning & Development - Sewer District	2,776,544	2,776,544	2.59
County Engineer	--	561,976	-- ²
Social Services			
Job and Family Services	--	843,260	-- ²
Veterans Service Commission	213,000	1,578,783	10.46
Economic Development			
	64,150	1,826,765	2.90
Total General Fund	201,713,102	206,811,734 ⁴	2,206.71

¹ An FTE is the equivalent of one full-time employee.

² Employees of these departments are accounted for in restricted funds supported in part by the indicated general fund subsidies.

³ Court of Appeals staff are employees of the State of Ohio.

⁴ Budgeted expenditures exceed revenues in 2012 due to the use of general fund reserves for 2012 Presidential election costs (\$3.2M), non-recurring debt service (\$800K), a facilities master plan (\$300K) and a contingency budget in Veterans Services (\$100K). It also assumes a \$700,000 equity transfer from the Sheriff's rotary fund (not reflected in revenue).

General Fund Budget Summary

For calendar year 2012, the Board of County Commissioners has appropriated a general fund budget of \$206.8 million, a \$3.9 million, or 1.85%, decrease from the 2011 budget. The 2012 budget marks the lowest revenue and expenditure levels in the county since 1998. General fund employee positions are estimated to increase by 3.9 positions from the 2011 budget as a result of Sheriff's staff moving from the indigent care levy to the general fund (+26.0), offset by staff reductions in other departments (-22.1).

2012 Budget Process

For 2012 County Administration continued to use a budget process that estimates department funding levels based on projected resources and priorities, and provides early notice to departments to better respond to and plan for budget reductions. The county budget office released a general fund forecast budget to departments in June 2011, with revisions in August, to alert agencies of the scope of the budget reductions required for 2012. Departments responded to the forecasts in writing during August and were afforded an opportunity to participate in public budget working sessions with the Board of County Commissioners in September, all in advance of the release of the County Administrator's recommended budget.

The Administrator's recommendation took into account the department feedback and Commission direction to formulate a budget that addressed both, and was released on October 10. The County Commission held public hearings on the general fund budget during October and continued to review and build consensus around the budget at its weekly staff meetings before establishing budget levels on November 2. The open budget process and November passage date allowed departments time to develop and implement management plans within approved funding levels.

General Fund Revenues

All 2012 budget forecasts were revenue-driven, distributing available resources across general fund departments according to scenarios that reflected known obligations and policy decisions. Economic indicators across many fronts show that a return to revenue growth will be slow and could take several years. The following items address the revenue assumptions for five of the largest revenue categories in the general fund:

- *Sales Tax.* General fund sales tax performance during 2011 increased 4.6% from 2010 collections, reflecting a state expansion of the base to include Medicaid managed care plans and a somewhat stabilized economy. 2012 budgeted sales tax assumes a decrease of 1.5% from 2011 collections.
- *Property Taxes.* The general fund property tax rate is limited to 2.26 mills and additional revenue is only realized through new development and periodic reappraisals. 2012 general fund budgeted property tax revenue decreases \$6.3 million

from 2011 collections. The decrease results from lower property values in the six-year reappraisal (\$4.0M) and the state phase out of personal property and public utility tax reimbursements (\$2.2M).

- *Local Government Fund (LGF)*. This state revenue-sharing mechanism was reduced substantially in the governor's 2011-13 biennium budget. The 2012 budget of \$14.7 million is a \$5.9 million decrease from 2011 collections, representing an estimated 17% reduction in the first six months, and 50% thereafter.
- *Real Estate Transaction Fees*. 2011 revenue in recording fees, conveyance fees and transfer taxes decreased 5.0% from 2010 collections, in the absence of the federal new homebuyer tax credit. 2012 real estate transaction-related revenues

Chart 1 - Variance in Major Revenue Categories, 2007-2012

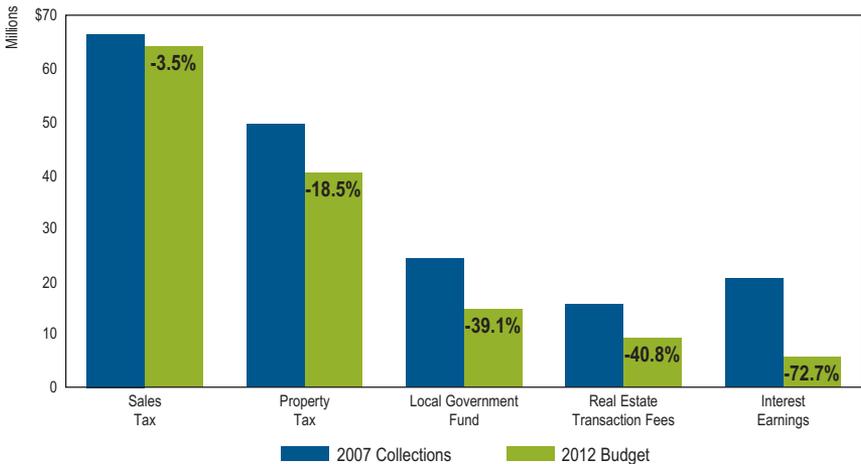
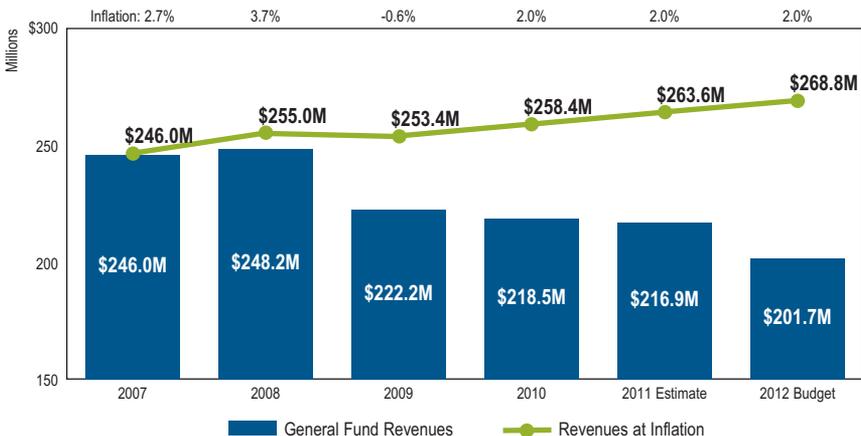


Chart 2 - General Fund Revenue Performance vs. Inflation, 2007-2012



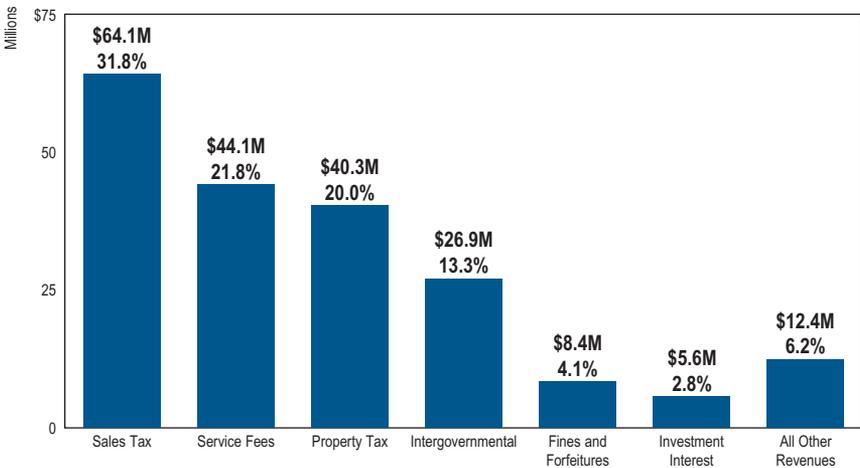
are estimated to generate \$9.2 million, a decrease of \$678,000 (6.9%) from 2011 collections, based on an uncertain real estate market and several large property transfers that inflated 2011 collections.

- *Interest Earnings.* Continued low interest rates are expected for the foreseeable future, with the federal funds interest rate anticipated to remain less than one percent through 2012. Interest earnings are estimated at \$5.6 million and represent a decrease of approximately \$700,000 (11.1%) from 2011 collections.

These five revenue sources are estimated at \$133.9 million for 2012, or 66.4% of the total general fund revenue estimate. The 2012 estimate for these revenue sources represents a \$42.2 million decrease from 2007 actual receipts. Adjusted for a lack of inflationary growth in these revenue sources, the decrease is \$60.0 million. Charts 1 and 2 detail the dramatic decrease in revenue during recent years.

In addition to these major revenue sources, the 2012 budget also relies on non-recurring resources and general fund reserves to an extent not contemplated by the county thus far in this economic contraction. A shift of operating expenses to restricted funds in the courts continues, but in the 2012 budget, there is an assumption of an additional \$2.65 million of non-recurring resources applied to ongoing operating costs and an additional \$4.4 million in reserves to address non-recurring expenditures.

Chart 3 - General Fund Revenues by Source



2012 Commission Priorities

The 2012 budget is both informed by and continues the implementation of the Commissioner's 2011-12 working policy agenda. The agenda outlines Board priorities for supporting economic development and public safety, addressing fiscal stability, identifying cost saving measures, and reducing property taxation. Administration has reported progress on these issues throughout 2011 in such areas as continued support for the

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Facilitator Clears Path for Development

As part of a continued effort to grow jobs and the local economy, Hamilton County hired James Noyes as development services facilitator in August 2011. The Board of County Commissioners created this new position to help improve and streamline the overall building development process in the county. The position acts as an ombudsman and advocate to both residents and businesses navigating the county's development process. James coordinates with various county departments and agencies, as well as township and municipal governments to problem solve development issues. By facilitating communication and improving processes, the county's "red tape cutter" hopes to make the development process more intuitive and user friendly while maintaining all current safeguards.

James works on strategies to improve interaction between all parties in building and land development (businesses, townships, county, residents). While he welcomes any current applicant to contact him if they incur difficulties negotiating the development process, he encourages all potential applicants to contact him in advance of any application to the county. Commercial applicants are particularly encouraged to contact the development services facilitator to take advantage of the pre-development meeting process.



This pre-submittal meeting is free to applicants and includes an informal meeting with all respective departments and agencies in the building and development process (stormwater, building, zoning, fire, water, sewer, soil and water conservation, health, electric/gas utility, traffic engineering).

During the 2012 calendar year, Hamilton County intends to roll-out several new initiatives meant to facilitate development. One of these initiatives is a development portal, a new web-based access point that will consolidate several development-related services into one seamless site. When completed it will provide a convenient one-stop site with listings of meeting dates, maps, fees, FAQs, services and contact information for all building and development-related agencies. The portal will also provide clarification to the many jurisdictional services in the county and allow users to pinpoint these respective jurisdictions by inputting an address, street intersection or location on a map. Furthermore it will provide users with the exact development process any requested location would require.

Please contact James Noyes with any building or development related questions, at (513) 946-4440 or email at james.noyes@hamilton-co.org.

work of the Port Authority, implementation of the countywide land banking program, and the establishment of a development services facilitator (see spotlight on page 8).

Upon establishing the 2012 budget, the Board acted to support the Regional Chamber for the JobsOhio program encouraging business development, and the Hamilton County Development Company to offset reduced community development block grant funding, as well as providing funding for a county-city shared services commission.

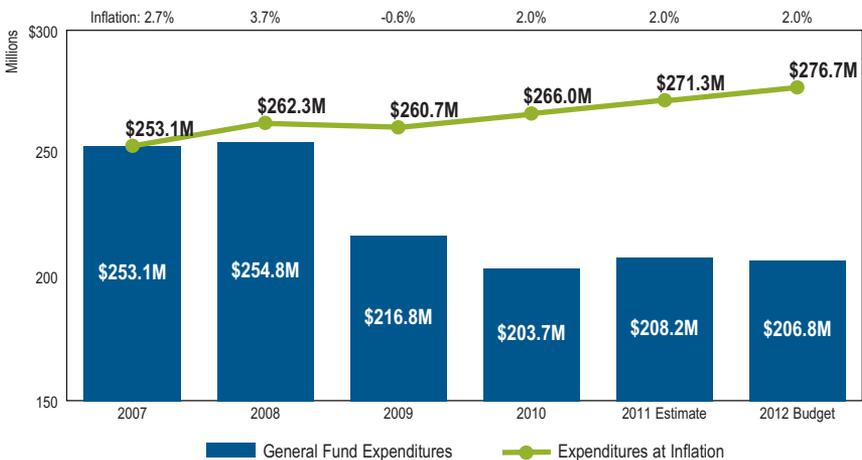
In addition, the Board emphasized strategic facility planning and the need for criminal justice treatment space, continued efforts to ensure appropriate compensation adjustments to the county workforce, and further development services improvement recommendations anticipated from County Administration in early 2012.

General Fund Expenditures

The current budget process does not lend itself toward making discrete reductions to line items within individual departments. Instead, the budget office focuses on accurately estimating available revenues and working with departments to size agency funding levels to match available resources. In this way, operational judgments are left to the subject matter experts within the departments, and budget staff focus on managing finances and operating impacts on a countywide basis.

The Administrator’s recommended budget took into account priorities of the Board of County Commissioners, agency directors, and independently elected officials through its adjustments to 17 of 29 general fund departments. The 2012 budget increasingly addresses department’s inability to deliver core services within contemplated budget levels. In the Sheriff’s office, the Prosecutor’s office, and the Clerk of Courts, elected officials have exceeded 2011 budgets and will likely struggle with 2012 levels; the Probation department faces a new burden of state felony sentencing revisions that divert

Chart 4 - General Fund Expenditures vs. Inflation, 2007-2012



Capital Investments Save Energy, Dollars

Beginning in 2012, employees and visitors in certain county buildings will see capital work initiated to replace aging and inefficient building systems. The work is part of an energy performance contracting process which will allow the county to invest dollars into needed capital improvements and to fund those improvements from the resulting energy savings.

The primary changes in the first phase of the project will occur in the County Administration Building, the Alms and Doepke Building, the Taft Law Center and the Parkhaus Garage. The county spends approximately \$1.5 million annually to provide gas, electric and water service to these buildings. Perhaps the most noticeable improvement taking place will be the replacement of inefficient lighting systems with more efficient fixtures, bulbs and ballasts. Approximately 9,300 lighting fixtures have been identified for retrofitting.

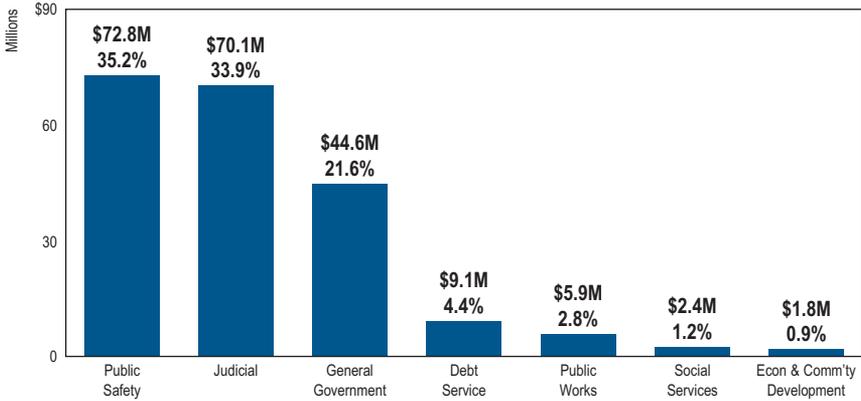


Additional improvements will include the installation of occupancy sensors in various building areas; control systems to allow for the more efficient calibration of temperature settings; and newer high-efficiency boilers, water heaters, and air conditioning units in computer rooms. Additionally, some toilets will be retrofitted with new low-flow flush valves to reduce water usage and cost.

These efficiency projects are the result of a performance contracting financing program recently written into the Ohio Revised Code. Performance contracting allows the county to make energy improvements to its buildings and pay for the costs of those improvements with the energy savings achieved from the project. Additionally, a contract is entered into with an energy service company which, in exchange for performing the work, guarantees the level of savings needed to finance the project. At its conclusion, the county will receive the benefit of much needed capital improvements to its building stock with no financial outlay than what is currently being paid in utility costs.

inmates from prison to local supervision; the Public Defender's office continues to operate under a state agreement that requires annual county investments; and departments ranging from the Auditor and Recorder to the courts and Facilities face the task of maintaining services with reductions of 20-40% over the last five years.

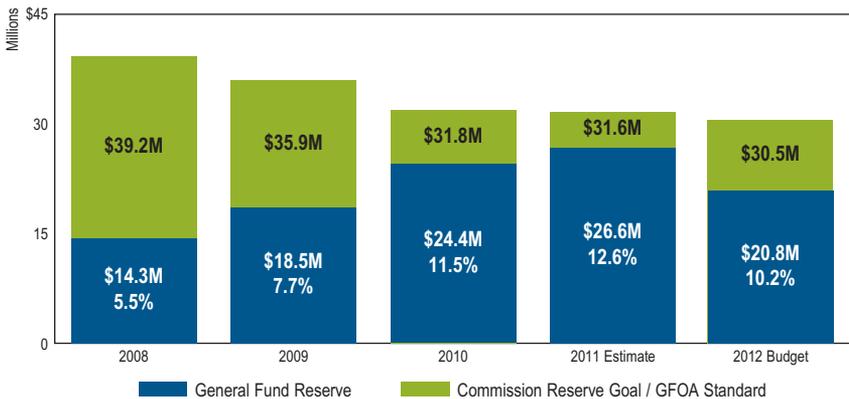
Chart 5 - General Fund Expenditures by Function



General Fund Reserve Balance

The county's financial position should be considered in a broader context than just the annual budget. The most common representation of a county's fiscal health is the general fund reserve. Chart 6 illustrates the 2012 budget's 10.2% projected reserve toward both the Commissioners' goal and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommended reserve level of 15% of operating expenditures. The 2012 fund balance decreases from the 2011 ending balance due to a one-time subsidy for township patrol transition (\$2.0M); one-time costs in Debt Service, County Facilities and Veteran's Services (\$1.2M); earmarks for future payroll and property tax liabilities (\$1.1M) and a general revenue shortfall (\$1.5M).

Chart 6 - General Fund Reserve



2012 Restricted Funds Budget

Function/Subfund	Revenues	Expenses	FTEs ¹
Public Works			
Metropolitan Sewer District	248,790,000	179,389,605	-- ²
Roads and Bridges (Engineer)	17,244,060	17,140,908	180.70
Permissive Auto Tax - County (Engineer)	4,805,300	4,720,000	--
All Other Subfunds (6)	8,236,897	7,671,709	29.50
Health			
Developmental Disabilities Services Levy	100,187,123	112,850,862	618.36
Mental Health Levy	34,777,086	43,315,274	10.37
Indigent Care Levy	40,341,402	30,477,106	1.02
Mental Health and Recovery Services	16,741,899	16,832,034	0.59
Family Services & Treatment Levy - Drug Court	6,062,706	1,614,964	0.50
Hospital Commission	35,000	35,000	--
Social Services			
Public Assistance (JFS)	83,065,427	74,460,847	684.00
Children's Services Levy (JFS)	71,503,443	70,509,601	--
Senior Services Levy	19,645,746	22,931,849	0.10
Bureau of Child Support (JFS)	11,389,696	11,445,146	107.00
Workforce Investment (JFS)	5,615,501	5,615,501	--
Recreational Activities			
Stadium/Ballpark Debt Service	26,016,175	26,016,175	--
Riverfront Taxes and PILOT Payments	20,350,000	11,835,614	--
Parking Revenue Fund	7,900,000	9,571,370	0.87
Paul Brown Stadium Operating	282,000	8,730,654	26.60
Zoological Gardens Levy	6,557,308	6,877,103	0.05
All Other Subfunds (8)	7,244,536	7,131,334	5.15
General Government			
Medical Self-Insurance Fund	41,131,638	41,131,638	0.45
Real Estate Assessment (Auditor)	9,120,000	7,858,454	64.62
Workers Compensation Reserve	5,079,834	6,935,312	1.00
All Other Subfunds (9)	6,636,674	8,752,623	67.65 ³
Public Safety			
Sheriff's Township Patrol (Reimbursed)	10,879,500	10,879,500	--
Crime Information Center Levy (CLEAR)	3,637,357	10,130,416	-- ²
Indigent Care Levy - Inmate Medical	266,182	9,805,382	36.00
Communications Center - 911	6,654,460	6,889,104	76.42
All Other Subfunds (12)	5,391,730	8,160,680	71.54
Judicial			
Family Services & Treatment Levy - Residential Svcs	--	4,558,776	5.00
All Other Subfunds (21)	11,661,180	15,040,944	129.39
Debt Service (3 Subfunds)			
	18,719,386	19,060,904	--
Economic Development			
Convention Center	6,000,000	6,000,000	--
Main Street Parking Garage	780,000	1,055,234	--
Environmental Control (Solid Waste Management)			
	2,720,000	2,888,244	9.06
Total Restricted Funds	865,469,247	828,319,867	2,125.94⁴

¹ An FTE is the equivalent of one full-time employee.

² Personnel in these agencies are employed by the City of Cincinnati.

³ Includes employees in the unappropriated Soil and Water Conservation District and Family and Children First Council.

⁴ An additional 332.89 county employees are supported in separately legislated grant funds.

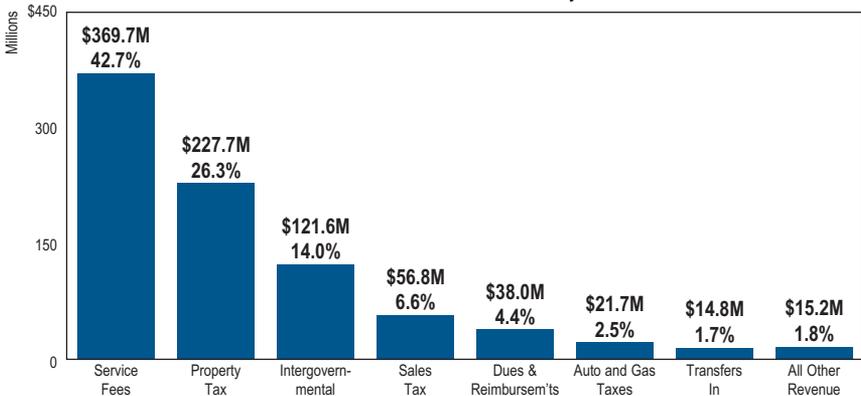
Restricted Funds Budget Summary

Across all restricted funds the Board of County Commissioners has appropriated \$828.3 million for 2012, a \$21.5 million (2.5%) decrease from the \$849.8 million approved for 2011 (once the full Sewer District budget was approved in March). The majority of the decrease is related to Board action that reduced Metropolitan Sewer District expenses by \$17.5 million. Other major decreases are related to the consolidation of the Multi-County System Agencies (\$12.7M) into Mental Health and Recovery Services (which does not show a comparable increase due to state reductions to its budget); and a \$12.5 million reduction in the Indigent Care Levy, in part for reserve spend-down during the final year of the levy plan in 2011 and in part for Board action that resulted in reductions of \$5.5 million. Decreases are offset by increases in the CLEAR levy for the county-wide replacement of police patrol vehicle computers (\$4.85M), and in the Sheriff's Rotary Fund to account for additional reimbursed patrols in the townships (\$4.5M).

Further discussion of restricted fund issues of note follow:

- Job and Family Services (JFS).** Budget challenges at the state level continue to substantially reduce revenues for JFS, amounting to an \$11.3 million (22%) decrease in grant awards for 2012. JFS has decreased staff by over 800 positions (almost 50%) in the last five years. These reductions allow the agency to address 2012 revenue losses while maintaining current staff and service levels. JFS has responded to revenue reductions by seeking efficiencies that maximize resources to address the increased demand for service that have accompanied the economic downturn. The agency is planning a major upgrade to its phone system, deploying data equipment to field staff, and reviewing operations of the child support cashier's office and delivery options for the workforce development program.

Chart 7 - Restricted Fund Revenues by Source



Intergovernmental revenue includes grants, Medicaid receipts, and state revenue sharing. Sales tax shows only that anticipated for use in the 2012 operating budget. "All other revenue" includes sale of bonds, various licenses, title fees, court fines, and investment interest.

Games Have Serious Economic Impact

The World Choir Games are coming to Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati from July 4-14, 2012, and they will deliver fun, excitement, prestige and plenty of economic impact. The largest choral competition in the world, the



World Choir Games take place every two years and are the signature event of INTERKULTUR, a German organization that produces international choral events. Inspired by the Olympic ideal, the goal of the World Choir Games is to unite people from all nations through singing in peaceful competition.

This is the seventh World Choir Games, but the first time the event has been held in North America. Previous World Choir Games were hosted in Austria (2000, 2008), South Korea (2002), Germany (2004) and China (2006, 2010).

The 2012 World Choir Games are expected to host 400 choirs and 20,000 official participants, including performers, staff, delegations and international jury members, from more than 70 countries.

Through the spending of the participants and thousands of visitors, and the operational expenses required to organize and run the event, the Games are expected to deliver a total economic impact of \$73.5 million for the regional economy, according to a June 2010 report prepared by the Economics Center for Education and Research at the University of Cincinnati.

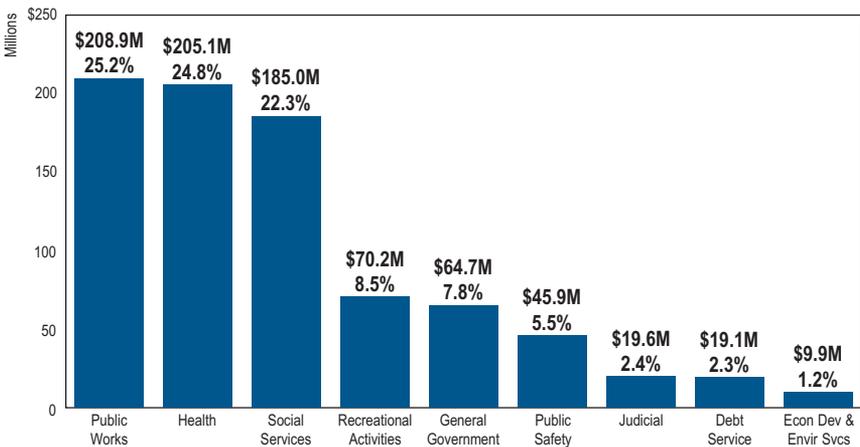
According to the report:

- The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and other local governments will benefit from spending through hotel taxes (\$1,080,000), income taxes (\$402,000), sales taxes (\$271,000) and admissions taxes (\$50,000). Together, these four sources will bring a total of \$1.8 million in tax revenues to local jurisdictions.
- The 20,000 official participants are projected to spend a total of \$13.4 million in the Cincinnati area, including \$6.2 million on lodging and \$7.2 million for a range of local food, entertainment, shopping, and transportation goods and services.
- A substantial portion of the total economic impact will flow directly into the pockets of local workers in the form of wages and benefits. Slightly more than 30 percent of the overall economic impact will take the form of increased earnings for area households: a total of \$22.3 million.

- Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).** The Sewer District is in the midst of implementing elements of the federally mandated Wet Weather Improvement Plan which MSD is carrying out under the publicized name of “Project Groundwork.” In December of 2011, the Board of County Commissioners approved legislation enacting the 2012 capital improvement plan, estimated at \$202 million, as well as the MSD operating budget which was set at \$179.4 million. The operating budget is a 10% reduction from MSD’s request of approximately \$199 million. The Board also approved an 8% rate increase necessary to fund district operations and increased debt service associated with the ongoing capital plan.
- Stadium Sales Tax Fund.** Actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners in November 2011 maintain balance in the stadium sales tax fund during 2012. The Board priority of maintaining the annual property tax rebate on owner-occupied residential property was continued for one year largely through the influx of proceeds from the sale of the county-owned Drake Hospital property.
- Property Tax Levies.** 2012 property tax revenues decrease \$15.5 million from 2011 collections. This is largely the result of three factors: the state biennium budget phase-out of personal and public utility property tax reimbursements (\$7.8M); the Board of County Commissioners’ action to reduce the tax rate for the Indigent Care Levy (\$3.6M); and revenue estimates at 97% of total collections (\$4.1M). Because of revised property values in 2012, tax impacts on individual properties will vary, but the Commissioner actions of 2011 reduced the total county tax burden for all taxpayers.

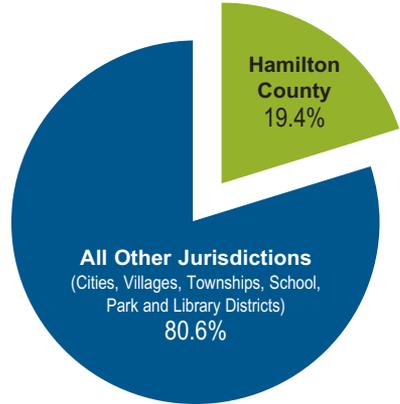
During 2012, the Commissioners will be setting millage rates for the Mental Health and Senior Services levies. Specific attention will be given during this review to balance the needs of these social service programs while continuing efforts to lessen the property tax burden.

Chart 8 - Restricted Fund Expenditures by Function



2012 Property Taxes

Through special property tax levies, Hamilton County taxpayers make possible many community-enriching programs. County levies support services for abused and neglected children, senior citizens, people who are developmentally disabled and mentally ill, as well as providing indigent health care, treatment alternatives to incarceration, law enforcement technology, and support for the Cincinnati Zoo and the Cincinnati Museum Center.



Property taxes are calculated by millage rates. One mill equals \$1.00 for every \$1,000 of property value. Taxes are collected based on 35% of a property's value. For example, if a property is worth \$100,000, the millage rate would be applied to \$35,000. In addition, taxes due are reduced by factors set by state and by local tax credits.

Who's Taxing You? *In the average 2012 tax district presented above, less than 20% of property taxes are under the taxing authority of the County Commissioners.*

Assessed Home Value	County General Fund	Crime Info Center	Museum Center	Family Services & Treatment	Zoo	Senior Services	Mental Health
Full Millage	2.26	0.54	0.18	0.34	0.46	1.29	2.99
Effective Millage	2.26	0.16	0.17	0.34	0.35	0.99	1.63
\$100,000	67.09	4.89	5.01	10.09	10.39	29.32	48.38
\$125,000	83.86	6.11	6.27	12.62	12.99	36.65	60.48
\$150,000	100.63	7.33	7.52	15.14	15.59	43.98	72.58
\$175,000	117.40	8.55	8.77	17.66	18.18	51.31	84.67
\$200,000	134.17	9.77	10.03	20.19	20.78	58.64	96.77
\$225,000	150.94	10.99	11.28	22.71	23.38	65.97	108.87
\$250,000	167.72	12.21	12.53	25.23	25.98	73.30	120.96
\$275,000	184.49	13.44	13.79	27.75	28.57	80.63	133.06
\$300,000	201.26	14.66	15.04	30.28	31.17	87.96	145.15

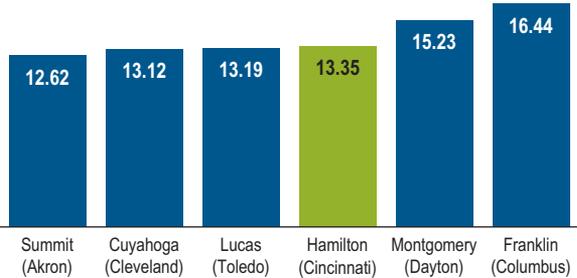
The levies highlighted in green above are part of the county budget. Those in blue—park and library levies; city, village, and township levies; and school levies—appear in this document for completeness only. While proceeds of these levies are administered and distributed by the County Auditor, the levies of these political subdivisions do not fall under the taxing authority of the Board of County Commissioners.

**The calculations above should be used for informational purposes only.
For more detailed information, visit the County Auditor's website: www.hcauditor.org**

Most property tax levies are approved to collect a set amount of revenue. When property values increase or decrease, the full millage rate is automatically adjusted to an effective rate so that the total revenue stays close to what voters originally approved.

The Board of County Commissioners attempt to maintain property tax growth at or below inflation rates each year. For 2012, lower property values automatically increased effective millage rates, but Commission action on the Children’s Services and Indigent Care levies actually reduced taxes countywide.

The table below indicates the millage and property taxes (including credits) for homes in a representative taxing district in Hamilton County. While the total millage represents the countywide average, taxes for school districts and municipalities vary widely throughout the county.



Effective Millage Rates, 2012. *The chart above shows effective residential millage for property taxes under the County Commissioners in the most populous counties in the state. While Hamilton County had the lowest rate in 2011, reassessed property values in 2012 caused the rate to increase. Reassessment years vary by county.*

Indigent Health Care	Children's Services	Development Disabilities	Parks	Public Library	Cities/Villages/Townships	School Districts	JVS*	TOTAL
4.07	2.77	4.13	1.03	1.00	10.38	59.09	2.70	93.23
1.69	1.86	3.91	0.87	1.00	10.38	40.94	2.20	68.75
50.04	55.18	115.97	25.95	29.68	308.12	1,215.34	65.29	2,040.74
62.55	68.97	144.97	32.43	37.11	385.15	1,519.17	81.61	2,550.92
75.06	82.76	173.96	38.92	44.53	462.18	1,823.01	97.93	3,061.11
87.57	96.56	202.95	45.40	51.95	539.21	2,126.84	114.26	3,571.29
100.08	110.35	231.94	51.89	59.37	616.24	2,430.68	130.58	4,081.48
112.59	124.15	260.94	53.38	66.79	693.27	2,734.51	146.90	4,591.66
125.10	137.94	289.93	64.86	74.21	770.30	3,038.35	163.22	5,101.85
137.61	151.74	318.92	71.35	81.63	847.34	3,342.18	179.55	5,612.03
150.12	165.53	347.92	77.84	89.05	924.37	3,646.02	195.87	6,122.22

Tax rates for cities, villages, townships and school districts vary throughout Hamilton County. The total effective millage for county tax districts ranges in 2012 from 44.39 to 104.33. The average rate of taxation used for the calculations above is the rate for District 151: the City of Cincinnati and the Norwood School District.

* Residents of Hamilton County outside the limits of the Cincinnati Public and Northwest Local school districts pay property tax for the support of the Great Oaks Joint Vocational School (JVS) District. Residents of Northwest Local support the Butler County Technical and Career Development School District (1.93 mills).

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Model Unites Youth Service Efforts

Hamilton County's Juvenile Court (HCJC) and Job and Family Services (HCJFS) departments find themselves separately serving many of the same youth. Children who are abused and neglected (and served by JFS) have a greater chance of involvement in the criminal justice system (served by the Juvenile Court). The two departments have come together to create the Crossover Youth Practice Model to collaboratively address youth who are involved in both systems. By working together, the agencies can maximize resources, develop innovative approaches and produce better outcomes for youth and their families.

Currently in its pilot stage (150 served so far), the Crossover Youth Practice Model closely involves parents and professionals to develop the right plan of services for each family and child. All parties work together to conduct a needs assessment and develop an action plan that includes a role for everyone. The program addresses the strengths and needs of the youth and the family, and identifies resources and support services for both—through the court, through JFS, through schools, and elsewhere in the community.

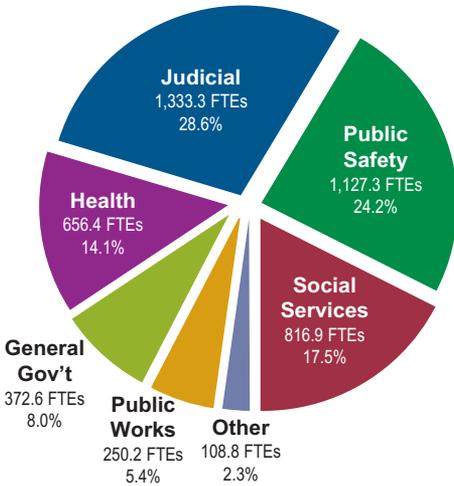
The practice model operates under the belief that the most advantageous environment for youth is with their own family and community, and that government agencies must identify, understand and use the family's strengths in order to effectively meet all of their needs. While the program seeks to reduce future delinquent activity by altering the child's behavior, it does so by providing services and support to keep youth with their families and help them to achieve a sense of normalcy in their lives.



2012 Human Capital Management

The management of county personnel and benefits is a major factor in the development of the annual budget. In 2012, six of the county's 12 bargaining units are open for negotiations (including the largest unit which includes almost 700 employees). Due to funding constraints, the 2012 budget does not include funding for salary adjustments for any staff. To the extent adjustments are required as a result of the collective bargaining process, a funding source will need to be identified. Non-represented employees have not received salary adjustments since 2007.

The 2012 budget includes a 5% increase for employee health insurance costs. In an effort to help control medical costs, the most expensive health plan option, the HMO, was eliminated. A Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) was implemented to encourage employees to enroll in alternate coverage, rather than the county's plan, should that be an option. The county is also considering changes to the vacation policy to reduce long-term liability for vacation payouts when an employee separates from service.

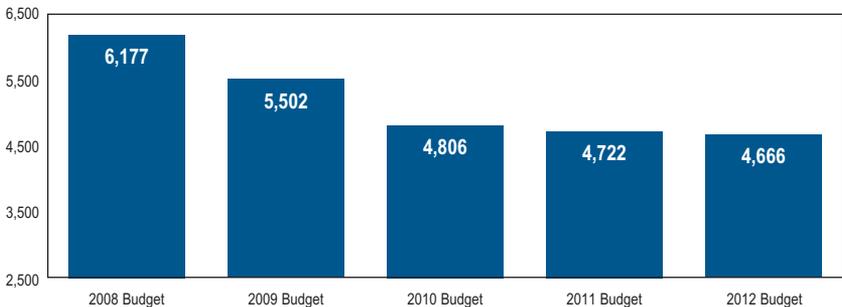


Positions by Function.

The 2012 budget includes the equivalent of 4,665.5 full-time positions (FTEs) across all county funds (including grant funds). This is a net reduction of 56.4 positions from 2011. The 2012 budgeted position count changes throughout the year subject to staffing decisions of department directors and elected officials.

The "other" category to the left includes those departments in the areas of economic development, environmental control, and recreational activities.

Position Trends. The chart below shows the decrease of over 1,500 employee positions between 2008 and 2012. While in previous periods major changes have been related to programmatic revisions, since 2007 reductions have been shared across most departments due to budget constraints.



2012 Hamilton County Elected Officials

Board of County Commissioners

Greg Hartmann, President
Chris Monzel, Vice President
Todd Portune, Commissioner

Joseph T. Deters, **Prosecutor**
Simon L. Leis, Jr., **Sheriff**
Anant Bhati, M.D., **Coroner**
Ted Hubbard, **Engineer**

Wayne Coates, **Recorder**
Dusty Rhodes, **Auditor**
Robert A. Goering, **Treasurer**
Tracy Winkler, **Clerk of Courts**

Hamilton County Vision

To serve the residents of Hamilton County by providing the best and most responsive county government in America

Hamilton County Mission

To reach out to Hamilton County residents to provide efficient service of the highest quality, encourage resident participation in service development and to deliver county services equitably

This document is produced by the
Hamilton County Office of Budget and Strategic Initiatives
603 County Administration Building
138 East Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 946-4400

Christian Sigman, County Administrator
John P. Bruggen, Director, Office of Budget and Strategic Initiatives

Public feedback on the 2012 budget may be submitted via the customer feedback link on the county website or by calling County Administration or the County Commissioners at the contact numbers on the next page. Hamilton County also maintains social media accounts on Twitter (@HamiltonCntyOH) and Facebook (HamiltonCountyOhio)

Current and prior year budget documents are available for download from the county website:

www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov

Budget publications are also available at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

138 East Court Street, Room 603, Cincinnati, OH 45202

www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov

General Information Phone Number: (513) 946-INFO (4636)

Auditor	946-4000	Foster/Adoption Recruitment	632-6366
Auto Titles	946-4646	Health District	946-7800
Building Inspections	946-4550	Human Resources	946-4700
Clerk of Courts	946-5666	Job and Family Services	946-1000
Child Abuse/Neglect	241-KIDS (5437)	Jury Commission	946-JURY (5879)
Child Support Services Center	946-7387	Justice Center	946-6300
Commissioner Hartmann	946-4405	Juvenile Court	946-9200
Commissioner Monzel	946-4409	Law Library	946-5300
Commissioner Portune	946-4401	League of Women Voters	281-8683
Common Pleas Court	946-5800	Library	369-6000
Communications Center	825-2170	Marriage Licenses	946-3589
Community Development	946-8230	Mental Health and Recovery Services Board	946-8600
Coroner	946-8700	Municipal Court	946-5200
Council on Aging	721-1025	OSU Extension	946-8989
County Administration	946-4400	Park District	521-PARK (7275)
Court of Appeals	946-3500	Planning and Zoning	946-4500
Developmental Disabilities Services	794-3300	Probate Court	946-3580
Dog Warden	541-6100	Probation	946-9600
Domestic Relations Court	946-9000	Prosecutor	946-3000
Economic Development	631-8292	Public Defender	946-3700
Elder Abuse/Neglect	421-LIFE (5433)	Purchasing	946-4355
Election Information	632-7000	Recorder	946-4600
Emergencies	911	River City Corrections	946-6800
Non-Emergency Police	825-2280	Sewer District	244-1300
Non-Emergency Fire/Rescue	825-2260	Sheriff	946-6400
Emergency Management	263-8200	Soil and Water Conservation District	772-7645
Engineer	946-4250	SPCA	541-6100
Environmental Services	946-7777	Stormwater District	946-4250
Facilities	946-5000	Treasurer	946-4800
Family and Children First Council	946-4990	Veterans Services	946-3300
		Voter Registration	632-7000

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