



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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Ron Young

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LAKE COUNTY COMMISISONER RON YOUNG ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT: COLLEAGUES REFLECT ON HIS CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Today, Lake County Commissioner Ron Young announced his retirement from his seat on the Board of Lake County Commissioners. His final date of service is set for May 4 this year. He has served Lake County first as a State Representative from 1997 to 2004. After being term limited in 2004, he returned to running his business TES Inc. TES is a professional placement firm Young founded in 1982 and that is now run by his daughter in Texas. In 2010 Young was re-elected State Representative and served another four terms. After winning his election in 2018, he became Lake County Commissioner in January of 2019.

Young shared a few of his accomplishments in the Ohio House:

1. Helped pass statewide tax cuts of over \$18B for small business & families.
2. Helped balance state budgets without an overall tax increase.
3. Helped protect gun rights and the unborn.
4. Supported legislation to protect and fund local and statewide improvements to the Lake Erie Shoreline.
5. Saved many jobs in Lake County by helping negotiate tax incentives for firms such as Steris, Cleveland Construction, Metal Seal & others.

Additionally, Young shared a few initiatives he is proud of as County Commissioner:

1. Helped balance the county budget without a tax increase
2. During the COVID-19 crisis reduced the county budget by 10%
3. Initiated the Small Business Grant/Loan Program that helped save jobs and companies in Lake County.
4. Working with his fellow Commissioners used his experience in Columbus to vastly improve Lake's Government Relations initiatives. Some of the results include \$11.3M for dredging operations on Lake Erie, Congressman Joyce's support for the Lake County Emergency Operations Center and numerous state capital bill grants to fund important projects in Lake County.
5. During pandemic helped assure that Lake County maintained full services to residents and businesses.

In reference to his philosophy of governing Young stated, "The overriding thrust of my public service from the beginning has been protecting and maximizing personal freedoms, while at the same time reducing the size of government and taxes. Embodied in that philosophy is the desire to preserve and promote a society where God can be honored in the private and public spheres. That is one of the reasons I was proud to lead the effort to have the state motto, *'With God all things are possible'* placed on the West Wall of the Commissioners' Chambers".

As to why he is retiring at this time, Young stated, "It has been my honor to serve as State Representative and County Commissioner for what I consider the best county in the Great State of Ohio. My fellow Commissioners Hamercheck and Plecnik have been a joy to work with and extremely supportive of me. This session began in 2019 and was personally challenging for me. Kathy, my wife of 46 years, died in March of 2020 after a long illness. In May of 2020 I was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. After two regimes of chemotherapy, one at the Seidman Cancer Center and one at the Cleveland Clinic, I received a Bone Marrow Transplant at the Clinic. During the same period, I contracted COVID twice. It was only by God's grace that I survived. During this period the Board of Commissioners continued to wholeheartedly support me and encourage me in spite of my obvious physical weaknesses. Due to these events and personal choices my life goals have changed and at this point I feel strongly that I need to dedicate the years before me to the service of my God, the Lord Jesus Christ."

In reference to working relationships, Ron stated, "Over the course of my years of public service, many have helped me achieve our goals for the people and win elections. Space does not allow me to mention all those in Columbus or Lake County that have had an important impact on my public career. However, I invite those interested to view the comments from a few of Lake County's finest I've had the pleasure of working with most recently."

Commissioner John Plecnik stated, "Lake County is blessed by nearly 20 years of true public service from our great friend and neighbor Ron Young. As our State Representative for eight terms, Ron always put Lake County first and brought an unprecedented amount of state support to Willoughby, Mentor, Concord and everywhere in between. As our Lake County Commissioner, Ron continued his great work on the local level and we are grateful for his help in balancing our county budget year after year without raising taxes. Ron persevered as our Commissioner through great personal loss, COVID and even cancer without missing a meeting. His dedication to Lake County and our local community is unmatched. Personally, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve on the Lake County Board of Commissioners with Ron. I wish my friend and brother in Christ a well-deserved retirement and many years of good health with God's blessing to enjoy it."

County Administrator Jason W. Boyd added, "*Today is a great day...* I will always remember his response when I asked him how he was doing. In the midst of difficult situations, both personally and professionally, Commissioner Young always providing a positive leadership style during his tenure as a Commissioner. He was open minded to ideas, strategies and public policies that would benefit the businesses and residents of Lake County. He, along with his colleagues, exhibited tremendous leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic notably with their support to the local business community and the small business grant program. I wish Commissioner Young nothing but the best in his future endeavors."

Commission President John Hamercheck said, "I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Commissioner Young for his years of public service. I would also like to express my admiration for his candor and courage as he faced his personal battle with cancer. He is truly an inspiration."

Lake County Prosecutor Charles Coulson stated, "For over two decades Ron Young has been a tireless and effective advocate for Lake County. First serving in the General Assembly and recently as a County Commissioner he has provided dedicated and tireless leadership. I have enjoyed working with him and send my best wishes for his retirement."

County Engineer Jim Gills added, "Ron has always been about safety on roads and bridges throughout all of Lake County. Our office could always count on Ron's full understanding of the needs of our department and always supported the County Engineer. He was great to work with and we will miss him."

Republican Party Chairman Dale Fellows added, "I have introduced Commissioner Ron Young as "Lake County's Favorite Son" for many years because of how admirably he has represented our county as a State Representative and as County Commissioner. I love Ron and wish him every happiness and success in the next phase of his life of service."

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