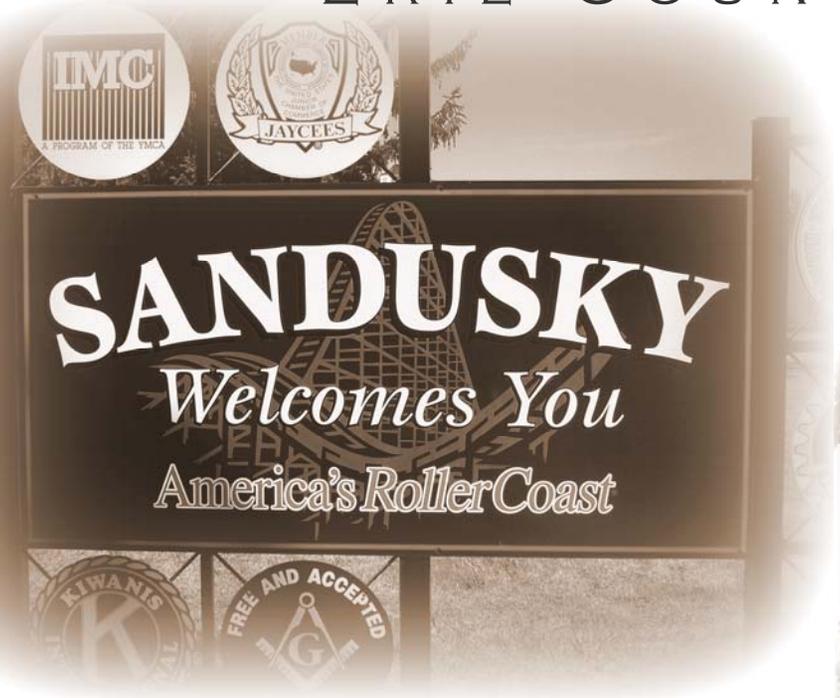


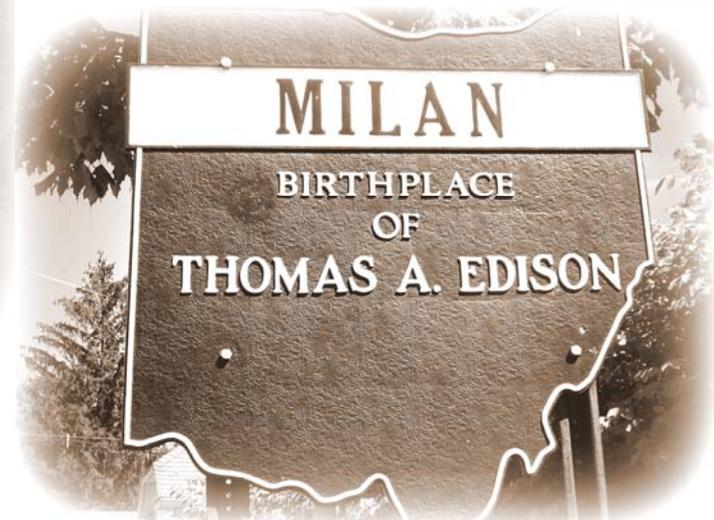
**POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
*FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010*

ERIE COUNTY, OHIO

**PRODUCED BY**  
**RICHARD H. JEFFREY,**  
**ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR**



**SANDUSKY**  
*Welcomes You*  
*America's Roller Coast*



**MILAN**  
BIRTHPLACE  
OF  
**THOMAS A. EDISON**

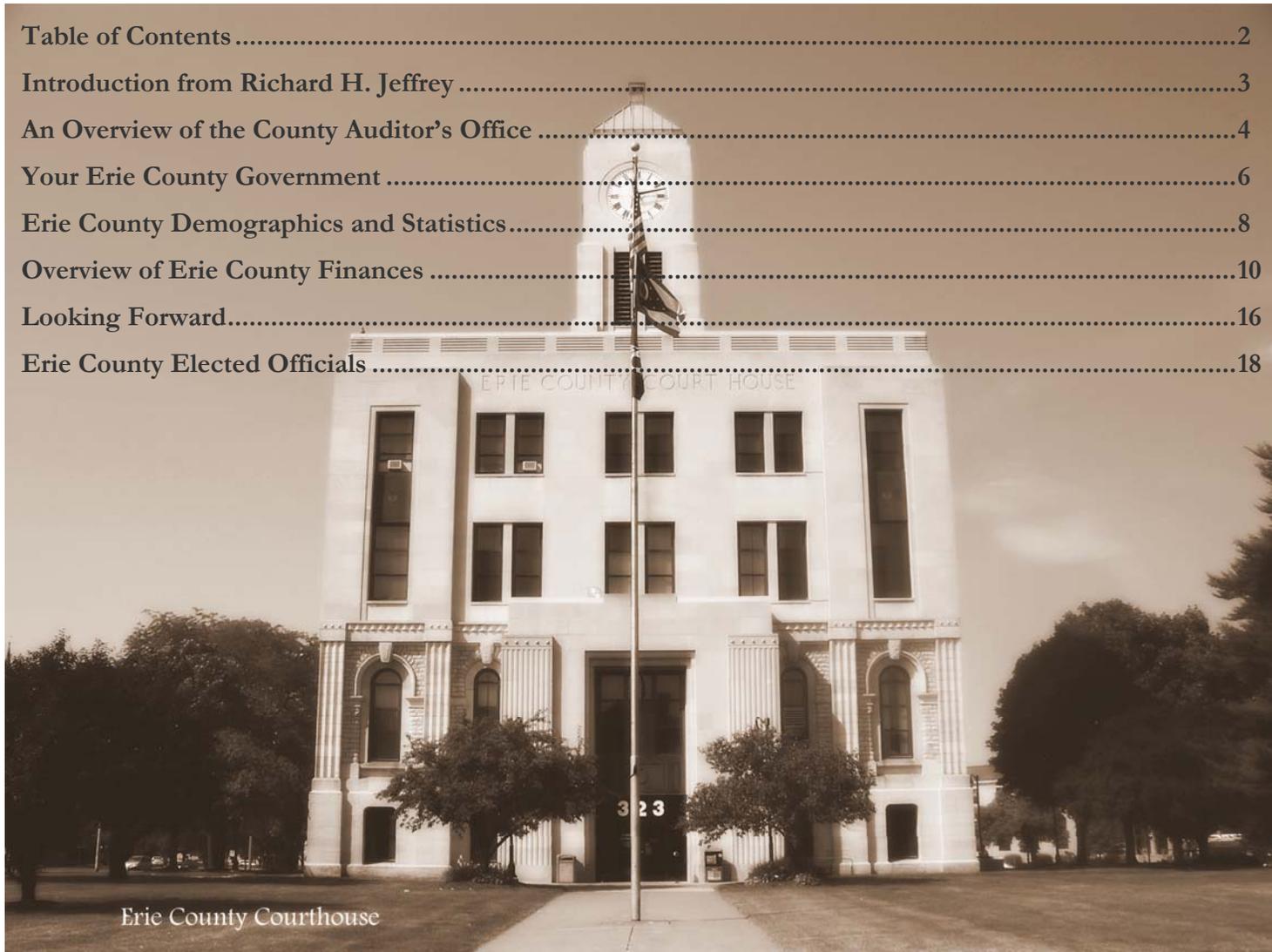


WELCOME TO  
**HURON**  
*"A Great Lake Place"*

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr.  
William J. Monaghan  
Patrick J. Shenigo

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Erie County Courthouse



*DEAR ERIE COUNTY RESIDENTS,*

The Erie County Auditor's Office proudly presents the County's 2010 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). It was primarily created to provide a working document to increase confidence in the County's elected officials. It was also created to give the citizens of Erie County a better understanding of the County's operations.

The information in this PAFR was taken from our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which provides a more in depth look at the County's finances. This PAFR is not presented in conformity with GAAP, (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) nor is it audited by Auditor of State, Dave Yost. Its purpose is to provide readers a summary of Erie County's financial activity in an easily understandable format.

The 2010 CAFR was audited by the office of Clifton Gunderson, LLP and received an unqualified opinion.

For those seeking the more detailed information contained in the CAFR, a copy is available at the Erie County Auditor's office, or on our website at <http://erie.iviewauditor.com>.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to review our PAFR. I hope this publication will help you gain a better understanding of the County you live in.

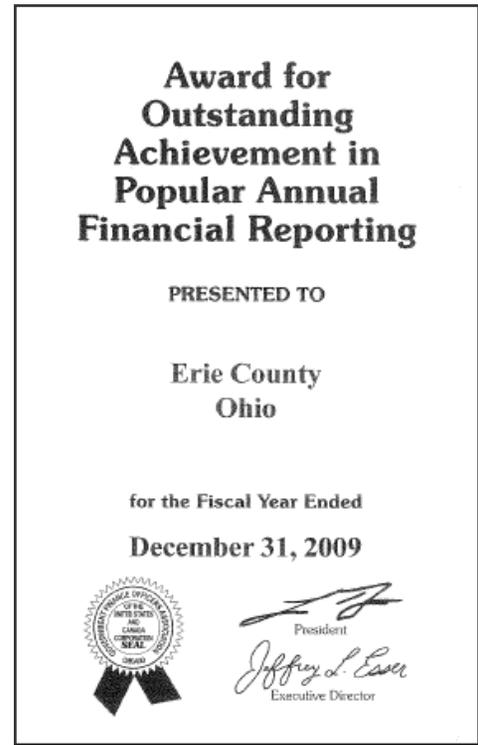
Sincerely,

Richard H. Jeffrey, Erie County Auditor

*The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Erie County, Ohio for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.*

*In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.*

*An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.*



## OVERVIEW OF ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

### CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER (Finance and Payroll)

As Chief Fiscal Officer of your county, the Auditor is the bookkeeper for all County elected officials and many of the County agencies, such as Human Services and Children Services. It is the Auditor's responsibility to account for all revenues the County receives and to issue warrants (checks) in payment of all County obligations. As part of that bookkeeping responsibility, the County Auditor serves as the paymaster for all County employees.

### COUNTY FINANCIAL REPORTS

As the issuer of financial reports for the County, it is the County Auditor's duty to make sure that financial records are kept properly. As Chief Fiscal Officer in Erie County, the Auditor is required by law to prepare the County's Annual Financial Report. Erie County prepares a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is a complete and full disclosure of all financial events for the year.



The County Auditor maintains a close relationship with the Auditor of State's Office. Each year, the Auditor of State reviews these records to assure the County's finances are in order and that proper internal controls are in place. The Auditor of State tests these controls and makes recommendations to county offices and agencies to assure that your money is spent properly.

### REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT

Erie County has 45,867 parcels of real property. It is the duty of the Auditor to ensure that every parcel of land and the buildings on it are fairly and uniformly assessed for tax purposes. A general reappraisal is mandated by Ohio law every six years with an update at the three year midpoint. The Auditor's office maintains a detailed record of the appraisal of each parcel in the County. These records are open for public inspection.

For taxation purposes, you are assessed at 35% of fair market value.

### REAL ESTATE TAXES AND RATES



The Erie County Auditor cannot raise or lower property taxes. Tax rates are determined by the budgetary requests of each government unit, as authorized by the vote of the people. Tax rates are computed in strict accordance with procedures required by the Ohio Department of Taxation, Division of Tax Equalization.

Annually, the Auditor prepares the General Tax List. Your tax bill is based on the tax rate multiplied by your valuation found on this list.

Ohio law limits the amount of taxation without a vote of the people to 10 mills. (\$10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation). Any additional real estate taxes must be voted in by County residents.

### MANUFACTURED HOMES

The Auditor's office is also responsible for assessing taxes on manufactured housing. Under Ohio law, mobile home owners must register their homes with the Auditor's office for tax purposes. The Auditor assesses each manufactured home annually and prepares a tax list. The manufactured home tax is distributed back to the local taxing districts (townships and schools) in the same manner as real estate taxes.



### ESTATE TAX

The County Auditor acts as an agent for the Tax Commissioner of Ohio. The monies collected from this source are distributed by law: 80% to the taxing district in which the decedent had resided or owned property and the remainder to the State of Ohio.

# OVERVIEW OF ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

## CRITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

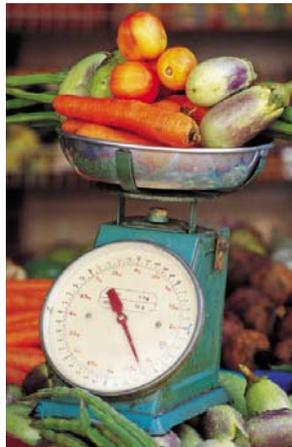
Your County Auditor also helps watch over local governments within your county by:

- Estimating the tax a local government wants to put on the ballot according to what they define as their need;
- Issuing a certificate when the local government wants to borrow money assuring that the debt of that government does not exceed what is allowed by Ohio law;
- Preparing a certificate of estimated resources on behalf of local governments to assure that the local governments do not spend more than they can expect to receive;
- Distributing taxes to local governments including: real estate, personal property, cigarette, estate, gasoline, motor vehicle, and other taxes; and
- Consulting, advising, and assisting local governments and county departments on proper governmental accounting procedures.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Auditor is the Sealer of Weights and Measures for the entire County, maintaining "Equity in the Marketplace," thus protecting both buyer and seller from possible loss which may occur from faulty measuring devices, such as scales, scanners, retail motor fuel dispensers and meters. The Auditor is charged with the legal responsibility of ensuring that all State and National Laws relating to Weights and Measures are strictly enforced.

Sealers perform inspections and tests on both commercial and some non-commercial devices to ensure those devices meet the criteria of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Type Evaluation Program. Audits and tests are performed on Random Packed items a store may weigh such as meats, cheeses and produce. They are also performed on Standard Packed items. These tests are conducted to ensure the product meets or exceeds the



requirements of Handbook 130, Checking The Net Contents of Packaged Goods. Price Verification tests are also performed to make sure there is no misrepresentation of pricing.

The Sealer of Erie County is responsible for testing over 809 gas pumps and meters and over 1570 devices in the County. Look for the Yearly County seal on those devices inspected and tested to be assured that they were correct, accurate and sealed. Again, these services are performed to "Maintain Equity in the Marketplace". If you believe a device is not performing properly, or for more information, please contact the Erie County Auditor's Office, Weights and Measures Division at (419) 626-7746. For web information concerning Weights and Measures go to [www.owma.net](http://www.owma.net) and be sure to checkout the link [www.Pueblo.gsa.gov/cic\\_text/money/whatupay/whatupay.htm](http://www.Pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/money/whatupay/whatupay.htm) -A Consumers Guide to Getting What You Pay For. It is very informative.



## LICENSES

The County Auditor's Office is responsible for the issuance of licenses for dogs, vendors, and cigarette sales. Vendor licenses authorize businesses to sell tangible property to the public and collect sales tax, a part of which is returned for use on the local level.

## ADDITIONAL DUTIES

- Secretary of the Budget Commission
- Secretary of the Board of Revision
- Secretary of the Fiscal Report Review Committee
- Chair of the Tax Incentive Review Council
- Member of the Records Commission

## YOUR ERIE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Erie County can trace its heritage to the Revolutionary War when numerous Connecticut residents were burned out of their homes by the raiding British. To compensate these citizens for their losses, the Connecticut Assembly awarded them 500,000 acres in the western most portion of the Western Reserve, which came to be known as the Firelands. The Firelands includes the area that is now Erie and Huron Counties, as well as Ruggles and Danbury Townships.

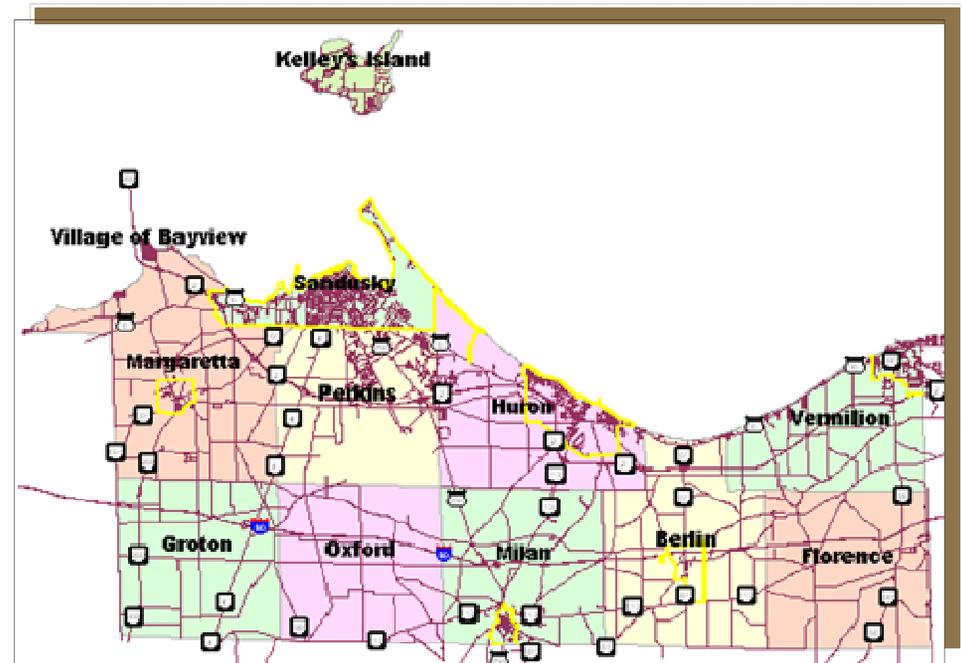
The first recorded people of the Firelands were the Erie Indians, whose stories are told on Inscription Rock at Kelleys Island. Although the carvings have been eroded by both nature and man, they are considered to be the most extensive, well sculpted pictographs in the Eastern United States. The Erie Indians were driven out of the Firelands by the Iroquois in 1655, and the area was later occupied by the Ottawa and Wyandot Indians.

Although a few traders made their homes in the Firelands in the late 1700's, most of the early white settlers arrived in the early 1800's. Many subsequently left the area during the War of 1812 and did not return until after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British fleet. This famous naval battle was fought in the waters of Lake Erie just a few miles from South Bass Island. It marks the only time in history that a British naval fleet ever surrendered.

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British fleet secured the right of Americans to independently dwell in the New World and along the shores of Lake Erie. Then, a little over 25 years later in 1838, the Ohio government decided to divide large counties such as Huron, into smaller areas of land. This led to the formation of Erie County, named after the Erie Indians and Lake Erie.

Erie County was formed by an Act of the Ohio General Assembly on March 16, 1838. It borders Lake Erie in north central Ohio, extending 28 miles in an East-West direction and 11 miles in a North-South direction. Sandusky is 55 miles East of Toledo, 60 miles West of Cleveland, and 106 miles North of Columbus. The area is 264 square miles with 8,560 acres of wetlands. The mean temperature is 49 degrees and the average rainfall is 45.03 inches.

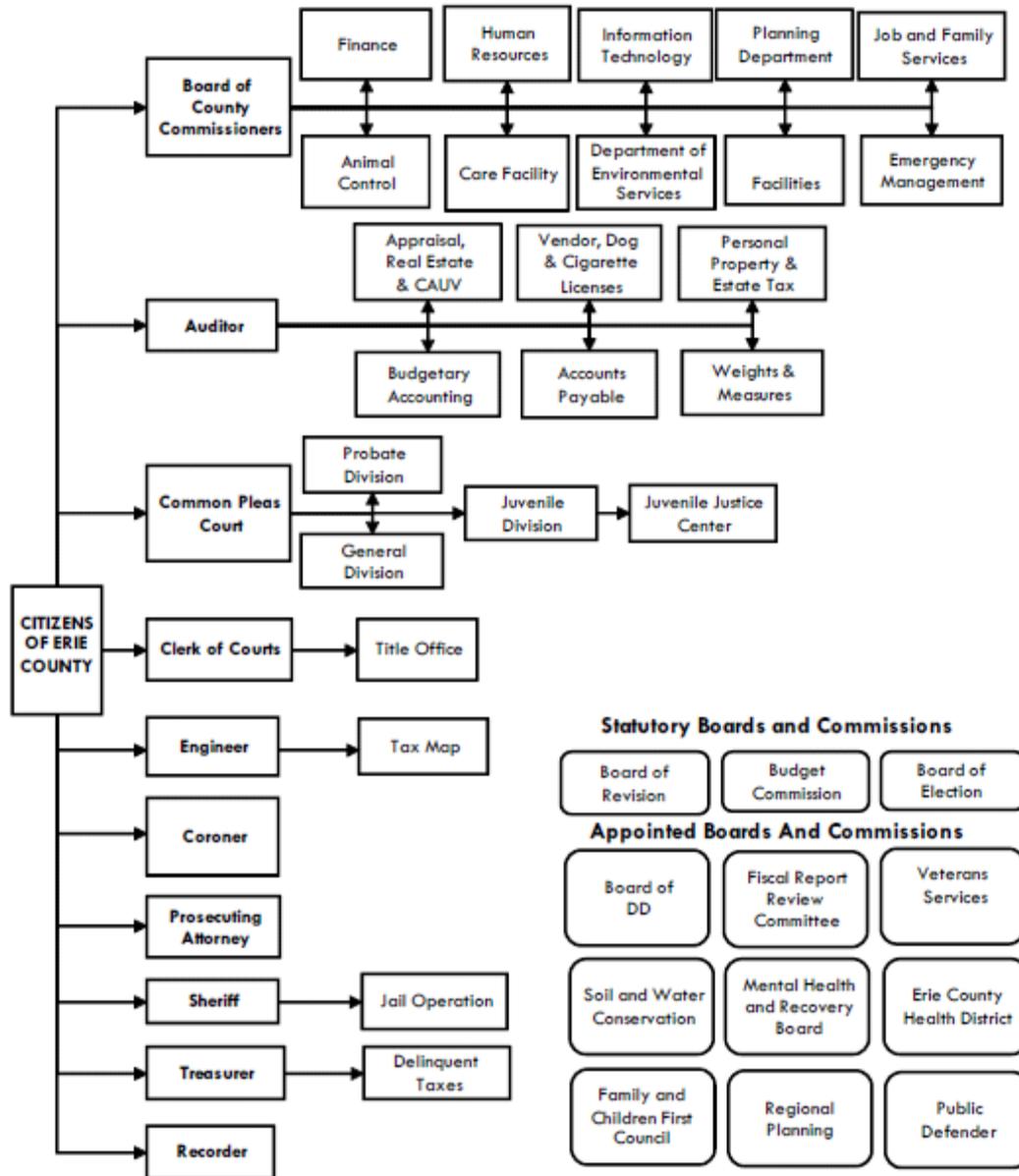
Erie County is made up of three cities, five villages and nine townships. They are the cities of Huron, Sandusky and Vermilion; the villages of Bay View, Berlin Heights, Castalia, Kelleys Island, and Milan; as well as the townships of Berlin, Florence, Groton, Huron, Margaretta, Milan, Oxford, Perkins and Vermilion.



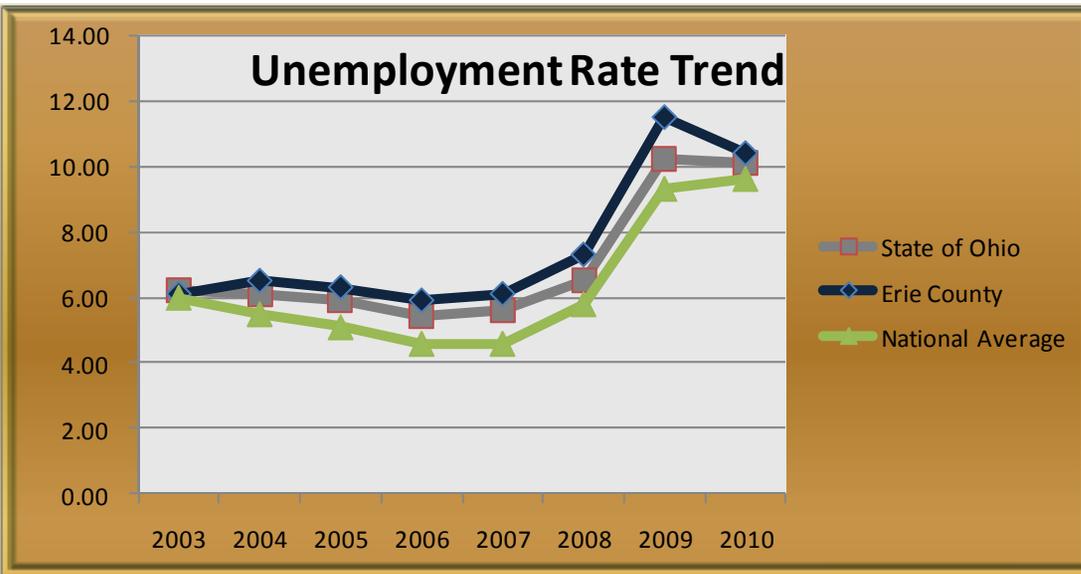
Erie County is governed by the Board of County Commissioners that functions as both the executive and legislative branch of the county. The Board is made up of three commissioners who serve terms of four years each. In addition to the County Auditor, who serves as the Chief Fiscal Officer, there are seven other elected officials who operate independently following legislation in the Ohio Revised Code. These elected officials also serve four year terms and include the following: Clerk of Courts, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer. Erie County also has five Judges elected to six year terms. There are two judges in the Common Pleas Court, and one judge in each of the following areas: Probate Court, Juvenile Court and County Municipal Court.

Erie County employed approximately 750 full time employees in 2010 to provide services such as capital improvements to roads/bridges/sewers, public safety, veterans services, tax collections, job and family services, emergency management services, economic development, animal control and health services just to name a few. The following chart shows how Erie County departments are currently organized.

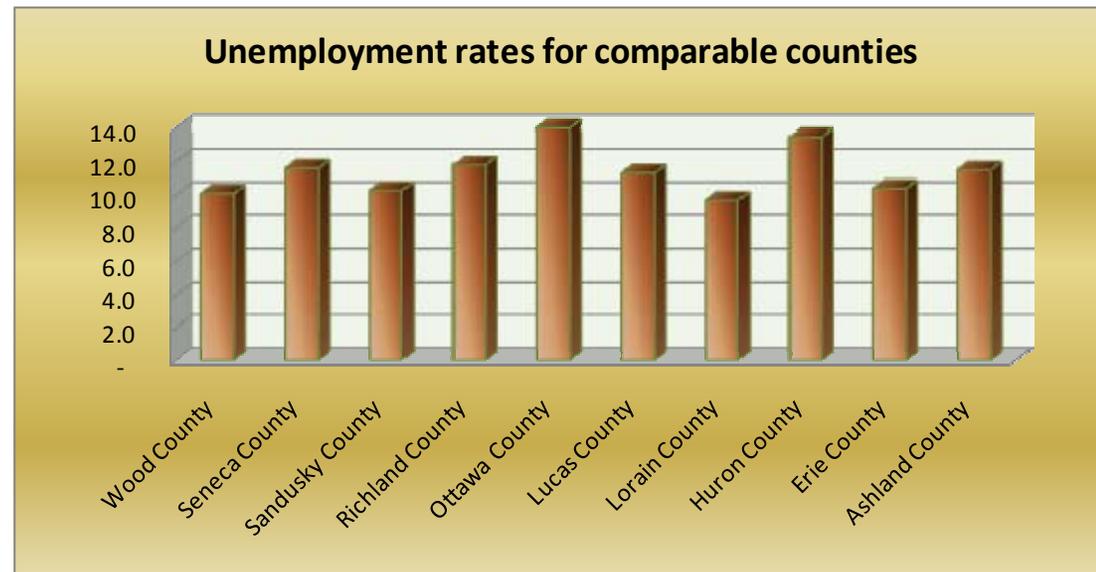
# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# ERIE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS



In 2010, the County's unemployment rate decreased from 11.5% to 10.4%. Erie County's employment has seen steady increase due to consumer confidence growth in the area, and also due to a few large manufacturing firms that have weathered the economic storm and remained in business in our County. In comparing Erie County's unemployment rate to other counties, Erie County has moved from the 45th highest unemployment rate in the State, to the 56th highest rate. Which means there are 55 counties that have a higher unemployment rate than Erie County.



# ERIE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS

## TOP TEN TAXPAYERS FOR 2010



| Taxpayer                           | Taxable Assessed Value | Percentage of Total County Taxable Assessed Value |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Cedar Fair                         | \$39,403,410           | 1.92%   |
| Ohio Edison                        | 34,228,280             | 1.67%   |
| LMN Development LLC                | 16,032,790             | 0.78%   |
| Sandusky Mall Co.                  | 8,846,180              | 0.43%   |
| American Transmission Systems Inc. | 8,826,980              | 0.43%   |
| Norfolk & Western Railway          | 7,991,730              | 0.39%   |
| Park Place Enterprises             | 6,575,400              | 0.32%   |
| BCC Sandusky Permanent LLC         | 6,454,920              | 0.31%   |
| CNL Income                         | 5,818,210              | 0.28%   |
| S&S Realty                         | 5,041,890              | 0.25%   |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>139,219,790</b>     | <b>6.79%</b>                                      |

## TOP TEN EMPLOYERS FOR 2010

| Taxpayer                                  | Number of Employees | Rank | Percentage of Total Employment |
|---|---------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| Cedar Fair                                | 4,890               | 1    | 13%                            |
| Firelands Regional Medical Center         | 1,902               | 2    | 5%                             |
| Kalahari Resort                           | 1,200               | 3    | 3%                             |
| Erie County                               | 863                 | 4    | 2%                             |
| Kyklos Bearing International              | 812                 | 5    | 2%                             |
| Automotive Component Holdings             | 646                 | 6    | 2%                             |
| Sandusky City School District             | 614                 | 7    | 2%                             |
| Ohio Veterans Home                        | 600                 | 8    | 2%                             |
| Lear Seating                              | 530                 | 9    | 1%                             |
| Walmart                                   | 300                 | 10   | 1%                             |
| ICI Paints                                | 300                 | 10   | 1%                             |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>12,657</b>       |      |                                |
| <b>Total Employment within the County</b> | <b>38,100</b>       |      |                                |



Total County Assessed Valuation \$2,049,487,610

## COUNTY'S FINANCIAL POSITION

The County's financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). This report contains information related to the County's governmental and business-type activities. Please refer to the County's 2010 CAFR for more detailed information.

**Assets** provide financial benefits to the County. **Cash and investments** are comprised of cash, investments and demand deposits, whether held in the pool managed by the County Treasurer or in outside bank accounts. **Property taxes receivable** represents delinquent real and tangible personal property and public utility taxes outstanding as of the last settlement date (net of allowances for uncollectible amounts) and real property and public utility taxes that were measurable at year-end and for which there is an enforceable claim. **Capital assets** are land, buildings and improvements, roads, bridges, water/sewer lines, equipment and construction in progress, and are shown net of accumulated depreciation.



**Liabilities** place a financial burden on the County. **Unearned revenue** represents property taxes levied to finance 2010 operations, and grants received before eligibility requirements have been met. **Long-term debt** represents bond, notes and loans that are being repaid over a period of years as well as payments under capital leases. **Other long-term liabilities** include compensated absences and workers' compensation.

**Net Assets** represent the difference between assets and liabilities. **Invested in capital assets, net of related debt**, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net assets are reported as **restricted** when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County, or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. The County applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available. **Unrestricted net assets** may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens, employees and creditors.



# COUNTY'S FINANCIAL POSITION

## NET ASSETS GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS TYPE ACTIVITIES

| <b>Net Assets</b>                                |                     |                     |                      |                      |                    |                    |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Governmental and Business Type Activities</b> |                     |                     |                      |                      |                    |                    |
|  | <b>Governmental</b> | <b>Governmental</b> | <b>Business-Type</b> | <b>Business-Type</b> |                    |                    |
|  | <b>Activities</b>   | <b>Activities</b>   | <b>Activities</b>    | <b>Activities</b>    | <b>Total</b>       | <b>Total</b>       |
|  | <b>2010</b>         | <b>2009</b>         | <b>2010</b>          | <b>2009</b>          | <b>2010</b>        | <b>2009</b>        |
| <b>Cash and investments</b>                      | 33,438,722          | 30,687,445          | 10,575,028           | 11,852,382           | 44,013,750         | 42,539,827         |
| <b>Property taxes receivable, net</b>            | 12,705,422          | 10,203,670          |                      |                      | 12,705,422         | 10,203,670         |
| <b>Other assets</b>                              | 10,721,000          | 10,949,401          | 6,631,340            | 6,544,034            | 17,352,340         | 17,493,435         |
| <b>Capital assets, net</b>                       | 62,634,901          | 68,144,024          | 119,499,531          | 119,992,014          | 182,134,432        | 188,136,038        |
| <b>Total assets</b>                              | <b>119,500,045</b>  | <b>119,984,540</b>  | <b>136,705,899</b>   | <b>138,388,430</b>   | <b>256,205,944</b> | <b>258,372,970</b> |
|  |                     |                     |                      |                      |                    |                    |
| <b>Accounts payable and other liabilities</b>    | 8,504,760           | 8,080,612           | 2,736,296            | 1,289,858            | 11,241,056         | 9,370,470          |
| <b>Unearned revenue</b>                          | 11,590,411          | 8,535,201           |                      |                      | 11,590,411         | 8,535,201          |
| <b>Long-term debt</b>                            | 18,654,287          | 20,228,921          | 108,014,697          | 107,455,411          | 126,668,984        | 127,684,332        |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                         | <b>38,749,458</b>   | <b>36,844,734</b>   | <b>110,750,993</b>   | <b>108,745,269</b>   | <b>149,500,451</b> | <b>145,590,003</b> |

When reviewed over time, net assets may serve as a useful indicator of the County's financial position. The County's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$106.7 million at the close of 2010. In comparing 2010 to 2009, net assets remained relatively similar. Long term debt continued to decrease slightly due to diligence in paying off older debt, and refunding bonds at a lower interest rate.

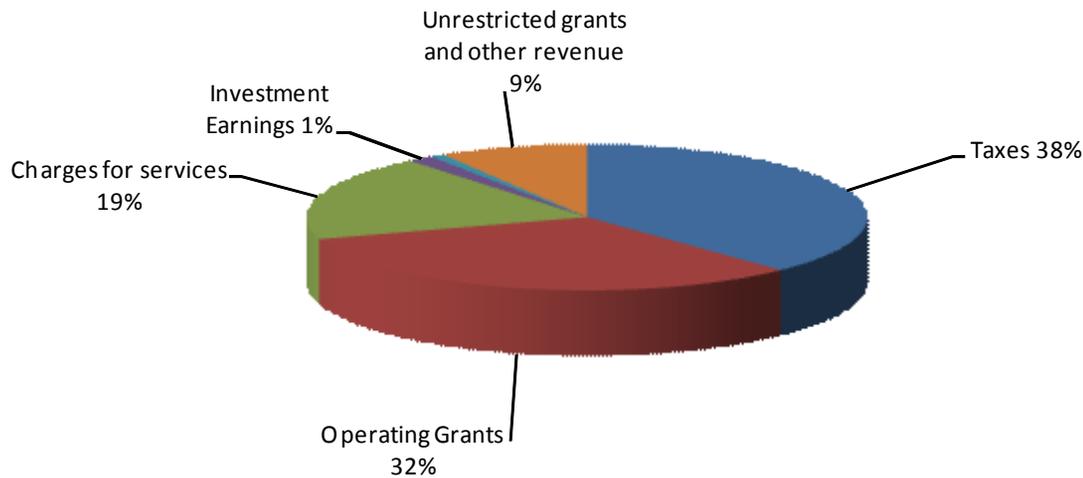
Capital assets reported on the government-wide statements represent the largest portion of the County's net assets. At year-end, capital assets represented 71% of total governmental and business-type assets. They are used to provide services to citizens and are not available for future spending.

# GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

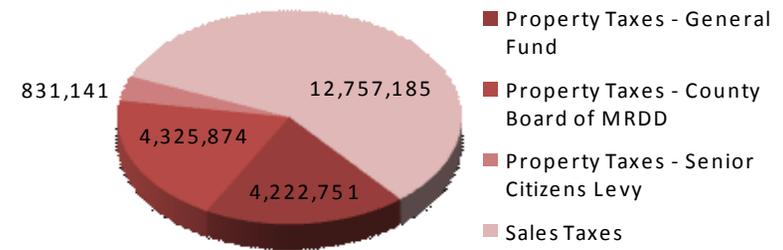
The dollars presented here are reported as governmental activities in the 2010 CAFR's government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. Major sources of revenue for the County include sales tax, property tax, grants, charges for services and interest earned.



## Governmental Activities - Revenues



## Tax Revenue



| Revenues - Governmental Activities    | 2010              | 2009              | % Change from 2009 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Taxes                                 | 23,655,647        | 22,259,715        | 6.3%               |
| Operating Grants                      | 20,112,985        | 24,655,336        | -18.4%             |
| Charges for services                  | 11,828,034        | 11,241,377        | 5.2%               |
| Investment Earnings                   | 946,058           | 1,252,801         | -24.5%             |
| Capital Grants                        | 514,605           | 170,000           | 202.7%             |
| Unrestricted grants and other revenue | 5,364,102         | 3,983,717         | 34.7%              |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>62,421,431</b> | <b>63,562,946</b> | <b>-1.8%</b>       |

Investment earnings continued to decrease due to poor interest rates. A new capital grant for the dispatching system was received by the Sheriff's department in 2010. And a new lead grant was received in 2010 by the County to help reduce lead exposure in homes in the County. (Tax Revenue as shown in the chart includes a receipt of a payment in lieu of taxes.)

## GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES

The expenses shown are those of the County's governmental activities. Expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred.

| <b>Expenses - Governmental Activities</b> | <b>2010</b>       | <b>2009</b>       | <b>% Change<br/>from 2009</b> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Legislative and executive                 | 13,755,462        | 13,394,587        | 2.69%                         |
| Human Services                            | 9,579,264         | 14,269,060        | -32.87%                       |
| Public Safety                             | 9,508,291         | 9,705,854         | -2.04%                        |
| Health                                    | 8,281,075         | 8,340,474         | -0.71%                        |
| Judicial                                  | 7,382,775         | 7,396,642         | -0.19%                        |
| Public Works                              | 5,623,471         | 4,279,304         | 31.41%                        |
| Other                                     | 5,020,618         | 2,553,448         | 96.62%                        |
|   | <b>59,150,956</b> | <b>59,939,369</b> | <b>-1.32%</b>                 |

*Human services decreased substantially in 2010 because of large cuts by the State of Ohio, who provides the majority of funding for the Department of Job and Family Services.*

*Public works saw an increase in expenses due to the Engineer's Department completing more surface treatments for Township roads.*

*Other expenses stayed consistent from 2009 to 2010, with the exception of a CDBG program that was cut in 2010.*

**Human Services** expenses are those incurred by the County's Job and Family Services Department. Services provided include adoption assistance, child care subsidies, emergency assistance payments, unemployment, food stamps and job training programs.

**Legislative and Executive** expenses are incurred by most elected officials offices, including Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Recorder as well as Facilities, Information Tech., Human Resources and Finance.

**Public Safety** expenses are those incurred by the Sheriff's department to ensure safety of persons and property.

**Health** expenses are those incurred primarily by the County's MRDD Board to provide services to developmentally disabled citizens of Erie County.

**Judicial** expenses are incurred by the County's Courts, which include the Common Pleas court, Probate court, Juvenile court and County municipal court.

**Public Works** expenses are incurred by the Engineer's department for maintenance of Erie County's roads, bridges and ditches.

**Other** expenses represent economic development and assistance costs (CDBG programs) as well as interest charges and other miscellaneous expenses.

## BUSINESS TYPE ACTIVITIES

The dollars presented here are reported as business type activities in the 2010 CAFR's government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. The major source of revenue for business type activities is charges for services, where fees are collected from customers for a service that is being provided. The County continues to deal with delinquent customers, which can positively or negatively affect collections for the year. Landfill revenues increased due to a new policy set in place that out of town haulers can now use the County's landfill. The County also started selling carbon credits from the methane gas project.

| <b>Revenues - Business Type Activities</b> | <b>2010</b>       | <b>2009</b>       | <b>% Change<br/>from 2009</b> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Charges for Services - Sewer               | 6,995,410         | 6,555,883         | 6.7%                          |
| Charges for Services - Water               | 7,999,634         | 8,342,984         | -4.1%                         |
| Charges for Services - Landfill            | 5,447,927         | 3,966,515         | 37.3%                         |
| Charges for Services - Care Facility       | 6,765,031         | 7,713,187         | -12.3%                        |
| Operating Grants and Contributions         | 90,375            | 137,397           | -34.2%                        |
| Capital Grant and Contributions            | -                 | 525,456           | -100.0%                       |
|  | <b>27,298,377</b> | <b>27,241,422</b> | <b>0.2%</b>                   |



Below are the expenses incurred for our Sewer, Water, Landfill and Care Facility departments. The landfill fund had an increase in expenditures due to the methane gas project. Sewer expenses increased in 2010, largely due to repayment of debt and self financing of new projects. The Care Facility also cut expenditures slightly as less beds were occupied by residents in 2010.

| <b>Expenses - Business-Type Activities</b> | <b>2010</b>       | <b>2009</b>       | <b>% Change<br/>from 2009</b> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sewer                                      | 11,858,087        | 10,145,334        | 16.88%                        |
| Water                                      | 7,826,088         | 7,628,167         | 2.59%                         |
| Landfill                                   | 4,836,073         | 4,523,335         | 6.91%                         |
| Care Facility                              | 6,905,594         | 7,137,835         | -3.25%                        |
|  | <b>31,425,842</b> | <b>29,434,671</b> | <b>6.76%</b>                  |



## LONG TERM DEBT

At December 31, 2010 the County had a total of \$130,268,984 in general obligation bonds, special assessment bonds, OWDA loans, OPWC loans, bond anticipation notes, capital lease obligation, landfill closure and post-closure care liability, and compensated absences outstanding. Of this total, \$92,885,384 will be repaid from business-type activities. Moody's Ratings Service has assigned Erie County bond ratings an "A1" rating, indicating that our bonds are a safe, reliable investment. This is due to the County's below-average debt burden, strong general fund reserves, and overall sound financial management. Our goal is to maximize the services to Erie County residents and visitors within the limited amount of resources available. The following table summarizes the outstanding long-term obligations at year end.

### Long-Term Obligations, Trend Analysis

*Includes Governmental and Business-Type Activities*

|   | 2007               | 2008               | 2009               | 2010               |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Obligation Bonds                    | 53,528,946         | 50,347,666         | 46,891,683         | 43,366,446         |
| Special Assessment Bonds                    | 1,890,100          | 1,747,070          | 1,558,388          | 1,408,957          |
| OWDA Loans                                  | 56,174,438         | 59,546,502         | 61,022,548         | 62,718,926         |
| OPWC Loans                                  | 363,609            | 314,749            | 277,370            | 334,866            |
| Bond Anticipation Notes                     | -                  | -                  | 3,200,000          | 3,600,000          |
| Capital Lease Obligation                    | 590,505            | 326,416            | 156,258            | 56,357             |
| Landfill Closure and Post Closure Liability | 12,605,946         | 13,698,572         | 14,613,724         | 15,722,119         |
| Compensated Absences                        | 3,384,039          | 3,505,399          | 3,164,361          | 3,061,313          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>128,537,583</b> | <b>129,486,374</b> | <b>130,884,332</b> | <b>130,268,984</b> |

#### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

These bonds are long-term debt instruments which are repaid from the County's general revenue resources.

#### **SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS**

These bonds are issued to pay for improvements benefiting property owners, and the owners pay the County over a period of twenty years for the debt.

#### **OWDA and OPWC LOANS**

These loans provide low-interest funding for infrastructure, primarily water and sewer.

#### **CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATION**

These obligations are payments to be made to vendors for leases entered into by the County.

#### **LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST CLOSURE LIABILITY**

This liability shows what amount is needed to perform all closure and post closure care as of 12/31/10.

#### **COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

This liability is due to employees for services provided to the County, where leave was earned but not taken as of 12/31/10.

*Business Type Activities represent debt for Water, Sewer and Landfill activities. Governmental Activities represent all other debt.*

## LOOKING FORWARD

### County Commissioners

Their mission is to improve the health, safety and welfare of all Erie County citizens, the strength of its economy and the quality of the environment. Below are some goals they have set for 2011 to help further their mission:

- Relocate the Regional Planning Department from the Annex Building to the third floor of the Services Center, as part of a “one-stop shop” for economic development.
- Finalize the development plans, seek federal /state grant funds and market the Job Ready Site (JRS) near the US Route 250 – Plum Brook area. The County has received a \$2.38M U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant and a \$2.75M Ohio Department Of Development JRS Grant for the U.S. Route 250 Sanitary Sewer Extension from Kalahari to the Ohio Turnpike. This project will provide sewer service to NASA Plum Brook Station and contiguous area prime for development.
- Continue improving neighborhood-housing stock countywide with federal and state grant dollars.
  1. Lead Hazardous Control (LHC) Grants. The County, the City of Sandusky and Health Department received a \$3M Grant application beginning in FY 2008 to abate lead based paint for 220 homes over a three (3) year period. A second HUD grant for FY 2010 has been awarded in the amount of \$3.1M.
  2. Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1). The County and the City of Sandusky received a \$1.3M grant over 4 years. This grant will assist homeowners with residential development (financing mechanisms for foreclosed homes), land banks / demolition and initiatives to provide affordable rental housing.
  3. Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). HUD approved the FY10 application for \$522,000 in funding.



### County Engineer's Department

The Engineer is responsible for providing safe roads and bridges for transportation within the County. In 2011, they will be working on the following projects within the County:

#### Bridge Replacement Program.

- Higbee Road Bridge (Oxford Township).
- Main Road Bridge (Florence Township).
- Campbell Street Bridge (Perkins Township).
- Dean Road Bridge (Florence Township); Professional Services.
- Green Road Bridge (Florence Township)

#### County Engineer and MPO - High Accident Intersections.

- Continue to cooperate with ODOT and the Erie County MPO on improving high accident intersections with turn lanes and signalization.
- SR 4 and West Strub Road (Margaretta Township).
- US Route 250 at Strub Road (Perkins Township).
- US Route 250 at Perkins Avenue (Sandusky).



## LOOKING FORWARD

### Department of Environmental Services

The Department of Environmental Services is responsible for providing clean drinking water to Erie County residents as well as wastewater / sewer services. They maintain the landfill and provide service to residents and businesses in maintaining their water and sewer. Listed below are a few large projects they will begin or continue work on in the year 2011:



- Wastewater (Sewer). Merge the Erie County and Huron Sewer Districts to combine facilities for environmental quality and to stabilize rates. Continue sanitary sewer projects to improve the environment by reducing wet weather flows, basement flooding and raw sewage overflows.
- Bay View Sewer Project. Provide a sewerage collection system for the Village and have the wastewater pumped through a County owned line to the City of Sandusky. A tri-party wastewater agreement will be developed. Utilize grant dollars to design the project.
- Methane Gas to Energy. Monitor the contract to convert Landfill Gas to Energy (LGTE). Objective is to utilize methane gas to generate electricity. Continue to protect the environment and receive revenues for electricity and carbon credits. Install additional recirculation piping to increase methane gas volume.

### Facilities Department

The Facilities department is responsible for maintaining facilities and vehicles for the County. In 2011, they have the following projects scheduled:

- Services Center Parking Lot resurfacing.
- Information Technology Data Center - HVAC improvements
- Services Center Fuel Center – security system
- County Engineer Salt Barn – replace roof.

### Sheriff's Department - Public Safety

The goal of the Erie County Sheriff's Office is to provide the citizens of Erie County with the most efficient, effective and professional law enforcement services possible. A few of their 2011 projects include:

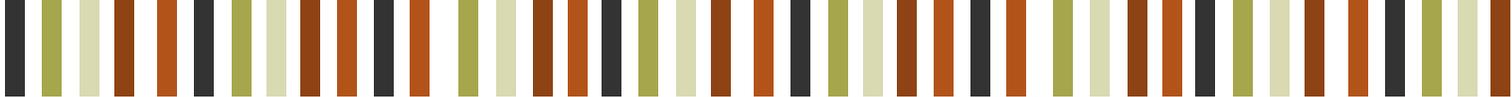
- Control Jail Overcrowding. Coordinate a holistic approach to addressing the jail overcrowding issue with the Sheriff, Judges and the Community Corrections Board (CCB). Support the Electronic Monitoring (EM) programs and other options to reduce costs.
- Centralize all dispatching services in one location for public safety services. Encourage collaboration between the Sheriff's Department, City of Sandusky, City of Huron and Perkins Township to work towards co-locating or have the Sheriff's office do the dispatching.



### Regional Planning and Development

Regional Planning and Development provides an extensive array of services for Erie County's economic development, including, but not limited to downtown revitalization projects, administration of the county's subdivision regulations and floodplain program, computerized mapping services for the political subdivisions within the County, preparation, submission and administration of grant applications, consideration of economic development activities, including tax abatement and revolving loan fund review and more.

One new project they are working on in 2011 is called The Pirates Pedal & Pedestrian Plan. The Perkins Local School District, in cooperation with Perkins Township, have submitted an application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding to assist with the development of a Perkins School Travel Plan (STP). The SRTS program aims to encourage and provide safer routes to those school children in grades K-8 that walk or bike to school. By encouraging and enabling children to use active transportation, communities can cut costs, offer healthy options and improve the area surrounding the school. National statistics indicate that more than a third of youths aged 9 to 15 live within a mile of school, but less than half of these students walk or bike even one day a week. This is a lost opportunity for students to get much needed physical activity and to learn more about their neighbors and the community.



# ERIE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Auditor Richard H. Jeffrey (419) 627-7746

Clerk of Courts Barbara J. Johnson (419) 627-7705

Commissioners Patrick J. Shenigo (419) 627-7672

Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr. (419) 627-7672

William J. Monaghan (419) 627-7672

Coroner Dr. Brian Baxter (419) 626-2367

County Engineer John D. Farschman (419) 627-7710

Prosecutor Kevin J. Baxter (419) 627-7697

Recorder Barbara A. Sessler (419) 627-7686

Sheriff Terry M. Lyons (419) 627-7668

Treasurer Jo Dee Fantozz (419) 627-7701

Judges:

County Municipal Court Paul G. Lux (419) 499-4689

General Division Tygh M. Tone (419) 627-7731

Roger E. Binette (419) 627-7732

Juvenile Division Robert C. DeLamatre (419) 627-7782

Probate Division Beverly K. McGookey (419) 627-7750

